

**FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

March 10, 2025

6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:23 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Sarah Foster

Mr. Noah Gibson

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Recognitions**

**1. Board Bravos and Updates**

Board members shared the following:

- Emma Hood is the State Runner Up in Girls Wrestling
- Six athletes from the Boys Wrestling team qualified for State
- Spelling Bee Winners at JES, MES and HMS represented the district at the Regional Spelling Bee
- HMS student George Weghorst won the Regional Spelling Bee and will be representing the district at the National Spelling Bee in May
- MES Kindergarten Circus was a hit and very entertaining
- FTEF Parents Night Out was enjoyed by all
- The Nesties are quickly approaching and will be held on April 10
- Congratulations to the combined Swim & Dive team for being State Runners Up
- Our district has the top 2 regional teams for Governor's Cup with JES taking 1st and WES taking 2nd
- WES earned their Lighthouse Certification
- Alyssa Davis was named Forensics Coach of the Year
- HHS student Charlotte Weghorst is the Forensics State Champion in the Informative Speaking category
- The HHS Forensics team took 8th place overall in the state competition
- The JES Odyssey of the Mind team are regional winners
- Teachers Katie Smith (MES) and Mike Lipscomb (HMS) are Golden Apple Winners

- Students Tyriana Berry and Reese Witte also received awards and will be recognized next month at the Excellence in Education Dinner
- HHS Dance Team are National Champions in Medium Pom
- The SpongeBob Musical runs March 20-23
- LPC Public Forum is Wednesday, March 12 at 5:45pm
- Spring Break begins on Friday, March 28

## **2. Tradition of Excellence Award - Alyssa Brown**

The White Family nominated Alyssa Brown for a Tradition of Excellence Award for her dedication and commitment to supporting and encouraging students both in and out of the classroom. Both current and prior students attended the meeting to support this outstanding teacher.

## **3. All State Art Show Winner - Evelyn Brossart**

JES Fourth Grader Evelyn Brossart received the Best of Show award for her artwork at the All State Art Show. This art show included submissions from elementary and middle school students across the state. The Board congratulated Evelyn on her Award and presented her with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

## **4. KSBA Banner Designers - Tabitha Tobergte and Will Claytor**

Keith Faust shared the artwork chosen for the district KSBA banner. The artwork was a joint project from HHS students Tabitha Tobergte and Will Claytor. Mr. Faust shared this piece was chosen, because it represented the many opportunities available to students in our district.

## **5. National Merit Finalists**

HHS seniors Ben Gilkerson and Oliver Martin have been named 2025 National Merit Finalists. While Oliver could not attend the meeting, Ben shared what a great honor this was for him. The Board congratulated him on his accomplishment. Both students received Certificates of Achievement and "Rich in Tradition" t-shirts.

## **6. KMEA Participants**

The Board recognized the students selected for All State Chorus and Orchestra. Students recognized were:

### *The KY All State Children's Chorus*

Zealand Haretuku, WES

Evie Laber, JES

Genevieve Deinlein, HMS

Norah Dillon, HMS

Avery Fennell, HMS

Lily Hobson, HMS

Nina Salzman, HMS

Kaitlyn Zilliox, HMS

The KY All State Junior High Chorus

Avni Jani, HMS  
Grace Manning, HMS

The KY All State High School Chorus

Garrett Cutajar, HHS  
Georgia Horton, HHS  
Natalie Lorenz, HHS  
Rafe Pinkston, HHS  
Norah Shadwell, HHS

The KY All State Orchestra

Noah Huber, HHS  
Elliot Martin, HHS  
Chase Pawsat, HHS

The Board commended the students on their accomplishment and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Champions" t-shirt.

**7. HHS Varsity Dance Team National Championship**

The Board recognized the HHS Varsity Dance Team on their National Championship in Medium Pom. While the team could not attend, the Board acknowledged their hard work and wonderful accomplishment. Certificates of Achievement and custom National Champions t-shirts were presented to Mr. Darnell to be distributed to the team. Team members include:

- Ella Cunningham
- Drew Ellison
- Rose Ewald
- Cate Fischer
- Elise Hellmann
- Morgan Herald
- Brianna Horner
- Meredith Kleier
- Annie Kuhnhein
- Addy Orme
- Abbie Rowland
- Adalynne Shaw
- Shelby Shields
- Sarah Steiden
- Saryn Stepner

**C. Student Showcase - MES: FT Graduate**

Students from Mrs. Posinski's 5th grade class at MES shared their Fort Thomas Graduate presentation. The focus of the presentation was Defense of Learning. This class is the first in the district to present on Defense of Learning. Students presenting included:

- Cecily Fennell
- Maxine Gabbenesch
- Harper McDowell
- Wren Simmons
- Stella Vetter

The Board shared how impressed they were with the presentation, thanking the students and presenting each with a "Rich in Tradition" t-shirt.

**D. Community Forum**

No community members signed up to speak.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation**

**1. Project Update**

Jerry Wissman shared that workers on site are taking advantage of the nice weather and hoping to make good progress this week on the foundation and building. He also shared the video board installation is scheduled for mid-April and that Duke should be able to get power to the site soon.

**2. Change Order #2**

**Order #2619 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$48,757.00 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mr. Noah Gibson.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**3. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #8**

**Order #2620 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #8 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$505,426.50 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Jeff Beach.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**B. RFP for Custodial Supplies**

**Order #2621 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the RFP for Custodial Supplies passed with a motion by Mr. Noah Gibson and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**C. Revised 2024-25 Calendar**

**Order #2622 - Motion Passed:** Approval to revise the 2024-25 School Calendar to change May 23, 2025 to the Last Student Day, May 27, 2025 to a Teacher Work Day, and May 28, 2025 to Closing Day passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**D. Lease Agreement with Apple**

**Order #2623 - Motion Passed:** Approval to authorize the superintendent to enter into a Lease Agreement with Apple and accept Proposal #2213139240 for \$2,631,019.50 over four years passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Noah Gibson.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Board Committee Updates**

Board members shared that the Budget and Salary Committees will be meeting in early April.

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2624 - Motion Passed:** With all Board members having had the opportunity to review and pursue any questions about all of the items contained therein, approval of the consent agenda passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mr. Jeff Beach.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025 and Working Meeting on March 6, 2025**

**B. Financial Report for Month of February 2025**

**C. Food Service Report for February 2025**

**D. Attendance Report for 6th Month of 2024-2025**

**E. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**F. FTIS Technology Plan 2024-2026 (Revised 2025)**

**G. The Motz Group Contract**

**H. Notification and Approval of Student Trips**

- 1. HHS Varsity Dance Team - Frankfort, KY - February 28, 2025**
- 2. HHS TSA - Louisville, KY - March 24-26, 2025**
- 3. HHS Baseball - Knoxville, TN - March 28-31, 2025**
- 4. HHS Softball - Myrtle Beach, SC - March 30 - April 3, 2025**
- 5. We The People - Washington, D.C. - April 8-12, 2025**
- 6. HHS Strings - Nashville, TN - October 2-4, 2025**
- 7. HHS Band - Orlando, FL - October 2-6, 2025**

**I. Personnel Action Taken Since**

Employment of the following Certified Employee

Gordon Hallmark - Physics Teacher - HHS

Employment of the following Classified Employee

Hilary Hale - Instructional Assistant - WES

Employment of the following Extra-Service Position

Nina Kearns - Dept. Chair Social Studies - HHS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Angela Aber - Girls Track Coach - HMS

Jenna Sammons - Freshman Volleyball Coach - HHS

Employment of the following Certified Substitutes

Elizabeth Derickson

Brianna Frost

Reagan Wildoner

Elizabeth Zaebst

Retirement of the following Certified Employees

Susan Anderson - Science Teacher - HMS  
Sally Brewer - English/Language Arts Teacher - HMS  
Patrick Richardson - Psychologist - Districtwide  
Willie Schlarman - Mathematics Teacher - HHS  
Scott Turner - Physics Teacher - HHS

Retirement of the following Classified Employee

Cindy Nedderman - Elementary School Secretary - MES  
Cindy Woolum - Cafeteria - WES

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Nancy Hensley - Cafeteria - HMS  
Rebecca Thomas - Instructional Assistant - WES

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Tom Eckerle - Baseball Assistant Coach - HHS  
Brooke Meier - JV Volleyball Coach - HHS

Request for Medical Leave

Melissa Trimbach - March 3-25, 2025 - HMS

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent