

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

October 13, 2025

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:27 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

- Hullabaloo was a success
- Santa House will take place before the next board meeting
- Choir concerts last week and band and strings concerts this week
- Beginning of the 2nd quarter
- PSAT and optional ACT will be given this week
- HHS student Elizabeth Clark achieved Top 10 at the TSA nationals
- Homecoming is next week
- HHS play will run October 30 - November 2
- Tower Park ribbon cutting details will be out soon

2. FCCLA National Winners

The following HHS FCCLA students spoke to the Board about their experience at the National competition and their results:

Cyndi Martin - Chapter Service Project Display - Level 3 - Gold

Alaina Wagner - Interior Design - Level 2 - Gold

Ava Muzumdar - Nutrition and Wellness - Level 3 - Silver

Lily Frey - Early Childhood Education - Level 2 - Silver

Addyson Eifert - 2025-26 KY State Vice President of Individual Programs

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

3. National Merit Semifinalists

The Board recognized the following HHS students as National Merit Semi-finalists:

Addyson Eifert

Dylan Spears

Flynn Cook

The students were congratulated on this wonderful achievement and presented with Certificates of Achievement and "Rich in Tradition" t-shirts.

4. NaviGo Scholars

The Board recognized the following HHS students for being chosen NaviGo Scholars:

Gus Back

Cora Bolser

Crosley Crail

Max Holbrook

Arjun Jayasree Senthil

Mia Mitchell Antonio

Chimdindu Nwachukwu

Devin Pierre

Olivia Raaker

Isabella Roderick

Ella Taylor

Henry Thompson

The students shared the topics they chose and their experiences so far. The Board wished them success and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Rich in Tradition" t-shirt.

C. Student Showcase - HMS: Engineering I

HMS Teacher John Warford and four Engineering I students shared their experience with the new lab and two projects they have made using that lab. Students included:

Sawyer Arend

Elizabeth Duerk

Hunter Rohlfer

Sim Willis

The Board asked the students questions, thanked them and presented each with a "Tradition of Excellence" t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

No community members asked to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared that the Tower Park project is moving along with most of the work taking place indoors. Indoor turf will be installed this week, and work will continue with interior construction.

2. Change Order #6

Order #2691 - Motion Passed: Approval of Change Order #6 in the amount of \$37,883 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 #7

Order #2692 - Motion Passed: Approval of Change Order #7 in the amount of \$322,665 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

4. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #15

Order #2693 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #15 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$730,385.70 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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

B. KETS First Offer of Assistance

Order #2694 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept and match the entire KETS Offer of Assistance amount at the present time of this offer and any subsequent offers up to a total of \$21/ADA for the 2025-2026 school year with the KETS First Offer of Assistance being \$34,755 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

C. HHS Theatre Surplus

Order #2695 - Motion Passed: Approval to surplus the attached list of HHS Theatre items 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

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

Board member Clem Fennell shared that the Hall of Fame Committee needs recommendations from the community for future individual and team inductees. Board member David Russell shared that HHS students shared ideas and participated in great conversations at the most recent Title IX meeting.

B. Summer Enrichment Report

Jamee Flaherty shared the results of this year's Summer Enrichment programming, noting 27 classes were offered, hosting 336 students.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2696 - 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 Special Meeting of September 8, 2025 and Working Meeting of October 9, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of September 2025

C. Food Service Report for September 2025

D. Attendance Report for 1st Month of 2025-26

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. District Technology Report - Q1

G. Pledge of Collateral Agreement

H. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

- 1. HHS Boys Golf - Simpsonville, KY - September 13-14, 2025**
- 2. HHS Girls Volleyball - Louisville, KY - October 3-4, 2025**
- 3. HHS Volleyball - Lexington, KY - October 10-11, 2025**
- 4. HHS Marching Band - Bowling Green, KY - October 24-26, 2025**
- 5. HHS FCCLA - Washington, D.C. - November 15-19, 2025**
- 6. HHS Girls Basketball - Miramar Beach, FL - December 26-31, 2025**
- 7. HHS Dance - Orlando, FL - February 13-19, 2026**
- 8. HHS Choir - Chicago, IL - May 29-31, 2026**

I. Personnel Action Taken Since September 8, 2025

Change in position for the following Classified Employees

Ann Argo - Special Education Instructional Assistant at HMS to Certified Special Education Teacher - MES

Sarah Messmer - Special Education Instructional Assistant at HHS to Certified Special Education Teacher - HHS

Melissa Rossini - Instructional Assistant at MES to Principal's Secretary - HHS

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Lizbeth Gonzalez - Instructional Assistant - MES

Barry Knapp - Cafeteria Monitor - MES

Jasmine Pennington - Cafeteria I - HMS

Employment of the following Extra Service Positions

Rebecca Eaton - Robotics Co-Sponsor - HHS

Ryan Hahn - Freshman Head Coach 1/3 - HHS

Gordon Hallmark - Robotics Co-Sponsor - HHS

Nate Roberts - Freshman Assistant Coach ½ - HHS

Kegan Tolle - Unified Bowling Coach - HHS

Shawn Zitt - Varsity Assistant Football Coach 1/3 - HHS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Doug Bryant - Freshman Head Coach 1/3 - HHS
James Carney - Varsity Assistant Football Coach 1/3 - HHS
Brian Dinkelacker - Boys Basketball A Team Coach - HMS
Jeremey Donelan - Girls Head Track Coach - HHS
Greg Hacker - Varsity Assistant Football Coach 1/3 - HHS
Joseph Hood - Girls Wrestling Head Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Certified Employee

Jessica Gross - Special Education Teacher - HHS

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Trisha Hall - Custodian - HMS
Susan Redmond - Cafeteria I - WES
Connor Whitis - Custodian - Districtwide

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Position

Stacey Behrensmeyer - NHS Sponsor - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Brian Benzinger - Boys Basketball A Team Coach - HMS

J. Grant Extended Leave

1. Carrie Walter - Medical Leave - September 26 - October 10, 2025
2. Holly Lahner - Medical Leave - October 14 - December 1, 2025
3. Hollie Menkhaus - Maternity - November 3, 2025 - February 12, 2026

K. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. Superintendent Advisory Council - Frankfort, KY - November 5, 2025

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There no was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent