

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

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

February 9, 2026  
6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:30 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach  
Mr. Clem Fennell IV  
Mrs. Sarah Foster  
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein  
Mr. David Russell

**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:

- Frozen Jr. was wonderful and showcased students from all 3 elementary schools
- FTEF Grant Patrols are taking place in the district
- Teachers of the Year have been named and will be recognized at the Nesties in April
- Spelling Bees finished at all 3 elementary schools and the middle school
- HHS Forensics Team won the Regional Championship
- HMS Forensics Team is Regional Runner up
- HHS Swim Team won Regions and go to State this weekend
- Girls Bowling is Regional Runner up and will go to State
- HMS had 13 students recognized in the Scholastic Writing and Art Contest
- HHS hosted an Archery tournament last weekend with over a dozen schools participating
- JES Academic Team won in their district
- WES Academic Team is runner up in their district
- HHS Dance Team won State for Pom and will travel to Nationals later this month
- HHS Cheer Team placed in the top 15 Nationally

**2. NaviGo Scholar - Spring 2026**

HHS student Madeleine Foster shared her NaviGo experience so far this year with the Board. Madeleine is a Spring NaviGo Scholar in the area of Mental Health. The Board thanked Madeleine and presented her with a Certificate of Achievement and a Rich in Tradition t-shirt.

### **3. HHS Dance Team State Championship**

The Board recognized the following members of the Varsity Dance Team:

*Ellery Browning*

*Drew Ellison*

*Rose Ewald*

*Cate Fischer*

*Abigail Gabennesch*

*Sammy Gabennesch*

*Elise Hellmann*

*Brianna Horner*

*Meredith Kleier*

*Annie Kuhnhein*

*Abbie Rowland*

*Adalynne Shaw*

*Sarah Steiden*

*Lavin Stepner*

*Saryn Stepner*

The Board congratulated the team and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

### **C. Student Showcase - WES: Engineering**

WES students from Ms. Roch's class presented on their Engineering project. Students shared what they have learned and enjoyed most. Those students were:

*Harper Fraser*

*Greyson Jacobs*

*Hazel Klare*

*Rose Kremer*

*Paul Lubbers*

*Lane Pinguely*

*Georgia Pabst*

*Leo Travis*

The Board engaged with the students, asking questions and presented each with a Rich in Tradition t-shirt.

### **D. Community Forum**

Two HHS students (Trevin Urz and Cooper Eide) addressed the Board with concerns regarding going to school with sidewalks covered in snow and ice after the last big storm. Board members thanked the students for expressing their concerns and reminded them to always make their safety a priority, making decisions with their parents/guardians regarding attendance during weather events.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Staffing Guidelines 2026-27**

**Order #2719 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Staffing Guidelines for 2026-27 passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

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

**1. Project Update**

Chad Niedert shared the project progress with the Board, noting we are nearing the completion of the storage building on the opposite side of the track.

**2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #19**

**Order #2720 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #19 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$674,929.50 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mr. David Russell.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Board Committee Updates**

Board Member David Russell shared at the recent Title IX meeting, there is a growing interest in Lacrosse among the HHS student body. He also shared the Winter Athletic Signing will be held in the library on February 18.

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2721 - 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 Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Jeff Beach.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

**A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 12, 2026, Special Joint Meeting of February 2, 2026, and Working Meeting of February 5, 2026**

**B. Financial Report for Month of January 2026**

**C. Food Service Report for January 2026**

**D. Attendance Report for 5th Month of 2025-26**

**E. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**F. Audit Report for 2024-2025**

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

- 1. HHS Girls Bowling - Louisville, KY - February 9-10, 2026**
- 2. HHS Speech & Debate - Danville, KY - March 20-21, 2026**
- 3. HHS FCCLA - Louisville, KY - March 24-27, 2026**

**H. Personnel Action Taken Since January 12, 2026**

Employment of the following Classified Employee

Dana Hutchinson - Cafeteria I - HMS

Employment of the following Extra-Service Employees

Megan Boimann-Hennies - Senior Class Sponsor - HHS

Andrea Higgins - Envirothon Sponsor - HHS

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Jasmine Pennington - Cafeteria I - HMS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Thomas Gray-Torsell - HMS Boys Track Coach and HHS Cross Country Varsity Assistant Coach

**I. Grant Extended Leave**

- 1. Ann Listerman - Medical - January 21 to February 18, 2026**
- 2. Donna Hicks - Medical - February 23 to April 12, 2026**
- 3. Nancy Gesenhues - Medical - March 19 to April 2, 2026**
- 4. Katie Smith - Maternity - June 11, 2026 to September 4, 2026**
- 5. Katie Smith - Unpaid Leave of Absence - September 7 to December 18, 2026**

**J. Approval of Superintendent Travel**

**1. KSBA Annual Conference - Louisville, KY - February 19-21, 2026**

**2. Superintendent Advisory Committee - Frankfort, KY - February 25, 2026**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:14pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent