

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

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

April 13, 2026

6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:28 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:

- HHS Student Morgan Davis is the Kentucky VFW Voice of Democracy Winner and placed 11th nationally
- Defense of Learning presentations at JES and WES were impressive; looking forward to presentations at MES & HMS
- HHS & HMS Bands received Distinguished ratings
- Strings received the top rating from 3 of the 4 judges
- HHS Forensics finished 6th in the state
- Congratulations to Pam Schultz for being named Volunteer of the Year
- 8th Grade will head to Washington, D.C. this week
- JES Chess Team - 2nd Grade - finished in 3rd place
- JES Chess Team - 4th Grade - finished in 2nd place
- JES Odyssey of the Mind Teams finished 1st and 3rd
- HHS Student Ella Peabody is the JEA Journalism Student of the Year
- HHS Teacher Beth Brubaker is the JEA Advisor of the Year
- HHS Students are TSA State Champions in Coding
- HHS Combined Swim/Dive Team are State Champions
- HMS has been named the 2nd best middle school in Kentucky by Niche
- HHS We The People Team will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete this month
- April 23 is Taste of Moyer
- April 28 is the District Art Show

## **2. HHS Combined Swim/Dive Team State Championship**

HHS Teacher and Coach Kevin Kampschmidt shared the State Competition experience with the Board. Members of the State Championship Combined Swim/Dive Team included:

*Natalie Imhoff*  
*Stella Kendon*  
*Keira Kobida*  
*Maggie Meyers*  
*Ragan Moore*  
*Ellie Niese*  
*Ella Kate Reynolds*  
*Morgan Ripley*  
*Taryn Ripley*  
*Audrey Sorrentino*  
*Abbie Smith*  
*Addie Tinkler*  
*Vivian Winkler*  
*Chanith Abeysinghe*

*Luke Deegan*  
*Drew Davies*  
*Charlie Golden*  
*Noah Gracey*  
*Charlie Herfel*  
*Robbie Koester*  
*Elliot Meyers*  
*Matthew Meyers*  
*Chase Pawsat*  
*Ryan Schaber*  
*Reed Spaulding*  
*Max Taylor*  
*Carter Walsh*

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

## **3. HHS TSA State Champions**

Teacher and TSA Sponsor Ron Rosel spoke to the Board about the State TSA Competition and introduced the Coding State Champions:

*Jonas Foubert*  
*Phol Jiraphasuksakul*  
*Henry Thompson*

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

## **4. 2026 Student Journalist of the Year - Ella Peabody**

HHS Principal John Darnell introduced HHS student Ella Peabody. HHS Teacher Beth Brubaker spoke of Ella's talent and her JEA Journalism Student of the Year award. Ella shared her experience as a journalism student and was presented with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

## **5. Tradition of Excellence Award - Beth Brubaker**

HHS Principal John Darnell introduced Beth Brubaker and spoke of her JEA Advisor of the Year Award. HHS Student Ella Peabody presented Beth with a Tradition of Excellence Award for her outstanding work and amazing growth in the HHS Journalism program.

### **C. Student Showcase - JES: Photojournalism**

JES Teacher and Photojournalism Sponsor Rachael King introduced the members of the Photojournalism Club. These students included:

*Lucy Bates*

*Merryn Edwards*

*Pam Fair*

*Landon Koller*

*Taylor Kollmann*

*Lyla Sketch*

The students shared some of their photos and talked about what they like about photojournalism. The Board asked questions and presented the students with Tradition of Excellence t-shirts.

### **D. Community Forum**

The following community members addressed the Board:

*Allison Alessandro* - Disagreement over personnel matter

*Brian Alessandro* - Disagreement over personnel matter

*Rachael Koller* - Lego Robotics at JES

*Keith Thompson* - Asked to discuss a private matter with the Board regarding a student after the meeting

*Sabrina Allen* - Disagreement over personnel matter

## **II. ACTION ITEMS**

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

#### **1. Project Update**

Chad Niedert explained to the Board that the project is slowing as the project nears completion. The storage building is nearly complete and the team is working through the equipment commissioning.

#### **2. The Motz Group LLC Pay App #4**

**Order #2729 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #4 to The Motz Group LLC in the amount of \$45,955.40 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park project passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster 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

**B. Employee Wellness Incentive**

**Order #2730 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Employee Wellness Incentive for employee participation in the 2026 YMCA Firecracker 5K passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell 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

**C. Award of Banking Services**

**Order #2731 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the banking services bid and award of contract to WesBanco passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV 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

**D. Calendar Revision 2025-26**

**Order #2732 - Motion Passed:** Approval to amend the 2025-26 School Calendar to reflect no school on May 19, 2026 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

**E. Calendar Revision 2026-27**

Amend the 2026-27 School Calendar to reflect a start date of August 18, 2026, change the February no school day from February 26, 2027 to February 15, 2027 and the last student day to May 26, 2027.

The Preschool Program Calendar will consist of a 3 hour day, 4 days per week. During the 2026-2027 school year, the preschool program will be placed at Moyer Elementary. The recommended instructional day for preschool is Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 11:00am for the morning session and 11:45am to 2:45pm for the afternoon session. It is recommended that preschool begin on September 8, 2026, with two transition days (September 2 and 3), and end on May 18, 2027, to allow time for required screenings, testing, and parent meetings.

**Order #2733 - Motion Passed:** Approval to amend the 2026-27 School Calendar to include a start date of August 18, 2026, change the February closed date from February 26, 2027 to February 15, 2027, and the last student day to May 26, 2027 and amend the Preschool Program Calendar to begin on September 8, 2026 with two transition days (September 2 and 3) and end on May 18, 2027 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

### **III. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Board Committee Updates**

Board Member Clem Fennell shared the Hall of Fame Committee will vote Wednesday on the next class of inductees. Board Member Jeff Beach said the Budget and Salary Committees meet next week.

#### **B. Notification of Personnel Action Taken Since March 9, 2026**

##### Employment of the following Certified Employees

Rachel Burnett - Foreign Language Spanish Teacher - HHS  
Julie Hauck - Art Teacher - HMS

##### Employment of the following Classified Employees

Lena Deaton - Cafeteria - HHS  
Bradley Kemplin - Custodian - CO  
Dianna Politano - Cafeteria - WES

##### Employment of the following Extra-Service Employees

Matt Ewald - Boys Head Golf Coach - HHS  
Leah Fryman - Varsity Volleyball Coach - HHS  
Scott Kraus - Boys JV Basketball Coach - HHS

##### Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Kenedie Morr - Varsity Dance Coach - HHS  
Katelyn Roller - JV Cheerleading Coach - HHS  
Brooke Berry - Varsity Cheerleading Coach - HHS

##### Retirement of the following Certified Employees

Donna Hicks - Teacher - WES  
Kevin Nieporte - Teacher - HMS  
Sally Schoellman - Teacher - JES

##### Resignation of the following Certified Employees

Rebecca Eaton - Teacher - HHS  
Meghan Laux - Speech Language Pathologist - JES/HMS

Retirement of the following Classified Employees

Susan Rosenhagen - Library Media Assistant - HMS  
Fran Wetterich - Instructional Assistant - HMS  
Mike Redmond - Elementary Head Custodian - MES

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Kathleen Jordan - Bus Driver - Districtwide

Termination of Contract for Certified Employee

Brian Alessandro - Teacher - HMS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Employees

Kelsey Hogberg - Academic Team Sponsor - MES  
Rebecca Johnson - DC Trip Coordinator - HMS  
Kim Klein - Science Department Chair - HMS  
Scott Kraus - Boys 8th Grade Basketball Coach - HMS  
Katie Smith - Grade Level Leader - MES

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Sarah Hoffman - Varsity Cheerleading Coach - HHS  
Jonathon McSorley - Boys JV Basketball Coach - HHS  
Aryah Myrick - JV Volleyball Coach - HHS  
Jenna Sammons - Freshman Volleyball Coach - HHS

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2734 - 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. David Russell and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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 March 9, 2026 and Working Meeting of April 1, 2026**

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

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

**D. Attendance Report for 7th Month of 2025-26**

**E. District Technology Report - 3rd Quarter**

**F. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**G. Continued Participation in Regional School Program**

**H. Revised Cafeteria Worker Job Description**

**I. Ellen Buchanan - Leave of Absence**

Personal leave of absence from May 9 to October 20, 2026

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

**1. HHS Softball - Fort Walton Beach, FL - April 4-11, 2026**

**2. HHS Forensics - Richmond, VA - June 13-20, 2026**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent