

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Special Meeting

Moyer Elementary School – 219 Highland Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

September 14, 2026

6:30pm ET (5:30pm CT)

Attendance Taken at 6:26 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

The Board shared the following:

- *U.S. News & World Report* has HHS ranked 4th in Kentucky, 6th in the Metro area and 408th in the Nation
- Grandparents Day at Johnson was well attended
- Big Top Festival is this Sunday from 12-6pm and the Spaghetti Dinner is Friday
- Hullabaloo will be October 10th 10am-4pm
- Homecoming is next week
- HHS Varsity Football had a big win over Boyle County
- HHS Girls Varsity Soccer beat Notre Dame
- HHS Band won in all categories at the Beechwood Competition
- Milt Horner was recently recognized as the NSA Coach of the Year at the Cincinnati Reds game
- Welcome to Brady Dowling, new Assistant Principal at HHS
- HHS has 1 National Merit Semifinalist and 4 Commended students

C. Student Showcase - HHS: LEGACY

Students from HHS presented on Legacy to the Board. The students shared their experiences, engaged the Board through an eating contest and talked about the benefits to both the students and the staff. Students presenting included: Lylah Doerr, Avery Schweitzer, Kendall Shields and Kenna Urlage.

D. Community Forum

There were no community members signed up to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Working Budget for 2026-27

Order #2776 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Working Budget 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. Approval of Legal Counsel

Order #2777 - Motion Passed: Approval of Mary Ann Stewart with the law firm Adams Law, PLLC to continue to provide legal counsel 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

C. Waiver for Shortened School Day

Rationale

Request approval of a shortened school day for three students within our district boundaries. Medical and educational records indicate health concerns and conditions that compromise the ability to tolerate a full school day. After careful consideration of all relevant information, including input from physicians, family and educators, the Admissions and Release Committee (ARD) has recommended a shortened school day, with the goal of gradually increasing time at school as health conditions allow.

Discussion

Jenny Miller-Horn asked the Board to approve a shortened school day for 4 students for the 2026-2027 school year. At the time of posting for this meeting the number was 3 students. Another student was identified as needing this waiver after the board meeting was posted, hence the increase to 4 students.

Order #2778 - Motion Passed: Approval of a shortened school day for four students within our district boundaries for the 2026-2027 school year 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

D. GMAP District Funding Assurances

Order #2779 - Motion Passed: Approval of the GMAP District Funding Assurances for 2026-27 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

E. CDIP - Phase I

Order #2780 - Motion Passed: Approval of the CDIP Phase I for 2026-27 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

III. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

There were no committee updates to share.

B. Highlands Athletic Project at Tower Park Update

Chad Niedert shared with the Board that progress has been made on HVAC controls. Cincinnati roof completed some resealing to prevent water intrusion and KLH is handling the ongoing electrical issues on our behalf.

C. Areas of Emphasis

Brian Robinson spoke about the revision to the Areas of Emphasis that resulted from work done at the retreat this summer. He highlighted areas of interest to the Board and the community.

D. School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council Update

Keith Faust presented to the Board on the SBDM members for each school for 2026-2027. He noted a few openings for minority representation and the steps the schools are taking to get the spots filled. He also noted that all members have completed their training for the year.

E. AP Presentation

Keith Faust presented to the Board on the results of AP tests taken in May of 2026. HHS had the highest number of tests taken and the highest scores in school history. Mr. Faust pointed out this reflects all teachers (K-12), students and parents and the work put into achieving this success.

F. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since August 10, 2026

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Toni Detisch - Cafeteria – HHS

Karen Pratt - Cafeteria – HHS

Employment of the following Paraprofessionals

Hunter Ahlfeld - Football Sixty-Minute Club Sponsor – HHS

Megan Gessner - Soccer Goalkeeper Coach – HHS

William Griffith - Swimming Assistant Coach – HHS

Steve Horner - Football Sixty-Minute Club Sponsor – HHS

Scott Kuhnhein - Football Sixty-Minute Club Sponsor – HHS

Scott Turner - Football Varsity Assistant Coach – HHS

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Karrie Chajkowski - STLP Sponsor – WES

Gordon Hallmark - Esports Coach – HHS

Natalie Heidrich - Grade Level Leader - 2nd Grade – WES

Michelle Lamantia - Grade Level Leader - 3rd Grade – WES

Katie Leftin - STLP Sponsor – JES

Corrie Posinski - STLP Sponsor – MES

Hannah Puthoff - Journalism Sponsor – WES

Katie Simon - National English Honor Society Sponsor – HHS

Julie Stewart - Unified Sports Coach – WES

Stephanie Walsh - Academic Team Sponsor – MES

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Tyra Berry - Bus Driver - Districtwide

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Matheus Benvenuto-Gerotto - Swimming Assistant Coach – HHS

Mitchell Jones - Freshman Baseball Coach – HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Position

Karrie Chajkowski - Journalism Sponsor – WES

Leave of Absence for the following Employee

Katie Huber - 12/04/2026 - 01/03/2027 – JES

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2781 - 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. David Russell.

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 August 10, 2026, Special Meeting of August 27, 2026 and Working Meeting of September 10, 2026

B. Financial Report for Month of August 2026

C. Authorization for Payment of Claims

D. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

- 1. HHS Soccer - Evansville, IN - September 4-5, 2026**
- 2. HHS FCCLA - Garden Grove, CA - November 12-15, 2026**
- 3. HHS Theater - Indianapolis, IN - March 19-20, 2027**

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION per KRS 61.810(1)(c) Discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency

Order #2782 - Motion Passed: Approval to enter into Executive Session at 7:33pm per KRS 61.810(1)(c) passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach 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

Order #2783 - Subsidiary Motion Passed: Approval to exit Executive Session at 8:39pm per KRS 61.810(1)(c) 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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent