FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, November 9, 2026
6:30 PM
Forest Hills Administration Building

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — Girl Scout Troop #9200 will recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish to highlight the Immersion Program at Ada Vista.
III. INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT - Ada Vista Elementary
Presenter: Allison Woodside de Carrillo, Principal
IV. RECOGNITION
IV.A. 2026 MHSAA State Championship Recognition
Presenter: Jonathan Goei and Ben Sherman, Athletic Directors
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. Summer Tax Levy Resolution
V.C. Instruction
V.C.1. Supplemental Instructional Resources Request
V.D. Human Resources
V.D.1. Employment of New Administrative Staff
V.D.2. Employment of New Professional Staff
VI. SECTION 31aa RESOLUTION
VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
VIII. BOARD COMMUNICATION
IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
X. CLOSED SESSION - Pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a)
X.A. Superintendent Evaluation
XI. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

TOPIC: Instructional Highlight – Ada Vista Elementary

Corazón y Comunidad: What makes Ada Vista feel like home.

A school is more than curriculum—it's a tapestry woven from daily moments of joy, dedicated staff, and heartfelt traditions. Join us for a glimpse into the everyday magic, diverse culture, and special connections that make our Spanish immersion community a wonderful place for every child to grow.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 2026

RECOGNITION

TOPIC: 2026 MHSAA State Championship Recognition

Certificates of Recognition will be presented to student-athletes for their outstanding athletic achievement in the Fall 2026 Michigan High School Athletic Association State Championships.

Central High School:

Student-Athletes:	Jillian Gordon Aubrey Hyde Campbell Kozlow Abby Offer Alivia Offer Elleah Reese Glenna Rinckey Camille Tierney Caroline VanderVelde	Division 2 Girls Golf Team State Champions
Coaches:	Ann Offer Margo Brown	
Student-Athlete:	Alivia Offer	Division 2 Girls Golf Individual State Champion
Coaches:	Ann Offer Margo Brown	

Northern High School:

Student-Athlete:	Andrew Yang	Division 2, Singles Flight 2 Boys Tennis Individual State Champion
Head Coach:	Steve Olson	

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

CONSENT GROUPING

November 9, 2026

V. CONSENT GROUPING

A. SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Approval of Minutes – Approve the minutes of the October 12, 2026, Regular Meeting.

B. BUSINESS

1. Payment of Bills – Approve expenditures for the payment of bills for September 2026, as presented.

2. Summer Tax Levy Resolution – Adopt the resolution authorizing collection of 50% of the district tax levy in July 2027.

C. INSTRUCTION

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

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Employment of New Administrative Staff – Approve the hire and issue an administrative contract to Angelique Gaddy-McElveen for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. 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

November 9, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOPIC: Approval of Minutes

Board of Education approval is requested for the minutes of the October 12, 2026, Regular Meeting.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 12, 2026, Regular Meeting.

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
held on October 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Forest Hills Board of Education met in regular session on October 12, 2026, at the Administration Building. President Fauson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Fauson, Michaud, Kermode, DeBoer, Colley

Members Absent: Ninemeier, Terryn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member DeBoer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTING BOARD SECRETARY

Due to the absence of Secretary Ninemeier, Member Colley served as acting board secretary for this meeting.

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Central High School highlighted FX, an extension of the broadcasting and student communication courses in Ranger Country. Mr. Manders and some of his Independent Studies students showcased 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 also got an inside look at the student experience as our FX students immersed them in an FX broadcast, demonstrating the creativity, collaboration, and professionalism that make this program such a valuable part of the Ranger experience.

RECOGNITION

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICE

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to retired School Resource Officer 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.

2026 MHSCA COACH OF THE YEAR

A Certificate of Recognition was 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

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Central, Eastern, and Northern high school students to honor them for their outstanding academic achievement as Semifinalists in the 2026-2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. This year, the district has a total of seventeen students recognized as Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

CONSENT GROUPING ITEMS

Motion made by Member Kermode, second by Member DeBoer, that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve consent grouping items V.A.1. – V.B.1. and V.B.3. – V.D.1.

President Fauson shared the Curriculum Committee report, and Member Michaud, Finance Committee Chair, gave the Finance Committee report.

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, DeBoer, Colley, Fauson

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Motion to approve Consent Grouping Item V.B.2 – Eastern Cell Booster was made by Member Colley and supported by Member Kermode. Board discussion followed.

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, Colley, Fauson

NAYS: DeBoer

Motion carried by a 4 - 1 roll call vote.

Approved the minutes of the September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting. — APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved expenditures for the payment of bills for August 2026, as presented. — PAYMENT OF BILLS

GENERAL FUND	$17,811,744.69
DEBT FUND	0.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2023	219,699.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	2,339,688.32
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
1. Food Service Fund	54,065.81
2. Child Care Fund	11,537.82
3. Student/School Activity	112,654.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$20,549,390.58**

Approved the purchase and installation of a cell booster system for Eastern from Powerful Signal for an amount not to exceed $245,000, including contingency. — EASTERN CELL BOOSTER

Accepted the annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, as audited by Maner Costerisan. — AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Authorized reimbursement of $77,432.52 to Kent County for refunded property taxes. — PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES REQUEST

Approved the following supplemental instructional resources request:

- *The Complete Fiction of Nella Larsen: Passing, Quicksand, and the Stories* by Nella Larsen for Central High School, Grade 12.

EMPLOYMENT OF NEW PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

- Abigail Harrell, Social Worker, Student Services
- Polly Morey, Teacher, Northern Trails 5/6 School

RESIGNATIONS

Superintendent Kirby has accepted the following resignations:

- Robert Hull, Athletic Director, Eastern High School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Kirby shared the following:

- Thank you to Mr. Tolar for his willingness to assist with adding additional seating for the board meeting.
- Thank you to the Business Office for their excellent work and for being good financial stewards.
- All three schools have enjoyed Homecoming.
- The girls' golf teams have been successful.
- An update on Scholarship Granting Organizations. The district is continuing to monitor the impact this will have on education.
- An update on the importance of E-Rate funding pending federal cuts for future fiscal years.
- The 31 aa acceptance resolution will be on the November Regular Meeting agenda for board consideration.
- An update on recent bus route cancellations.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Member Michaud thanked Supt. Kirby for his knowledge and updates on the issues impacting education.

Member Colley gave an update from the Forest Hills Foundation:

- The new executive director begins in November. The Foundation is planning to schedule a Meet and Greet with the new executive director.
- The Fall grant season has closed. Over $100,000 in grants will be distributed throughout the district.
- The golf outing was a success.
- Trivia Night will take place on October 22 at Egypt Valley.
- The Gala will be on March 4.
- The State of the Foundation Luncheon will be in the fall (October).

Member Colley expressed his appreciation as a parent for the inclusiveness of the Eastern High School Homecoming.

President Fauson thanked the Business Office staff for their excellent work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

The board received comments from four members of the audience regarding the following:

- Student discipline
- Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

President Fauson inquired if there was any other business of the board. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Colley, Acting Secretary
Forest Hills Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 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 September 2026, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	22,723,425.47
DEBT FUND	8,850.88
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	15,445,869.15
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
Food Service	252,126.20
Childcare	6,820.81
Student/School Activity	107,443.15
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
	$38,544,535.66

Forest Hills Public Schools
Disbursements
For Month Ended September 2026

Fund	General Checking			Debt Service	Payroll Checking			Flex Checking - Employee Flexible Spending Accounts		Total Disbursements
	Checks (326563-326804)	ACH Checks (V101507-V101664)	ACH & Wire Disbursements	ACH Disbursement October / April	Checks	Direct Deposit Payments	ACH & Wire Disbursements	Manual Payments	Debit Card Payments	
General	$ 1,769,419.30	$ 414,628.52	$ 7,699,545.81		$ -	$ 3,768,943.66	$ 8,935,513.37	$ 3,224.80	$ 1,289.38	$ 22,592,564.84
General, Athletics	36,792.82	41,473.52	9,616.38							87,882.72
General, Grants	5,300.22	34,686.17	2,991.52							42,977.91
GENERAL SUBTOTAL	**1,811,512.34**	**490,788.21**	**7,712,153.71**		**-**	**3,768,943.66**	**8,935,513.37**	**3,224.80**	**1,289.38**	**22,723,425.47**
Debt Service	8,850.88									8,850.88
Capital Projects-2025	5,102.98	15,440,766.17								15,445,869.15
Special Revenue Fund										
Food Service	2,418.41	248,845.02	862.77							252,126.20
Child Care	2,568.95	2,163.22	2,088.64							6,820.81
Student/School Activity	46,859.78	26,673.44	33,909.93							107,443.15
	$ 1,877,313.34	**$ 16,209,236.06**	**$ 7,749,015.05**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,768,943.66**	**$ 8,935,513.37**	**$ 3,224.80**	**$ 1,289.38**	**$ 38,544,535.66**

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

TOPIC: Summer Tax Levy Resolution

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution authorizing collection of 50% of the district tax levy in July 2027. 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 adopt the attached resolution authorizing collection of 50% of the district tax levy in July 2027.

Annual Summer Tax Resolution

Forest Hills Public Schools (the "District")

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the Administration Building, within the boundaries of the District, on the 9th day of November 2026, at six thirty o'clock in the p.m. (the "Meeting").

WHEREAS, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect annual school property taxes, including debt service upon property located with the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Pursuant to the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et seq., the Board invokes for 2027, its previously-adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy for school property taxes, including debt service, upon 100% of property located within the City of Grand Rapids, and 50% of property in the Townships of Ada, Cascade, and Grand Rapids, and the City of Kentwood continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests each city and township in which the District is located collect those summer taxes.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and township in which the District is located a copy of this Board's resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis, and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2027 in the amount as specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies on or before December 31, 2026.

Pursuant to and in accordance with Revised School Code Section 1613(1), the Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of this district with the governing body of each city and township in which the District is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the District's summer property tax levy that the city and township may bill under Revised School Code Sections 1611 or 1612.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes:

Nays:

Resolution declared adopted.

_____
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Forest Hills Public Schools hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

_____
Secretary, Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 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:	*Remarkably Bright Creatures*
Author:	Shelby Van Pelt
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

November 9, 2026

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

TOPIC: Employment of New Administrative Staff

The administration is recommending the employment of the following new staff member(s):

New Hire	Position	Building	Vacancy Due to:
Angelique Gaddy-McElveen	Athletic Director	Eastern High	Resignation

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the hire and issue of an administrative contract to Angelique Gaddy-McElveen for the 2026-2027 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 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:
Alexis June	Social Worker	Student Services	New grant-funded position
Steffen Hatkowski	Social Worker	Student Services	Resignation

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the hire and issue contracts to Alexis June and Steffen Hatkowski for the 2026-2027 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

November 9, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOPIC: Section 31aa Funding Resolution

The Board of Education is being asked to consider the attached resolution to opt in to Section 31aa Funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education adopt the resolution to opt in to accept Section 31aa Funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Resolution A:
Opt-In and Waiver

Forest Hills Public Schools, Michigan (the "District")

A _____ meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the _____, within the boundaries of the District, on the _____ day of _____, 20___, at _____ o'clock in the __.m. (the "Meeting")

The Meeting was called to order by _____, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. Public Act 25 of 2026 amends State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa, to allocate for fiscal year 2026/27: (1) up to $73.53 per pupil to improve student mental health ("31aa Mental Health Funding") and (2) up to $147.06 per pupil to improve student safety ("31aa Student Safety Funding") (collectively, the "31aa Funding"); and

2. To receive either or both components of the 31aa Funding, the District must agree to receive the funding in the form and manner established by the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE"); and

3. As a condition of receiving the 31aa Student Safety Funding, the District must agree in advance that, in the event of a "mass casualty event," as defined in MCL 388.1631aa: (1) the District will be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, and (2) the District will waive any privilege that may otherwise protect related information from disclosure; and

4. The Board has been advised of and fully informed regarding the potential legal and practical implications of this waiver requirement, including that it may affect the confidentiality of communications otherwise protected by the attorney-client privilege or other applicable privileges related to a "mass casualty event"; and

5. The Board acknowledges the concerns and implications of the 31aa Student Safety Funding waiver requirements and has determined that it is in the District's best interest to make an informed election regarding whether to accept or decline the 31aa Student Safety Funding; and

6. The Board desires to authorize and direct Ben Kirby, Superintendent of Schools (the "Superintendent"), or designee, to complete any documentation necessary to implement the Board's election below.

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to opt in and accept the Section 31aa Mental Health Funding for fiscal year 2026/27.

2. The Board hereby resolves to opt in and accept the Section 31aa Student Safety Funding for fiscal year 2026/27, subject to the conditions provided in MCL 388.1631aa. The Board acknowledges and affirms that it has been advised of the potential risks and consequences associated with waiving the attorney-client or other applicable privileges related to a "mass casualty event". Subject to Paragraph 3 below, the Board affirmatively waives any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a "mass casualty event" and consents to be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, as described in MCL 388.1631aa, but only to the minimal extent legally required to obtain such funding.

3. To the extent allowed by law, any waiver or consent authorized by Paragraph 2 above shall: (a) be limited in time to State fiscal year 2026/27 or any shorter duration consistent with applicable law, and (b) not be effective unless or until a "mass casualty event" as described in MCL 388.1631aa occurs, and (c) apply only to information related to that "mass casualty event."

4. This Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent, or designee, to notify MDE as necessary of the District's elections consistent with this resolution and to take any actions necessary to effectuate the Board's decision, including the preparation and submission of any opt-in forms required by MDE.

5. Nothing within this resolution, nor by the District's participation in or acceptance of any funding under MCL 388.1631aa, shall be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the Board's or the District's rights to question, dispute, or challenge the validity, legality, or enforceability of any condition, requirement, or limitation imposed by that section or related administrative guidance or the breadth and validity of the related waiver referenced in Paragraph 2 above.

6. In the event the MCL 388.1631aa requirement to waive privilege is modified or removed by the Legislature, or if a court of competent jurisdiction determines that such a requirement is unlawful, it is the Board's intent that the waiver contained in this resolution will, without action by the Board, be immediately rescinded and no longer have any legal effect.

7. This resolution and waiver stated in Paragraph 2 do not apply to any "mass casualty event" occurring before the date of this resolution.

8. The Board reserves the right to rescind or modify this resolution prior to a "mass casualty event" to conform to any subsequent change in law or interpretation by a court of competent jurisdiction or MDE.

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

9. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

_____

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the District, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

_____

Secretary, Board of Education

MDF/keh

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.