

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

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

May 11, 2026  
6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:29 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:

- Moyer is a Lighthouse School
- HMS Defense of Learning presentations began today for 8th graders
- In the first 2 weeks of May, 1470 AP tests were given and 5700 KSA tests
- Senior Awards were held on May 7. \$150k in local scholarships were awarded, \$3.1M from universities and other non-local entities and \$5M in tuition was saved.
- The Class of 2026 has 285 graduating seniors
- Nesties was held last week and was well attended
- Summer playground turf projects at JES and MES are planned

**2. Tradition of Excellence - Becky Johnson**

Becky Johnson was recognized by Kim Klein for her high standards and dedication to the students and staff at Highlands Middle School. The Board presented Mrs. Johnson with a Tradition of Excellence Award for her service.

**3. Scholastic National Medalist - Reagan Sand**

The Board recognized Reagan Sand for her Gold Medal in the National Scholastic Writing Competition. Reagan and her family will attend a ceremony at the Carnegie Center in New York to recognize this achievement. The Board presented her with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Champions" shirt.

#### **4. We The People**

Mrs. Boimann-Hennies and Mr. Caldwell introduced the students from the We The People Team. Students included:

Devarchit	Phol	Logan Shell
Agnihotri	Jiraphasuksakul	Frances Smith
Jude Armstrong	Dylan Kues	Gabriel Talbot
Graham Borden	Adelaide Littner	Henry Thompson
Elizabeth Clarke	Natalie Lorenz	Ananya
Morgan Davis	Gabriel	Thumrongthaisakul
Warren Deaton	McDermott	Emily Twehues
Addyson Eifert	Bailey McDowell	Sophie Uhl
Thomas Foose	Hannah Nieporte	Charlotte
Jonas Foubert	Quinn Ossege	Weghorst
Parker Greene	Chase Pawsat	Eva Weinel
Jacob Hagerty	Ella Peabody	James A. Wilson
Evan Hart	Rafe Pinkston	James N. Wilson
Violet Hisey	Darian Robinson	Sophia Zahner
Duncan Hume	Abigail Rowland	Elizabeth Zengel
Siddhartha Jani	Harrison Schultz	

The team recently competed at Nationals in Washington, D.C. bringing home a win in Division A. The Board congratulated the students and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Tradition of Excellence" shirt.

#### **5. Governor's Programs**

Mr. Darnell introduced the students who qualified and the alternates for the Governor's Programs. These students included:

##### GSP

Isabelle Atkins  
Jude Borden  
Catherine Fischer  
Madeleine Foster  
Lillian Grau  
Callie Kramer  
Iris Loyall  
Lillian Trice  
Alaina Wagner

##### GSP Alternates

Madelyn Bottomley  
Aiden Darnell  
Emma Hood  
KarenLee Richard

GSA

Lucinda Delaney  
Roland Hensley  
Kara Laber  
Sophia Taylor

GSA Alternate

Laken Kruger

GSE

Chaney Russell

GSE Waitlist

Marietta Terlau  
Olive Lecky

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

**6. STLP State Champions**

Mr. Darnell and Mr. Winkler introduced the four STLP State Champions. Each student explained their project and how it felt to be a State Champion. The Board thanked them and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a "Champions" shirt. The students included:

Moyer

Vera Lobaugh - Digital Photography "Bikes and Tires"

Highlands High School

HHS Broadcasting Team (Ben Pfetzer representing) - Newscast "September News Show"  
Adalyn Klosterman - Photo Journalism "For the Town, For the Team"  
Jackson Brown and Mason Haffey - Kentucky Travel Video "The Greenline"

**C. Student Showcase - MES: Student Lighthouse Team**

The Moyer Lighthouse Team presented to the Board and discussed their role within the school and the recent news of being named a Lighthouse School of Distinction. Students presenting included:

Olivia Birkenhauer  
Benny Collier  
Adalyn Cothron  
Will Kohake  
Yahvi Jagathesh Ram

The Board thanked the students and presented them with "Tradition of Excellence" shirts.

## D. Community Forum

### II. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Student Accident Insurance

**Order #2737 - Motion Passed:** Approval to accept the proposal from Roberts Insurance for Student Accident Insurance through National Union Fire (AIG) for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$34,638.83 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

#### B. First Amendment to Lease Agreement for Improvement and Use of Softball Field at Winkler Park

**Order #2738 - Motion Passed:** Approval of First Amendment to Lease Agreement for Improvement and Use of Softball Field at Winkler Park 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

#### C. Finalize Property Transfers Per MOA

**Order #2739 - Motion Passed:** Approval to authorize the Superintendent to execute any and all transfers, including conveyance deeds, to complete the property transfers and record the ownership of the properties consistent with the terms of the MOA 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

#### D. Salary Schedules

**Order #2740 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Salary Schedules for 2026-27 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

**E. Tentative Budget for 2026-27**

**Order #2741 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Tentative Budget for 2026-27 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
Mr. David Russell	Yes

**F. Audit Services for 2026-27**

**Order #2742 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Contract for Audit services with Maddox & Associates CPA's for 2026-27 in the amount of \$25,000 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

**G. Bond of Treasurer**

**Order #2743 - Motion Passed:** Acceptance of the Bond of Treasurer Andrew Remlinger, Accounts Payable Lori Crawford and Payroll Mary Turner in the amount of \$400,000 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

**H. Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)**

**Order #2744 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the CDIP for the 2026-27 school year 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

**I. Continuation of Learning Plan Diagnostic**

**Order #2745 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the 2026-27 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

### III. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Board Committee Updates

#### B. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation - Project Update

Chad Niedert updated the Board on the progress at Tower Park. Currently, the commissioning is being fine-tuned and the storage building is nearing completion.

#### C. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since April 13, 2026

##### Employment of the following Classified Employee

Valencia Barnes - Bus Driver - Central Office

##### Transfer of position for the following Classified Employees

Lisa Kroger - 6-hour Cafeteria to 4-hour Cafeteria - HHS

Melissa Rosenhagen - Cafeteria - HHS to Library Media Assistant - HMS

##### Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Sydney Berger - Grade Level Leader - Kindergarten - JES

Jillian Booth - Grade Level Leader - 4th Grade - JES

Alyssa Brown - Costume Designer - HHS

Teresa Cain - Freshman Volleyball Coach - HHS

Christopher Eaton - Music Director - HHS

Mark Gaskins - 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach - HMS

Casey Gesenhues - Grade Level Leader - 2nd Grade - JES

Dillon Goettke - Drama Club Assistant Sponsor - HMS

Emma Horn - Vocal Music Sponsor - JES

Rachael King - Grade Level Leader - Specials - JES

Claire LaNicca - Drama Club Sponsor - HMS

Claire LaNicca - Technical Director - HMS and HHS

Kassidy Martin - 7th Grade Volleyball Coach - HMS

Sarah Mays - Grade Level Leader - 5th Grade - JES

Amy Opitz - Grade Level Leader - 3rd Grade - JES

Erin Staff - 6th Grade Volleyball Coach - HMS

Katie Stewart - National English Honor Society Sponsor - HHS

##### Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Hannah Brklacich - JV Volleyball Coach - HHS

Mike Fielder - Musical Choreographer - HHS

Khloe Geiger - Freshman Cheerleading Coach - HHS

Dena Gosney - Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach - HHS

Amanda Knight - Cross Country Varsity Assistant Coach - HHS

Gabby Mullins - JV Dance Coach - HHS

Brian Schultz - Speech and Debate Team Assistant Coach - HMS/HHS

Pam Schultz - Speech and Debate Team Coach - HMS/HHS

Cade Snyder - Boys Assistant Golf Coach - HHS

Notification of MOA with CPE for the following Certified Employee  
Allison Roth

Retirement of the following Classified Employee  
Kathy Eaton - Administrative Assistant - CO

Resignation of the following Classified Employee  
Laura Witte - Cafeteria - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions  
Jillian Booth - Eco Club and Engineering Club - JES  
Alyssa Brown - Grade Level Leader - 5th Grade - JES  
Alyssa Davis - Speech and Debate Team Coach - HMS/HHS  
Alyssa Davis - Vocal Music Sponsor and Grade Level Leader - Specials - JES  
Brady Dowling - National English Honor Society Sponsor - HHS  
Bethany Howard - Speech and Debate Team Assistant Coach - HMS/HHS  
Katie Leftin - Grade Level Leader - 2nd Grade - JES  
Katie Mills - Grade Level Leader - Kindergarten - JES  
Heidi Neltner - STLP Sponsor - Elementary/Middle  
Nikkia Scherrer - Mock Trial Sponsor - HHS  
Sally Schoellman - Grade Level Leader - 4th Grade - JES  
Aimee Shadwell - Grade Level Leader - 3rd Grade - JES  
Shih Wen - Esports Coach - HHS

Leave of Absence for the following Employees  
Lizabeth Gonzalez - April 27, 2026 - May 29, 2026 - MES  
William Sphire - May 4, 2026 - May 29, 2026 - HHS

Letters of Reasonable Assurance of Employment to the following Substitutes for 2026-27

Patricia Agard	Christine Armstrong-	Rhonda Gardner
Mary Artopoeus	Cattani	Dena Gosney
Kwesi Babatu	Dawn Copenbaker	Cynthia Graves
Joyce Bauer	Keith D'Ambra	Kelly Griffith
Hailey Bennett	Dennis Daniel	Stephanie Griffith
Allison Berkley	Connie Daniels	Douglas Hatt
Denise Bernhard	Brooke David	Laney Hensley
Christine Biltz	Elizabeth Derickson	Danielle Herald
Lisa Birkley	Marvin Dickman	Erin Hill
Sherry Bodner	Cora Dill	Linda Hockney
Pam Brenner	Jessica Duke	Carolyn James
Sally Brewer	Megan Ellison	Patricia Kelly
Nancy Browning	Theodore Engelhard	Jennie Kendall
Matthew Campbell	Linda Fields	Cindy Keuper
Christine Capal	Adam Flaig	Mary Kinsella
James Carney	Brianna Frost	Karma Klingenberg
Caleb Chambers	Mary Ganote	Ryan Kirk

David Kohrs	Jerri Payne	Sheri Sipple
Amy Leigh	Amy Pendery	Chelsea Shivers
Tye Lembright	Erika Peter	Susan Skinner
Crystal Lopez	Jane Petracco	Bridget Smith
Erin Lucas	Kathleen Pfetzer	Anne Snider
Lori Maines	Linda Prather	Adam Sonnett
Jessica Martin	Douglas Rachford	Angela Sower
Ashlyn Marksberry	Amy Reeves	Katie Stephens
Kelsey Mattimore	Lawrence Reis	Julie Steppe
Robert McCoy	Phyllis Reis	Jackie Theissen
Laura Meier	Tina Reynolds	Laura Tinker-Wagner
Emily Morel	Pamela Robinson	Scott Turner
Abigail Morrison	Corinne Ruschman	Heidi Vermeil
Britton Murphy	Kelly Russell	Christy Wallenhorst
Kelly Murphy	Julie Schlarman	Elizabeth Zaebst
Kathy Nestheide	Kim Schnier	Joseph Zimmerman
Tracy Osburg	Pamela Schultz	
Jeff Parker	Rachel Seibert	

*Authorization to Apply for Emergency Substitute Certification for 2026-2027*

Hailey Bennett	Jessica Duke	Corinne Ruschman
Allison Berkley	Theodore Englehard	Rachel Seibert
Christine Biltz	Mary Ganote	Chelsea Shivers
James Carney	Laney Hensley	Grace Silcott
Christine Armstrong-	Laura Meier	Bridget Smith
Cattani	Emily Morel	Christy Wallenhorst
Keith D'Ambra	Amy Pendery	Emma Young
Brooke David	Amy Reeves	Elizabeth Zaebst

*Continuing Contracts to the following Certified Personnel for 2026-2027*

Stephanie Beiting	Ryan Hahn	Meredith Reber
Denise Bezold	Andrea Higgins	Allison Roch
Alyssa Brown	Audrey Kinney	Rachel Stephenson
Ellen Buchanan	Kassidy Martin	Jill Taylor
Danielle Cooper	Brianne McDowell	Amanda Wager
Sydney Drew	Jeremy Filson	Elizabeth Winkler

*Limited Contracts to the following Certified Personnel for 2026-2027*

Lauren Bailey	Madison DuPont	Bailey Gray
Haley Bathiany	Christopher Eaton	Alyona Greene
Sydney Berger	Kelsey Etherton	Madison Griffith
Michael Caldwell	Denisse Fernandez	Gordon Hallmark
Kerry Connley	Kyle Finfrock	Christina Hudson
Jenny Davis	Jason Gay	Chastity Jacobs
Nathan Dilts	Dillon Goettke	Megan Jones
Brooke Dinkelacker	Mark Goetz	Elizabeth Keefer

Sarah Klensch  
Kara Kowalk  
Amity Kukla  
Rebecca Manyet  
Sarah Messmer  
Mitchell Meyer  
Matthew Mickelson

Casey Murphy  
Chad Niedert  
Hannah Puthoff  
Nate Roberts  
Emma Russell  
Michala Saffell  
Aaron Sary

Mary Scott  
Colin Seith  
Kelsey Sentney  
Joe Sumpter  
Stephanie Walsh  
Ella Workman

Letters of Reasonable Assurance of Employment to the following Classified Employees for 2026-2027

Florence Axle  
Ami Barth  
Tim Barth  
Annie Bartoszek  
Tyra Berry  
Jennifer Black  
Lori Bogart  
Lance Bucher  
Kathryn Burgin  
Ellen Bush  
Terri Cain  
Wes Caldwell  
Dawn Carson  
Emily Chambers  
Heather Clark  
Lindsey Cook  
Vinson Cornett  
Amanda Cowans  
Lori Crawford  
Ryan Cunningham  
Briana Daley  
Lena Deaton  
Angela Dirksen  
Carolyn Dixon  
Katherine Eaton  
Emma Eide  
Kaitlyn Emig  
Claire Freppon  
Rachelle Frost  
Mitchell Gesenhues  
Nancy Gesenhues  
Lizabeth Gonzalez  
Julie Goodwin  
Andrea Greely  
Patricia Groneck  
Megan Guilkey

Mark Guttadauro  
Jeremy Hall  
Aimee Harms  
Tara Heiert  
Madison Helminiak  
Kelly Hergott  
Kevin Hester  
Shannon Hewins  
Ashley Hicks  
Jessica Hiser  
Amy Hodory  
Emmalina Horn  
Amanda Huff  
Dana Hutchinson  
Rita Inlow  
Rebecca Johnson  
Jessica Jones  
Tara Jurgens  
Bradley Kemplin  
Jena Kersting  
Barry Knapp  
Alicia Knauf  
Amanda Krebs  
Lisa Kroger  
Holly Lahner  
Jennifer Lang  
Melissa Lewis  
Noah Liles  
Rebecca Fischer-  
Lucchetta  
Karen Markus  
Andrew Martin  
Chris Martin  
Maggie Mastropaolo  
Jacqueline Maxwell  
Rochelle McClintick

Maria McGovney  
Alesha Meyn  
Jason Moore  
Thomas Nonno  
Tarrance O'Connor  
Diana Parker  
Amy Parna  
Edith Parsons  
Barry Petracco  
Amanda Pfetzer  
Dianna Politano  
Robert Ponzer  
Catie Raaker  
Scott Rath  
Judith Redden  
Lori Reinhart  
Andrew Remlinger  
Brooke Riesenbeck  
Donna Rizzo  
Amanda Robertson  
Julie Robinson  
Marie Rosenhagen  
Melissa Rosenhagen  
Melissa Rossini  
Matthew Schnelle  
Nikkia Scherrer  
Trisha Schroeder  
Susan Schuh  
Grace Silcott  
Melissa Sipples  
Morgan Smith  
Marian Sphire  
Karen Sprecker  
Eric Stamper  
Christine Stieritz  
Avram Steuber

Jenna Stone  
Lesley Tolle  
Mary Turner

Patricia Turner  
Carrie Walter  
Rhonda Wassom

Joseph Weyer  
Nancy Northern-Willis  
Ashley Winburn

**D. Professional Development Plan 2026-27**

Keith Faust presented the 2026-27 Professional Development plan to the Board. The plan is broken out by school and gives the teachers options to learn in different areas. This has been positively received.

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2746 - 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

**A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 13, 2026, Special Joint Meeting of April 22, 2026 and Working Meeting of May 7, 2026**

**B. Financial Report for Month of April 2026**

**C. Food Service Report for April 2026**

**D. Attendance Report for 8th Month of 2025-26**

**E. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**F. Approval of Revised Job Descriptions**

**G. 2026-27 MOA - Allison Roth**

**H. First Green Service Agreements**

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

- 1. HHS Softball - Winchester, KY - May 8-9, 2026**
- 2. HHS FCCLA - Hardinsburg, KY - May 27-29, 2026**
- 3. HHS Choir - Chicago, IL - May 29-31, 2026**
- 4. HHS Journalism - Orlando, FL - November 18-22, 2026**

**J. Approval of Superintendent Travel**

- 1. NKCES Superintendent Retreat - Louisville, KY - June 10-12, 2026**
- 2. Chamber Advocacy - Washington, D.C. - June 14-16, 2026**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**Order #2747 - Motion Passed:** Approval to enter into Executive Session at 8:06pm per KRS 156.557(6)(c) 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

**Order #2748 - Subsidiary Motion Passed:** Approval to exit Executive Session at 9:25pm per KRS 156.557(6)(c) passed with a motion by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein 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

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 9:26pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent