

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, October 12, 2026
6:30 PM
Forest Hills Administration Building

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT - Central High School
Presenter: Mr. Haga, Principal and Mr. Manders, Teacher
- IV. RECOGNITION
 - IV.A. School Resource Officer Service Recognition
Presenter: Mr. Haga, Principal and Mr. Kimball, Director of Safety and Security
 - IV.B. 2026 MHSCA Coach of the Year Recognition
Presenter: Mr. Goei, CHS Athletic Director
 - IV.C. National Merit Scholars
Presenter: Mr. Haga, Mr. McElheny, and Mrs. McKinney-Rewa, High School Principals
- V. CONSENT GROUPING
 - V.A. Superintendent/Board of Education
 - V.A.1. Approval of Minutes
 - V.B. Business
 - V.B.1. Payment of Bills
 - V.B.2. Eastern Cell Booster
 - V.B.3. Audited Annual Financial Statements
 - V.B.4. Property Tax Reimbursement
 - V.C. Instruction
 - V.C.1. Supplemental Instructional Resources Request
 - V.D. Human Resources
 - V.D.1. Employment of New Professional Staff
- VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
 - VI.A. Resignations
- VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- VIII. BOARD COMMUNICATION
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

TOPIC: Instructional Highlight – Central High School

Central High School is excited to highlight FX, an extension of the broadcasting and student communication courses in Ranger Country. Mr. Manders and several of his Independent Studies students will showcase the incredible learning opportunities within FX, including its college and career connections, authentic learning experiences, and opportunities for students to develop communication and production skills. Board members will also get an inside look at the student experience as our FX students immerse us in an FX broadcast, demonstrating the creativity, collaboration, and professionalism that make this program such a valuable part of the Ranger experience.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

RECOGNITION

TOPIC: School Resource Officer Service Recognition

A Certificate of Recognition will be presented to retired School Resource Officer Deputy James Svoboda in recognition and appreciation of his dedicated service to the safety and security of the students, staff, and community of Forest Hills Public Schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

RECOGNITION

TOPIC: 2026 MHSCA Coach of the Year Recognition

A Certificate of Recognition will be presented to the following coaches for receiving the Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA) Coach of the Year award:

- Dan Bolhouse, Central High School – 2026 MHSCA State Girls Tennis Coach of the Year
- Andy Shira, Central High School – 2026 MHSCA State Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

RECOGNITION

TOPIC: National Merit Scholars

Certificates of Recognition will be given to high school students who are Semifinalists in the 2026-2027 National Merit Scholarship Program for their academic achievement.

Central High School

Tim Chu
Carson Delamar-Lee
David Emerson
Paul Erickson
Henry Hutchinson
Hayeon Lee
Faith Pawloski
Megan Reiffer
Cole Simpson
Aiden Verwolf

Eastern High School

Tejas Karumudi

Northern High School

Eli Arnemann
Andries Berens
Winston Camp
Minhao Chen
Robert Holter
Cora Schneider

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

CONSENT GROUPING

October 12, 2026

V. CONSENT GROUPING

A. SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Approval of Minutes – Approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting.

B. BUSINESS

1. Payment of Bills – Approve expenditures for the payment of bills for August 2026, as presented.
2. Eastern Cell Booster – Approve the purchase and installation of a cell booster system for Eastern from Powerful Signal for an amount not to exceed \$245,000, including contingency.
3. Audited Annual Financial Statements – Accept the annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, as audited by Maner Costerisan.
4. Property Tax Reimbursement – Authorize reimbursement of \$77,432.52 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

C. INSTRUCTION

1. Supplemental Instructional Resources Request – Approve the supplemental instructional resources request, as presented.

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Employment of New Professional Staff – Approve the hire and issue contracts to the new professional staff, as presented, for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Items included in consent grouping are those that previously have been considered by the Board either in committee or at a prior meeting, or are of such a routine nature that discussion is not required. Board members may request that any item be removed from consent grouping for further discussion if additional information is needed or available.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOPIC: Approval of Minutes

Board of Education approval is requested for the minutes of the September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting.

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
held on September 14, 2026

The Forest Hills Board of Education met in regular session on September 14, 2026, at the Administration Building. President Fauson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Fauson, Terryn, Ninemeier, DeBoer, Colley

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Michaud, Kermode

Member Colley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

Transportation Director Brenda Witteveen shared departmental highlights, which included fleet additions, driver recognition, transportation technology, and bus safety programming.

DEPARTMENTAL
HIGHLIGHT

Motion made by Member Colley, second by Member DeBoer, that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve consent grouping items IV.A.1. – IV.D.2.

CONSENT GROUPING
ITEMS

Member Terryn, Curriculum Committee Chair, and Member Ninemeier, Finance Committee Member, gave their respective committee reports.

AYES: Colley, DeBoer, Ninemeier, Terryn, Fauson

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Approved the minutes of the August 10, 2026, Regular Meeting.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for July 2026, as presented.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

GENERAL FUND	\$21,445,170.79
DEBT FUND	3,815.02
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2023	5,590.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	8,453,209.68

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

1. Food Service Fund	126,620.69
2. Child Care Fund	24,372.35
3. Student/School Activity	81,000.50

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$30,139,779.03

Approved a three-year contract beginning in 2026-2027 with Katerberg VerHage for snow removal services for an amount not to exceed \$974,961.

SNOW REMOVAL

Approved the increase in cost for the purchase and installation of a bidirectional amplifier system for Eastern from T&W Electronics Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$20,498.

EASTERN
EMERGENCY
RESPONDER
AMPLIFIER
INCREASE

Authorized reimbursement of \$32,980.76 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

PROPERTY TAX
REIMBURSEMENT

Approved the additional materials request for Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) 3rd Edition, © 2025, from Amplify at a cost not to exceed \$268,417.00

CORE KNOWLEDGE
LANGUAGE ARTS
(CKLA)
SUPPLEMENTAL
MATERIALS

Approved the hire and issue of contracts to the following new professional staff beginning with the 2026-2027 school year:

EMPLOYMENT OF
NEW
PROFESSIONAL
STAFF

- Erica Abel, Teacher, Orchard View Elementary School
- Melissa Baker, Teacher, Transitions Center
- Lillian Boeve, Teacher, Knapp Forest Elementary School
- Alex Coon, Teacher, Central High School
- Catherine Dalman, Teacher, Thornapple Elementary School
- Jessica Hoogstrate, Speech Language Pathologist, Student Services
- Anneka Katje, Teacher, Eastern Middle School
- Andrew Laarman, Teacher, Central Middle School
- Hannah Long, Teacher, Ada Elementary School
- Melanie McGinty, Teacher, Meadow Brook Elementary School
- Evangelia Niquila, Teacher, Northern Trails 5/6 School
- Katie Rieffenberger, Teacher, Pine Ridge Elementary School
- Rachel Spencer, Occupational Therapist, Student Services

Approved the hire and issue of an administrative contract to Timothy Blackmer for the 2026-2027 school year.

EMPLOYMENT OF
NEW
ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF

The 2026 MASB Delegate Assembly was discussed.

MASB DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY

Motion by Member Terryn, second by Member Colley, that the Forest Hills Board of Education certify Member Michaud as the voting at the MASB Annual Leadership Conference Delegate Assembly on October 15, 2026.

Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Motion by Member DeBoer, support by Member Terryn, to approve the wage and benefit agreement for the Forest Hills Bus Driver Association. Discussion followed.

RATIFICATION OF
EMPLOYMENT
CONTRACTS – FH
BUS DRIVER
ASSOCIATION

AYES: Colley, DeBoer, Ninemeier, Terryn, Fauson

NAYS:

Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Superintendent Kirby has accepted the following resignations:

RESIGNATIONS

- Caleigh Gainey, Social Worker, Student Services
- Colin Gallagher, Teacher, Northern High School
- Lindsey Handley, Teacher, Collins Elementary School

Member Colley gave an update from the Forest Hills Foundation:

BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS

- The new executive director starts in November.
- The Fall grant cycle has started.
- The Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament takes place next week, September 23.
- Trivia Night is scheduled for October 22.

President Fauson shared the format for the public comment portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The board received a comment from an audience member expressing appreciation for the assistance received from the superintendent's office.

President Fauson inquired if there was any other business of the board. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

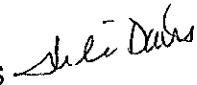
Respectfully submitted,

Malorie Ninemeier, Secretary
Forest Hills Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



TOPIC: Payment of Bills

The financial report is presented for Board approval and includes the following information:

Summary of Bills Payable

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve expenditures for the payment of bills for August 2026, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	17,811,744.69
DEBT FUND	
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2023	219,699.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	2,339,688.32
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
Food Service	54,065.81
Childcare	11,537.82
Student/School Activity	112,654.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
	\$20,549,390.58

Forest Hills Public Schools
Disbursements
For Month Ended August 2026

Fund	General Checking			Debt Service ACH Disbursement October / April	Payroll Checking			Flex Checking - Employee Flexible Spending Accounts		Total Disbursements
	Checks	ACH Checks	ACH & Wire Disbursements		Checks	Direct Deposit Payments	ACH & Wire Disbursements	Manual Payments	Debit Card Payments	
	(326361-326562)	(V101378-V101502)			(329675)					
General	\$ 2,110,399.58	\$ 696,746.17	\$ 3,230,416.88		\$ 2,130.99	\$ 3,335,285.39	\$ 8,026,925.80	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,773.31	\$ 17,404,478.12
General, Athletics	44,006.34	14,622.07	58,931.08							117,559.49
General, Grants	33,283.88	248,756.92	7,666.28							289,707.08
GENERAL SUBTOTAL	2,187,689.80	960,125.16	3,297,014.24		2,130.99	3,335,285.39	8,026,925.80	800.00	1,773.31	17,811,744.69
Debt Service										-
Capital Projects-2023		219,699.00								219,699.00
Capital Projects-2025	1,385,488.35	954,199.97								2,339,688.32
Special Revenue Fund										
Food Service	6,932.16	47,133.65								54,065.81
Child Care	1,377.90	524.35	9,635.57							11,537.82
Student/School Activity	78,326.90	17,118.54	17,209.50							112,654.94
	\$ 3,659,815.11	\$ 2,198,800.67	\$ 3,323,859.31	\$ -	\$ 2,130.99	\$ 3,335,285.39	\$ 8,026,925.80	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,773.31	\$ 20,549,390.58

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS 

TOPIC: Eastern Cell Booster

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of a cell booster system for Eastern from Powerful Signal for an amount not to exceed \$245,000, including contingency. This has been reviewed by the Board Finance Committee and is recommended for Board approval.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase and installation of a cell booster system for Eastern from Powerful Signal for an amount not to exceed \$245,000, including contingency.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS *John Davis*

TOPIC: Audited Annual Financial Statements

It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, as audited by Maner Costerisan, PC. This has been reviewed by the Board Finance Committee and is recommended for Board approval.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education accept the annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, as audited by Maner Costerisan, PC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



TOPIC: Property Tax Reimbursement

It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize reimbursement of \$77,432.52 to Kent County for refunded property taxes. This has been reviewed by the Board Finance Committee and is recommended for Board approval.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education authorize reimbursement of \$77,432.52 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

TOPIC: Supplemental Instructional Resources Request



The Instruction Department would like to recommend that the following book be added to the supplemental instructional resources collection. The book has been reviewed by the Board Curriculum Committee and is recommended for Board of Education approval.

Schools: Central High School
Grade(s): 12
Title: *The Complete Fiction of Nella Larsen: Passing, Quicksand, and the Stories*
Author: Nella Larsen
Reviewed by: Jon Haga, Jennifer Mackie, Tamasha James, Sarah Dawson, and Scott Haid

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the above supplemental instructional resources request.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

October 12, 2026



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

TOPIC: Employment of New Professional Staff

The administration is recommending the employment for the following new staff members with the start of the 2026-2027 school year:

New Hire	Position	Building	Vacancy Due to:
Abigail Harrell	Social Worker	Student Services	New grant-funded position
Polly Morey	5 th Grade Teacher	Northern Trails	Additional Section

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the hire and issue contracts to Abigail Harrell and Polly Morey for the 2026-2027 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



October 12, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

TOPIC: Resignations

Superintendent Kirby has accepted the following resignation:

Name	Position	Building
Robert Hull	Athletic Director	Eastern High