

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

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

June 9, 2025

6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:29 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Sarah Foster

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Recognitions**

**1. Board Bravos and Updates**

Board members shared the following:

- End of year celebrations went well
- Spring Sports wrapped up including Regional Championships for Varsity and JV Baseball, Regional Runner Up for Softball and Regional Championship for Freshman Girls Track
- Several retirement ceremonies were held celebrating our fantastic staff

**2. Tradition of Excellence Awards**

**a. Carrie Murray**

Carrie Murray was nominated for a Tradition of Excellence to recognize her dedication to the students and fellow staff members.

**b. Jody Johnson**

Jody Johnson was nominated for a Tradition of Excellence Award for his leadership in the Technology Department and his outstanding service to the students and staff of the school district.

**c. Jerry Wissman**

Jerry Wissman was nominated for a Tradition of Excellence Award for his dedicated service and commitment to the students and staff of FTIS.

### **3. Cappies Winners**

Claire LaNicca introduced the Cappies winners for 2025, noting HHS had 26 nominations this year. Winners included:

*Charlotte Weghorst*

*Oliver Martin*

*Grace Burnett*

*Addison Greene*

*Sophia Hamilton*

*Barret Becker*

*Megan Reichert*

*Jack Langlinais*

*Harrison Schultz*

*Shreya Vaghela*

The Board congratulated Mrs. LaNicca and the students on an outstanding performance and overall wonderful year. Each was presented with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

### **C. Community Forum**

Ten parents addressed the Board with their concerns/comments surrounding high school graduation. Parents addressing the Board included:

*Melissa Shell*

*Molly Wagner*

*Lisa Littner*

*Angela Aber*

*Jodi Shipp*

*Jill Spears*

*Alecia Dadosky*

*Scott Shipp*

*Pam Schultz*

*Tiffany Davies*

Superintendent Brian Robinson and the board members thanked the parents for their comments and advised the information will be shared with decision makers at the high school.

## **II. ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

Jerry Wissman shared with the Board that 90% of the turf was down and still being sewn together. He also shared the stands will be connected with the press box toward the end of July, and that the soccer teams will be able to use the turf in the fall.

**2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #11**

**Order #2655 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #11 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,616,826.42 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**B. Insurance Coverage 2025-2026**

**Order #2656 - Motion Passed:** Approval of insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, as recommended by Assured Partners, to include coverage provided by Bluegrass Risk Management, KEMI, and BRM/Crum & Forster at a total cost of \$347,524 for the premium package and Student Accident coverage through Roberts Insurance with Gross Insurance as our local agent at a total cost of \$33,266 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

**C. Surplus Equipment Bid - Technology**

**Order #2657 - Motion Passed:** Approval to accept submitted bids for surplus technology equipment and award Ingram Micro as the best evaluated bid 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

### D. School Fees for 2025-26

All school fees must be approved by the Board of Education annually. The fees include student fees, textbooks, workbooks, materials and supplies, and lunch charges. It is recommended that overall fees be approved as listed below for the 2025-2026 school year.

#### Elementary

<b>Student Fee – All Kindergarten</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fee	\$20.00
Consumable - Social Studies, Math, ELA, & Digital Resources	\$20.00
Snack Fee	\$25.00
Technology Fee	\$85.00
Field Trips	\$50.00
Insurance	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL KINDERGARTEN STUDENT FEE</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>

<b>Student Fee – All Students Grades 1-5</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fee	\$40.00
Consumable Fee - Social Studies, Math, ELA, & Digital Resources	\$25.00
Technology Fee	\$85.00
Insurance	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL GRADE 1-5 STUDENT FEE</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>

**Highlands Middle School**

<b>Student Fee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fee	\$40.00
Math Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Social Studies Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Language Arts Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Science Fee	\$15.00
STEM Fee	\$15.00
Technology Fee	\$115.00
Student Insurance	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL HMS STUDENT FEE</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Additional</b>	
Band (all levels)	\$10.00
Strings (all levels)	\$10.00
Art (Any)	\$5.00
<b>HHS Pathway Courses</b>	
Comp Tech I/Digital Literacy (MOS)	\$30.00 + certificates
Engineering I	\$50.00
FCS Essentials	\$30.00

**Highlands High School**

<b>Student Fee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fee (ALL students)	\$15.00
PSAT (Select Students in Grade 10 & 11)	\$18.00
Technology (ALL Students)	\$115.00
Student Insurance (ALL Students)	\$10.00
<b>English</b>	
English I (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
English I Advanced (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
English II (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Seminar (Common Lit, Perfection Vocab, & They Say I Say)	\$40.00
English III (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Language (AMSCO & Perfection Vocab)	\$40.00
English IV (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Literature (AMSCO)	\$25.00

<b>Family Consumer Science</b>	
FCS Essentials	\$30.00
Fashion and Interior Design I	\$10.00
Early Lifespan Development	\$10.00
Culinary Arts I	\$15.00
Food and Nutrition	\$70.00
<b>Art</b>	
Sculpture	\$35.00
Art I	\$35.00
Art II	\$35.00
AP Studio Art	\$35.00
Art III	\$35.00
Photo I	\$35.00
Photo II	\$35.00
<b>Engineering/Technology</b>	
Architecture Design	\$25.00
Engineering I	\$25.00
Engineering II	\$50.00 + certificates and fees
Engineering Capstone	\$25.00 + certificates
EGT 212 CAD NKU Dual Credit	\$25.00 + certificates and fees
EGT 116 Manufacturing NKU Dual Credit	\$25.00
Advance Design	\$25.00
<b>Business</b>	
Comp Tech I/Digital Liter (MOS)	\$30.00 + certificates
Comp Tech II/Office Admin	\$30.00
Accounting	\$10.00
<b>Fine Arts/Film</b>	
Intro to Media Arts	\$40.00 + certificates
Video Studio Fundamentals	\$40.00 + certificates
Studio Directing/Performance	\$40.00 + certificates

Advanced Studio Productions	\$40.00 + certificates
Audio Engineering	\$40.00
Sports Broadcasting	\$40.00
Independent Video Productions	\$40.00
Choir	\$10.00
<b>Health Innovations</b>	
Health Pathway	\$15.00
<b>Math</b>	
All Courses (Digital resources, protractors, compasses, etc)	\$20.00
<b>Science</b>	
Freshman Physics, all levels (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Chemistry I (Lab Fees)	\$30.00
Biology I (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Biology I ADV (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Biology (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Chemistry I ADV (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Chemistry (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Physics (Lab fees)	\$25.00
Anatomy & Physiology (Lab fee)	\$55.00
AP Environmental Science (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
<b>Social Studies</b>	
World History (Digital resources)	\$10.00
AP World History (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
US History (Textbook & Digital resources)	\$10.00
AP US History (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
Government (Textbook & Digital resources)	\$10.00
AP US Government & Politics (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
We the People/APGovernment (Center for Civics Education Textbook)	\$43.00

<b>Additional Summer Course</b>	Up to \$300
<b>Advanced Placement</b>	TBD
<b>Dual Credit</b>	TBD
<b>Athletic/Extracurricular</b>	
Athletic Fee	\$140.00
Uniform Fee	Up to \$150.00
Athletic Meal Fee	Up to \$150.00
Band Fee	\$110.00

**Breakfast/Lunch Fees**

<b>Student Fee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Elementary Breakfast</b>	\$2.50
<b>Elementary Lunch</b>	\$3.50
<b>HMS/HHS Breakfast</b>	\$2.50
<b>HMS/HHS Lunch</b>	\$3.75
<b>Adult Lunch</b>	\$4.00

**Order #2658 - Motion Passed:** Adoption of the School Fees as listed above 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**E. Acceptable Code of Behavior and Discipline 2025-2026**

**Order #2659 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Acceptable Code of Behavior and Discipline for 2025-2026 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**F. Policy Revisions for 2025-26 First Reading**

**Order #2660 - Motion Passed:** Tentative approval based on a First Reading of the policy revisions 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



**G. Payroll Dates for 2025-26**

**Order #2661 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Payroll Dates for 2025-26 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**H. Appointment of New Board Member**

**Order #2662 - Motion Passed:** Approve the appointment of David Russell to the open Board seat previously held by Noah Gibson 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

**I. Evaluation of Superintendent**

The Board is extremely happy with Superintendent Robinson and his leadership. Superintendent Robinson shared it is a great joy to work with the Board. Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein shared the 3% increase reflects the same pay increase for district employees this year. The Superintendent contract will be amended to reflect the increase and the annuity piece to make sure it is on par.

**Order #2663 - Motion Passed:** Acceptance and approval of the Superintendent's annual evaluation with an overall rating of Exemplary and 3% increase as well as amendment to annuity percentage 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

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Board Committee Updates**

The Board shared that the 4th of July parade was coming up and encouraged folks to participate in the Firecracker 5k.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2664 - 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

**A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025 and Working Meeting of June 5, 2025**

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

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

**D. Attendance Report for 9th Month of 2024-25**

**E. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**F. Revised 2025-26 Supplemental Services Pay Schedule**

**G. SRO Agreement for 2025-26**

**H. Approval of Transportation Common Carriers for 2025-26**

Common Carriers for 2025-26:

*Executive*

*Croswell*

*Campbell County*

*Enterprise*

*Miller*

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

**1. HHS Boys Basketball - Hanover, IN - June 5, 2025**

**2. HHS TSA - Nashville, TN - June 27 - July 1, 2025**

**J. Personnel Action Taken Since May 12, 2025**

*Employment of the following Certified Employees*

Kerry Conley - FACS Teacher - HHS

Danielle Cooper - Teacher - HMS

Jeremy Filson - Teacher - HMS

Bailey Gray - Teacher - JES

Casey Murphy - Teacher - WES

Mary Scott - Teacher - HHS

*Employment of the following Classified Employee*

Lori Bogart - Cafeteria - HHS

Change in Position for the following Classified Employees

Heather Clark - Cafeteria I to Assistant Cafeteria Manager - HHS

Alesha Meyn - Part-time HR Coordinator to Full-time HR Coordinator - CO

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Jillian Booth - Engineering Club - JES

Mike Caldwell - Chess Club - HHS

Jenny Ragan - Grade Level Leader - MES

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Brooke Berry - Freshman Cheerleading Coach - HHS

Jonathon McKenzie - Cross Country Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Certified Employee

Jillian Hurtt - Teacher - MES

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Matthew Campbell - Special Ed IA - WES

Hilary Hale - Elementary IA - WES

Cory Ruschman - Special Ed IA - WES

Jon Stratton - Bus Monitor - Districtwide

Non-Renewal of the following Certified Employees

Joni Ficke - Teacher - HHS

Aaron Lehmann - Teacher - HHS

Reduction of Services for the following Certified Positions

Scott Pahren - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Lindsey Reckers - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Laura Rittinger - Grade Level Leader - HMS

**K. Approval of Superintendent Travel**

**1. NKCES Superintendent Retreat - Louisville, KY - June 11-13, 2025**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent