

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

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

August 11, 2025

6:30pm

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

Present Board Members:

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

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

**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:

- Back to school nights happening across the district
- Nest Fest was a success
- FTIS has a new website we encourage everyone to visit
- 1st day of school is Wednesday, August 13
- HMS student Anna Reynolds won a national writing award
- HHS Broadcasting received 4 Ohio Valley Regional Emmys
- HHS had 33 students recognized by the KY Journalism Association, 4 of which were winners
- HHS students did very well on their AP scores
- Hall of Fame presentations this Friday, August 15 at the Blue/White scrimmage with dinner and induction on Saturday, August 16
- 4 HHS students presented at the Staff Opening Day Breakfast and all did well

**2. Tradition of Excellence - Elise Carter**

The Board recognized Elise Carter as the recipient of the National Education Association's Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award for 2025. The Board congratulated her on this wonderful honor.

**C. Community Forum**

There were no community members requesting to speak.

## II. ACTION ITEMS

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

#### 1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared with the Board that the masonry work is nearing completion and the inside of both buildings are coming together. The video board is scheduled to be installed this week, and we are on track for games in mid-September.

#### 2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #13

**Order #2676 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #13 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,257,923.60 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	Absent
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

#### 3. Change Order #5

**Order #2677 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Change Order #5 in the amount of \$9,837.00 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

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

### B. Employee Perfect Attendance Incentive

**Order #2678 - Motion Passed:** Approval to authorize the Superintendent to award a yearly perfect attendance bonus and develop monthly incentive drawings September 2025 through May 2026 passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

### C. Parental Leave Policies 03.1233 and 03.2233 First Reading

**Order #2679 - Motion Passed:** Tentative approval of revised Parental Leave Policies 03.1233 and 03.2233 based on a First Reading passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Absent
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 members shared the Hall of Fame recognition and induction will be this Friday and Saturday. The Board also thanked Ann Meyer for her hard work on the Opening Day Breakfast.

#### **B. ACT/AP Report**

Keith Faust shared with the Board the results of the spring ACT test for the junior class and the great AP scores.

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

**Order #2680 - 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 Mrs. Sarah Foster.

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

#### **A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 14, 2025 and Working Meeting of August 7, 2025**

#### **B. Financial Report for Month of July 2025**

#### **C. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

#### **D. District Data Security and Breach Procedures**

#### **E. Procedure 03.21 AP.25**

#### **F. Procedure 03.21 AP.2**

#### **G. Revised Board Meeting Dates**

#### **H. Revised Board Committees**

#### **I. Grant Extended Leave**

##### **1. Abbey McCoy - Maternity - October 27, 2025 to January 16, 2026**

#### **J. Personnel Action Taken Since July 14, 2025**

Employment of the following Certified Employee

Hannah Puthoff - Elementary Teacher - WES

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Elizabeth Bartoszek - Bus Monitor - Districtwide

Tyra Berry - Bus Driver - Districtwide

Grace Silcott - Instructional Assistant - JES

Change in position for the following Classified Employees

Teresa Cain - Instructional Assistant at WES to Counseling Office Secretary at HHS

Susan Redmond - Instructional Assistant at JES to Cafeteria at WES

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Beth Brubaker - Middler Newspaper- HMS

Beth Brubaker - Middle School Yearbook - HMS

Ella Workman - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Kenny Race - Boys Head Golf Coach - HHS

Julie Schmitz - Academic Team Sponsor - JES

LaBradford Smith - Girls Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Mary Diamond - Custodian - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Position

Del Ehemann - Envirothon Sponsor - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Brian Runyon - Boys Varsity Assistant Soccer Coach - HHS

**K. Approval of Superintendent Travel**

- 1. Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory Committee - Frankfort, KY - August 26, 2025**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent