

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

May 12, 2025

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:24 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Sarah Foster

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Noah Gibson

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:

- Testing is going well at all of the schools
- Spring sports are heading into districts
- HHS students were awarded \$338,000 in scholarships on Senior Award night
- HHS theatre received 24 Cappies nominations
- Ella Peabody was awarded the Free Spirit Journalism Award
- HHS has 7 National Merit commended students
- Kelly Booth has earned the Auschwitz Legacy Fellowship
- Elise Carter won the 2025 Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award
- Last day for students is May 23
- HHS Graduation is May 27

2. HMS Finance Winners

Nathan Dilts introduced the HMS students who competed in the Kentucky Personal Finance Challenge. Students shared the challenge they were given to solve that led to their State Championship. Students included:

Isla Clark

Lily Clarke

Cameron Cole

Barrett Willingham

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

3. FCCLA State Results

Ahren Wagner introduced the HHS State Champions in FCCLA. These students included:
FCCLA State STAR Winners:

Interior Design Level 2 - Alaina Wagner and Ellie Rogiers

Early Childhood Education Level 2 - Lily Frey

Newly Elected State Officer:

Vice President - Addyson Eifert

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

4. Governor's Scholars Programs

John Darnell introduced this year's Governor's Programs participants from Highlands High School. Students included:

Governor's Scholars Program:

Rosalyn Brown

Brianna Horner

Adelaide Littner

Elizabeth Perkins

Emily Twehues

Graham Borden

Warren Deaton

Noah Gracey

Robert Koester

Dylan Spears

Governor's School for Entrepreneurs:

Lillian Foley

Jude Borden

Eliana Niese

Penelope Kolb

Governor's School for the Arts:

Jacob Hagerty - Drama

Elijah Hills - Film & Photography

Elliot Martin - Musical Theatre

Gabriel McDermott - Film & Photography

Annika McKenzie - Visual Art

Cole Noah - Instrumental Music (Percussion)

Gabriel Talbot - Film & Photography

The Board congratulated the students on this wonderful accomplishment, presenting each with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Champions" t-shirt.

5. STLP State Champions

a. ePublishing - HHS Hilltopper - State Champions

Mrs. Brubaker introduced the students and they explained to the Board the submission process and their excitement for being named State Champions. Students included:

Adalyn Armstrong-Cattani

Aster Bredwell

Gemma Cutajar

Luke Deegan

Skyler Frey

Caleb Hurley

Natalie Hinegardner

Parker Henegar

Adalyn Klosterman

Kara Laber

Kayla Lehn

Sophia Lippolis

Cydni Martin

Ava Muzumdar

Emmerson Orme

Ella Peabody

Jenna Richey

Kaitlyn Ryan

Mia Shrout

Sophie Taylor

Audrina Trauth

Merary Valdez Deleon

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

b. Augmented Reality Corvette

Ms. Neltner introduced the students from HMS to the Board members and noted this project stood out over all other projects in this category. The students on the team included:

Charlie Wen

Julian Pedicini

Simon Villarreal

The Board asked questions about the project and congratulated them on their State Championship. Each student was presented with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

C. Student Showcase - HHS Broadcasting Team

Students from the HHS Broadcasting crew talked to the Board members about their mission to leave a legacy for future HHS students studying Broadcasting by raising money for improvements and additional equipment. Students presenting included:

John Exterkamp

Brennan Bucher

Hayden Rolf

Liam Delaney

Ashton Willis

Oliver Martin

Max Hamilton

The Board was very impressed and presented each student with a Rich in Tradition t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Jerry Wissman shared with the Board the progress at Tower Park. He noted interior framing is already beginning in the locker rooms and that the stone base for the track is going down. Mr. Wissman explained that soccer teams should be able to use the turf after dead period and that the anticipated date for building use is October.

2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #10

Order #2635 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #10 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$980,761.50 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

B. LPC Public Hearing Report and Final DFP

Order #2636 - Motion Passed: Approval of the LPC District Facility Plan Public Hearing Report and Final District Facility Plan 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

C. Cleaning Services - First Green Building Services

1. Cleaning Services Agreement for Johnson Elementary

Order #2637 - Motion Passed: Approval to authorize the superintendent to enter into a cleaning services agreement with First Green Building Services at Johnson Elementary for the 2025-26 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

2. Cleaning Services Agreement for Woodfill Elementary

Order #2638 - Motion Passed: Approval to authorize the superintendent to enter into a cleaning services agreement with First Green Building Services at Woodfill Elementary 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

3. Cleaning Services Agreement for Highlands High School

Order #2639 - Motion Passed: Approval to authorize the superintendent to enter into a cleaning services agreement with First Green Building Services at Highlands High School 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

D. Custodial Supply Bid

Order #2640 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept submitted bids for custodial supplies for the 2025-26 school year 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

E. Surplus Furniture Bid

Order #2641 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept submitted bids for surplus furniture 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

F. Declaration of Surplus Property - HHS Theatre

Order #2642 - Motion Passed: Approval to declare the attached list of items as surplus property 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

G. Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)

Order #2643 - Motion Passed: Approval of the CDIP for the 2025-26 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

H. Continuation of Learning Plan Diagnostic

Order #2644 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2025-26 Continuation of Learning NTI Plan 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

I. Salary Schedules

Order #2645 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Salary Schedules for 2025-26 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

J. Tentative Budget for 2025-26

Order #2646 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Tentative Budget for 2025-26 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

K. Audit Services for 2024-25

Order #2647 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Contract for Audit Services with Maddox & Associates CPA's, Inc. for 2024-25 in the amount of \$23,000 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

L. Bond of Treasurer

Order #2648 - Motion Passed: Acceptance of the Bond of Treasurer Andrew Remlinger, Accounts Payable Lori Crawford and Payroll Mary Turner in the amount of \$300,000 each 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

M. Board Member Resignation

Order #2649 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept resignation from Noah Gibson as board member from Fort Thomas Independent Schools Board of Education effective May 12, 2025, creating a vacant seat 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

Julie Kuhnhein shared the HOF Inductees for 2025 will be introduced at the Blue/White Scrimmage on August 15. The dinner and induction ceremony will be held on August 16.

B. Professional Development Plan 2025-26

Keith Faust shared highlights of the Professional Development Plan for each building, including the use of cadres again for 2025-26.

C. STAR Data Report

Keith Faust shared with the Board that Spring STAR Data indicates our students continue to grow and the number of students meeting proficiency remains high. The Board was pleased with this information and thanked Mr. Faust for sharing the results.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2650 - 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. 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 14, 2025 and Working Meeting of May 8, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of April 2025

C. Food Service Report for April 2025

D. Attendance Report for 8th Month of 2024-25

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. Approval of Revised Job Descriptions

G. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS FCCLA - Frankfort, KY - May 5-6, 2025
2. HHS Envirothon - Hardinsburg, KY - May 14-15, 2025
3. HHS FCCLA - Hardinsburg, KY - May 27-30, 2025
4. HHS FCCLA - Orlando, FL - July 3-10, 2025

H. Grant Extended Leave

1. Bethany Howard - August 7 to October 20, 2025 - Maternity Leave
2. Ryan Cunningham - May 22 to August 14, 2025 - Paternity Leave

I. Personnel Action Taken Since April 14, 2025

Employment of the following Certified Employees

Sydney Drew - Elementary Teacher - WES
Rebecca Eaton - Physics Teacher - HHS
Jason Gay - Instructional Technology Specialist - HHS
Madison Griffith - English Teacher - HHS
Christina Hudson - Elementary Teacher - MES
Elizabeth Keefer - Elementary Teacher - WES
Audrey Kinney - LBD/MSD Teacher - WES
Chad Niedert - Director of Operations - CO
Emma Russell - English/Language Arts Teacher - HMS
Aaron Sary - English/Social Studies - HHS
Stephanie Walsh - Elementary Teacher - MES
Elizabeth Winkler - Mathematics Teacher - HHS

Employment of the following Classified Employee

Lindsey Cook - Elementary School Secretary - MES

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Jenny Miller Horn - Girls on the Run - MES
Nina Kearns - Student Council - HHS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Tanner Hough - Head Boys Wrestling Coach - HHS
Dustin Preble - Assistant Track Coach - HHS
Caroline Toennis - Girls Varsity Assistant Soccer Coach - HHS

Notification of MOA with CPE for the following Certified Employee

Allison Roth

Resignation of the following Certified Employees

Summer Arthur - Elementary Teacher - WES
Susan Messmer - World Language Teacher - WES

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Heidi Vermeil - Library Media Assistant - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions

Katie Hood - Literacy Leader - MES
Marti Jo Houlihan - Literacy Leader - WES
Katie Mills - Literacy Leader - JES
Stephanie Pinguely - Literacy Leader - WES
Aimee Shadwell - Literacy Leader - JES
Katie Smith - Literacy Leader - MES

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Laura Estill - Freshman Cheerleading Coach - HHS
Ellie Fangman - Drama Technical Director - HHS
Jordan Figgs - Woodwind Tech Coach - HHS
Linda Glover - Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator - Districtwide
Tony Marquardt - Color Guard - HHS
Zac Rohlfer - Academic Team Coach - WES

Letters of Reasonable Assurance of Employment to the following Substitutes for 2025-26

Patricia Agard	Cynthia Graves	Kathleen Pfetzer
Susan Andreadis	Stephanie Griffith	Linda Prather
Mary Artopoeus	Douglas Hatt	Jennifer Prejean
Kwesi Babatu	Amy Heis	Douglas Rachford
Carrie Baioni	Laney Hensley	Lawrence Reis
Elizabeth Bartoszek	Shannon Hewins	Phyllis Reis
Joyce Bauer	Erin Hill	Tina Reynolds
Allison Berkley	Linda Hockney	Pamela Robinson
Denise Bernhard	Carolyn James	Corinne Ruschman
Christine Biltz	Sharyn Janosick	Kelly Russell
Lisa Birkley	Patricia Kelly	Julie Schlarman
Pam Brenner	Cindy Keuper	Kim Schnier
Christine Capal	Mary Kinsella	Keiley Schoellman
James Carney	Karma Klingenberg	Pamela Schultz
Christine Armstrong-	David Kohrs	Sheri Sipple
Cattani	Amy Leigh	Chelsea Shivers
Dawn Copenbaker	Tye Lembright	Grace Silcott
Keith D'Ambra	Erin Lucas	Susan Skinner
Dennis Daniel	Lori Maines	Bridget Smith
Connie Daniels	Judith Manning	Anne Snider
Elizabeth Derickson	Ashlyn Marksberry	Adam Sonnett
Cora Dill	Susan Martin	Angela Sower
Jessica Duke	Robert McCoy	Lindsay Travis
Megan Ellison	Patricia McGill	Laura Tinker-Wagner
Theodore Engelhard	Laura Meier	Christy Wallenhorst
Ellison Fangman	Emily Morel	Sandra Walkenhorst
Linda Fields	Kelly Murphy	Erin Walton-Spencer
Adam Flaig	Kathy Nestheide	Jennifer Wegert
Lauren Fotsch	Tracy Osburg	Mary Welch
Michi Fujimoto	Jeff Parker	Kelsey Wenstrup
Brianna Frost	Donald Parks	Emma Young
Mary Ganote	Jerri Payne	Elizabeth Zaebst
Rhonda Gardner	Amy Pendery	Joseph Zimmerman
Frances Gonzalez	Erika Peter	
Dena Gosney	Jane Petracco	

Authorization to Apply for Emergency Substitute Certification for 2025-2026

Allison Berkley	Mary Ganote	Keiley Schoellman
Christine Biltz	Laney Hensley	Chelsea Shivers
James Carney	Tye Lembright	Grace Silcott
Christine Armstrong-Cattani	Laura Meier	Bridget Smith
Keith D'Ambra	Emily Morel	Christy Wallenhorst
Jessica Duke	Donald Parks	Kelsey Wenstrup
Theodore Englehard	Amy Pendery	Emma Young
	Corinne Ruschman	Elizabeth Zaebst

Continuing Contracts to the following Certified Personnel for 2025-2026

Lauren Barkley	Rachael King	Laura Rittinger
Chrissy Barlow	Jason Harnish	Bob Sphire
Claudia Hils	Claire LaNicca	Hayden Sphire
Rachel Jackson	Corrie Posinski	

Limited Contracts to the following Certified Personnel for 2025-2026

Haley Bathiany	Dillon Goettke	Meredith Reber
Stephanie Beiting	Mark Goetz	Nate Roberts
Sydney Berger	Alyona Greene	Allison Roch
Alyssa Brown	Andrea Higgins	Madison Roy
Ellen Buchanan	Chastity Jacobs	Michala Saffell
Michael Caldwell	Megan Jones	Kassidy Schreiber
Jenny Davis	Sarah Klensch	Kelsey Sentney
Nathan Dilts	Kara Kowalk	Rachel Stephenson
Brooke Dinkelacker	Amity Kukla	Joe Sumpter
Christopher Eaton	Rebecca Manyet	Jill Taylor
Kelsey Etherton	Brianne McDowell	Amanda Wagner
Denisse Fernandez	Mitchell Meyer	Maggie Walker
Kyle Finfrock	Matthew Mickelson	Ella Workman

Letters of Reasonable Assurance of Employment to the following Classified Employees for 2025-2026

Ann Argo	Kathryn Burgin	Amanda Cowans
Florence Axle	Mary Bush	Lori Crawford
Tina Bacon	Terri Cain	Ryan Cunningham
Dale Bartel	Wes Caldwell	Mary Diamond
Ami Barth	Dawn Carson	Angela Dirksen
Tim Barth	Emily Chambers	Carolyn Dixon
Jennifer Black	Heather Clark	Katherine Eaton
Lance Bucher	Vinson Cornett	Shannon Eaton

Emma Eide
Kaitlyn Emig
Claire Freppon
Rachelle Frost
Mitchell Gesenhues
Nancy Gesenhues
Julie Goodwin
Andrea Greely
Patricia Groneck
Megan Guilkey
Mark Guttadauro
Hilary Hale
Trisha Hall
Jeremy Hall
Aimee Harms
Madison Helminiak
Rochelle Hensley
Kelly Hergott
Kevin Hester
Jessica Hiser
Amy Hodory
Emmalina Horn
Amanda Huff
Rita Inlow
Rebecca Johnson
Tara Jurgens
James Keeler
Jena Kersting
Amanda Krebs
Lisa Kroger
Holly Lahner
Jennifer Lang

Meghan Laux
Melissa Lewis
Rebecca Fischer-
Lucchetta
Karen Markus
Andrew Martin
Chris Martin
Maggie Mastropaolo
Jacqueline Maxwell
Maria McGovney
Sarah Messmer
Alesha Meyn
Christopher Middendorf
Jason Moore
Mary Beth Newman
John Nienaber
Thomas Nonno
Melissa Attah-Ofori
Diana Parker
Amy Parna
Edith Parsons
Barry Petracco
Amanda Pfetzer
Robert Ponzer
Michelle Rains
Scott Rath
Judith Redden
Michael Redmond
Susan Redmond
Lori Reinhart
Andrew Remlinger
Brooke Riesenbeck

Donna Rizzo
Amanda Robertson
Julie Robinson
Marie Rosenhagen
Melissa Rosenhagen
Susan Rosenhagen
Melissa Rossini
Matthew Schnelle
Nikkia Scherrer
Trisha Schroeder
Susan Schuh
LindaSchwarz
Melissa Sipples
Marian Sphire
Karen Sprecker
Eric Stamper
Christine Stieritz
Avram Steuber
Jenna Stone
Jon Stratton
Lesley Tolle
Mary Turner
Patricia Turner
Heidi Vermeil
Carrie Walter
Rhonda Wassom
Tara Wells
Fran Wettrich
Joseph Weyer
Nancy Northern-Willis
Ashley Winburn
Laura Witte

J. Approval of Superintendent Travel

K. Title III MOU

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION per KRS 156.557(6)(c) Evaluation of Superintendent

Order #2651 - Motion Passed: Approval to enter into Executive Session at 8:11pm per KRS 156.557(6)(c) 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

Order #2652 - Subsidiary Motion Passed: Approval to exit Executive Session at 9:30pm per KRS 156.557(6)(c) 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 9:31pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent