

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Education Harlem Consolidated School District # 122

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Monday, August 18, 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Harlem Administration Center - Board Room, 8605 North Second St., Machesney Park, IL 61115

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Aaron McKnight, Diane McKinney, Diana Johnson, Rebecca Carlson, Evelyn Meeks
Other Attendees: Pam Cook, Recording Secretary
Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations
Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Aaron McKnight
4. **Approval of Agenda**
1st Johnson 2nd McKnight
Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, - 7 ayes
Motion Carried
5. The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.
Presenter: Dr. Terrell Yarbrough
6. **Approval of Board Meeting Closed & Regular Minutes: July 14, 2025**
1st Johnson 2nd McKnight
McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson-7 ayes
7. Jason Blume, Assistant Superintendent for Communications & Community Relations
 - A. Awards and Recognitions
2025 US High School Bowling Foundation National Champions
The girls bowling tournament was held in Nashville. With multiple rounds of bowling and cuts happening throughout the day the team ended up in first place by 110 pins on the first day. The champion consists of two teams that took place at midnight. Harlem took the lead after first game and didn't give it back. In the fifth frame of the third game Harlem won the national championship. This is the sixth National Championship in the last eight years.
8. Comments from the Community-None
9. Approval of Bills
 - A. Payables Summary \$6,605,236.24
 - B. Voided Checks \$36,983.25
 - C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$7,361,951.54

D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$13,967,187.78

Motion to approve bills

1st Carlson

2nd Sterling

McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight-7ayes

10. Communications and Committee Reports

A. Michael Sterling, President

- school starts tomorrow
- Home Depot donated sheds, and paint
- shout out to the girls bowling team on their sixth championship

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: September 8, 2025

B. Kurt Thompson, Vice President

- Welcome Back
- thank you to the all the teachers and PTO that are out there cleaning up the schools
- the mural by Dustin Eckhart at Loves Park look amazing
- middle school girls performing at Soldier Field
- high school choir sang a song from the band Foreigner
- the electric bus is in, fantastic addition to the District
- stuff the bus is happening

1. Next Business Service Committee: September 3, 2025

C. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

- ditto to Mike and Kurts comments
- attended Harlempalooza, great performances
- wishing everyone a safe school year

1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: September 3, 2025

D. Aaron McKnight, Board Member

- congrats to the girls bowling team
- Harlempoolza was a great event
- wishing everyone a great school year
- the new curriculum is going to be exciting this year

E. Rebecca Carlson, Board Member

- Welcome Back
- Congrats to the girls bowling team
- thank you to the teachers that have trained on the new curriculum
- thank you to all the admins for the great work that you do
- solar field project is a great thing; very busy

Next Policy Committee Meeting: TBA

F. Diana Johnson, Board Member

- congrats to the girls bowling team; 6 out of 8 times, amazintg
- Orange and Black Night Thursday-please come out
- Harlemmites breakfast once a month at the VFW at 8AM; lots of attendees this month
- National Night Out at the high school was another great event
- visited Stuff the Bus; a lot of supplies were given

G. Diane McKinney, Board Member

- Welcome back staff
- congrats to all the new staff and teachers, Welcome.
- congrats to the high school choir on their performance
- have a great and positive new school year

1. Next Education Committee meeting: September 3, 2025

11. Administrative Reports

A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:

None

2. Recommendation to approve School Improvement Plans for Parker Center, Machesney Elementary, Maple Elementary, Marquette Elementary, Olson Park Elementary, Ralston Elementary, Rock Cut Elementary, Windsor Elementary, Harlem High School

B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, CSBO

1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:

2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests:

-HMS Cheer to use middle school small gym on Oct. 12

-Homecoming Kick Off -use of practice football field and parking lot on Sept. 21

-Renegades Football Club to use the football field to host youth footballs games from August to November

3. Recommendation to adopt Resolution to place school facility sales tax referendum on the ballot

Josh Aurand presented a sales tax referendum presentation. This would act as a show of support for RPS 205 in the adoption of their resolution. This sales tax referendum would not apply to cars, trucks, boats, RV, mobile homes, unprepared foods and pharmacy drugs. This facility sales tax offers the district the opportunity to keep over 1 million square feet of buildings running safe and comfortably and many other outdoor areas in good condition, like chillers and boilers. If RPS 205 approves this resolution at their board meeting, the question goes to the taxpayers and if approved, the District would begin to receive those dollars roughly next October. There were mixed opinions on whether to adopt the resolution to move it forward. In the end, this is a tax payers decision to accept this referendum if or when it is put on the March Referendum.

4. Recommendation to approve a 1-year agreement with HMH Amira for the purchase of student licenses for grades 1-2, for a cost of \$12,600, paid with Title Grant funds

5. Recommendation to approve a 1-year agreement with HMH Waggle for the purchase of student licenses for grades 3-5, for a cost of \$21,150, paid with Title Grant funds

6. Presentation of FY26 Tentative Budget; Recommendation to approve FY26

Tentative Budget Resolution and Set Public Hearing for September 22, 2025, at 5:40 PM

The FY 26 budget was presented by Josh Aurand, highlighting a projected \$2.9 million deficit in the Education Fund. The board discussed the benefits of hiring permanent subs over one-off subs. Josh reviewed budget impacts, including savings from reduced positions and an increase in salaries due to filling outsourced roles. He discussed the importance of maintaining a balanced budget and the challenges posed by inflation and healthcare costs. Detailing the breakdown of the budget, Josh included projections for various funds and how this will impact on the overall budget.

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

7. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

38 employments, 45 transfers, 2 leave of absence

8. Resignations- 21

- C. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
-Wishing everyone a great start to the new school year
12. Consent Agenda
- A. **Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum**
1st McKnight 2nd Johnson
Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney-7 ayes
Motion Carried
- B. **Approve Student Travel Request(s) -NONE**
- C. **Approve Facility Request(s)**
1st McKnight 2nd Sterling
Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson – 7 ayes
Motion Carried
13. ACTION ITEMS
- A. **Approve First Reading of Policy Updates from August 13, 2025, Policy Committee**
1st Carlson 2nd Thompson
Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson – 7 ayes
Motion Carried
- B. **Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property**
1st Johnson 2nd Carlson
Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks-7 ayes
Motion Carried
- C. **Approve School Improvement Plans for Parker Center, Machesney Elementary, Maple Elementary, Marquette Elementary, Olson Park Elementary, Ralston Elementary, Rock Cut Elementary, Windsor Elementary, Harlem High School**
1st Johnson 2nd Meeks
Thompson. McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling -7 ayes
Motion Carried
- D. **Approve FY26 Tentative Budget Resolution and Set Public Hearing for September 22, 2025, at 5:40 PM**
1st Carlson 2nd McKnight
McKnight, McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson- 7 ayes
Motion Carried
- E. **Approve a 1-year agreement with HMH Amira for the purchase of student licenses for grades 1-2, for a cost of \$12,600, paid with Title Grant funds**
1st Thompson 2nd McKnight
McKinney, Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight- 7 ayes
Motion Carried
- F. **Approve a 1-year agreement with HMH Waggle for the purchase of student licenses for grades 3-5, for a cost of \$21,150, paid with Title Grant funds**
1st Carlson 2nd Johnson
Carlson, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

G. Approve to adopt Resolution to place school facility sales tax referendum on the ballot

1st Johnson 2nd Thompson

Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Johnson, Meeks, Sterling- 6 ayes; Carlson-no

Motion Carried

14. Announcements and Discussion:

Dr. Yarbrough wanted to thank TH Foods for inviting him and Jason Blume to their facility. TH Food donated 50 backpacks to Harlem filled with school supplies. Afterwards, they took a tour of the facility. Potentially TH Foods could be donating snacks to teachers' lounges.

15. Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))

1st Johnson 2nd Carlson

Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, McKnight, McKinney, Johnson, Carlson- 7 ayes

Motion Carried

The Board took a brief recess at 7:37PM and went into closed session at 7:42PM; returned to open session at 8:33PM

16. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:34PM

1st Thompson 2nd Johnson

All voted aye; Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Cook

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Date:

President

Secretary