

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

September 9, 2024

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:28 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Sarah Foster

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Acting Board Chair Jeff Beach opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates

Board members shared the following:

- The Tower Park Groundbreaking went well
- Woodfill's Big Top Festival is this weekend (September 13 & 15)
- Taste of the Season is September 14
- Fall sports are off to a great start
- HHS had over 150 additional passing AP scores over the previous year

2. Broadcasting Awards

The following students won Emmys at the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences:

Best Newscast or News Report

Highlander March News Show - Brennan Bucher, Grace Burnett, Emma Doerr, Carter Frimming, Rowan Fry, William Kearns, Carmen Louis, Brady Robinson, Jake Robinson, Hayden Rolf, Riley Steinhauser, Marcella Simpson, Codie Forman, Lianne Guttadauro

Best Non-Fiction

Farm to Table - Eli Hils, Ben Pfetzer, Audrey Sorrentino

Best Sports Story/Live Sporting Event

Highlands vs Dixie Heights Varsity Football - Hayden Rolf, Emma Doerr, Brennan Bucher, Liam Delaney, Oliver Martin, Maxwell Hamilton, John Exterkamp, Jake Robinson, Rowan Fry, Marcella Simpson, William Kearns, Grace Burnett, Sutton Thomas, Carmen Louis

Best Animation

Exhale - Liam Delaney

Students spoke about the projects they were involved in and what they enjoyed about the experience. The Board congratulated the students and gave each a "Certificate of Achievement" and a "Champions" t-shirt.

3. FCCLA National Winners

Congratulations to the following Highlands FCCLA members who competed in the FCCLA National STAR Events and earned the following achievements:

- Addyson Eifert - Sports Nutrition - Gold/National Top 10 Finalist - 3rd Place
- Alaina Wagner - Food Innovations - Silver
- Michael Wagner - Professional Presentation - Silver

The Board recognized and congratulated the students for their accomplishments and gave each a "Certificate of Achievement" and a "Champions" t-shirt.

C. Student Showcase - HMS: AP Computer Science Principles

Highlands Middle and High School students gave a presentation on the AP Computer Science Principles course. Students presenting included:

- William Heiert
- Trevor Markus
- Layla Myers
- Hunter Rohlfer
- Timmy Von Hoene
- Dom Walsh
- Myles Yaeger

The students shared their experiences taking an AP class as an 8th grader, and also how the class sparked an interest in additional classes at the high school. The Board thanked the students and presented each with a "Tradition of Excellence" t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Roof Replacement

1. BG-5

Order #2574 - Motion Passed: Approval of the BG-5 to close the Highlands Roof Replacement project 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	Absent

B. Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (GESK)

1. Project Update

Jerry Wissman shared with the Board the CMTA work is finished and punch list items are complete.

2. CMTA Pay Application #17

Order #2575 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #17 to CMTA, Inc. in the amount of \$8,832.94 for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract program 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	Absent

C. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Jerry Wissman shared the project is advancing as expected, and there are biweekly meetings with Morel and the subcontractors. We just completed week 1 of 5 of the waiting period to see if there is any ground movement. Jerry also shared Riegler hopes to have the stone base down by the end of this week.

2. Riegler Blacktop Inc Pay Application #4

Order #2576 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #4 to Riegler Blacktop Inc in the amount of \$249,143.94 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park 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	Absent

3. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #2

Order #2577 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #2 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$407,317.50 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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	Absent

4. Change Order #1

Order #2578 - Motion Passed: Approval of Change Order #1 in the amount of \$82,183.00 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	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Absent

D. Request for Approval to Establish and Convene the LPC

Order #2579 - Motion Passed: Approval to establish the structure and convene a Local Planning Committee (LPC) in order to update the District Facility Plan 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	Absent

E. Working Budget for 2024-25

Order #2580 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Working Budget for 2024-25 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	Absent

F. Approval of Legal Counsel

Order #2581 - Motion Passed: Approval of Mary Ann Stewart with the law firm of Adams Law, PLLC to continue to provide legal counsel 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	Absent

G. Bluegrass Risk Management

Order #2582 - Motion Passed: Approval of the resolution of membership in the Bluegrass Risk Management Joint Program for Liability and Property Damage Protection 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	Absent

H. Request for Waiver for Shortened School Day

Request approval of a shortened school day for two students within our District boundaries. Medical and educational records indicate health concerns and conditions that compromise the ability to tolerate a full school day. After careful consideration of all relevant information, including input from physicians, family and educators, the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) has recommended a shortened school day, with the goal of gradually increasing time at school as health conditions allow.

Order #2583 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Request for Waiver for a Shortened School Day 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	Absent

I. Policy Revisions

1. Policy 09.226 Second Reading

Order #2584 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 09.226 as based on a Second Reading 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	Absent

2. Policy 08.13451 Second Reading

Order #2585 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 08.13451 as based on a Second Reading 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	Absent

J. GMAP District Funding Assurances

Order #2586 - Motion Passed: Approval of the GMAP District Funding Assurances for 2024-25 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	Absent

K. CDIP - Phase I

Order #2587 - Motion Passed: Approval of the CDIP Phase I for 2024-25 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	Absent

L. Board Member Resignation

Order #2588 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept resignation from Jeff Beach as board member from Fort Thomas Independent Schools Board of Education effective September 10, 2024, creating a vacant seat 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	Absent

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council Update

Keith Faust shared with the Board that all SBDM members have completed their required training and shared the member names for each school.

B. ACT and AP Reports

Keith Faust shared that the HHS ACT score was 4 points above the average Kentucky ACT score. He also reported that 82% of HHS students received a passing score on the AP tests in May.

C. Title IX Report

Wes Caldwell shared that HHS passed 2 of the 3 areas, and that only 1 of 3 is required to pass. In order to achieve 3 of 3 areas, the Athletic Department will focus on female athletes and increasing their participation. The students are asking to add lacrosse as an option.

D. Board Committee Updates

The Board shared that the Audit Committee met today. No other updates were shared.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2589 - 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 Mrs. Sarah Foster.

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

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 12, 2024; Tax Hearing Meeting of August 19, 2024; Special Meeting of August 19, 2024; and Working Meeting of September 5, 2024

B. Financial Report for Month of August 2024

C. Authorization for Payment of Claims

D. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

- 1. HHS NHS - Chicago, IL - January 31 - February 2, 2025**
- 2. HHS Dance Team - Orlando, FL - February 13-18, 2025**

E. Personnel Action Taken Since August 12, 2024

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Shannon Eaton - Principal's Secretary - HHS
Crystal Evans - Cafeteria - HHS
Megan Guilkey - Custodian - HHS
Ashley Hicks - Cafeteria - WES
Rebecca Johnson - Principal's Secretary - HMS
Nancy Northern-Willis - Principal's Secretary - MES

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Kelsey Hogberg - Academic Team Sponsor - MES
Jennie Kendall - Chess Club Sponsor - MES
Rachel King - Engineering Club and Studio Art Club - JES
Katie Leftin - STLP Sponsor - JES
Juli Neace - Dept. Chair Practical Living - HMS
Katie Stewart - Detention Hall - HHS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Position

Jonathon McKenzie - Girls Track Coach - HMS

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Tara Henry - Principal's Secretary - MES
Amanda Scott - Principal's Secretary - HMS
Carrie Ziegler - Principal's Secretary - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Position

Sam Volpenhein - Detention Hall - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Positions

Andy Deimling - Girls Varsity Assistant Coach - HHS
Christopher Norris - Girls Varsity Head Coach - HHS

F. Grant Extended Leave

- 1. Melissa Trimbach - Medical Leave (August 14 - December 1, 2024)**
- 2. Kara Petersen - Medical Leave (December 2, 2024 - January 15, 2025)**
- 3. Erika Volpenhein - Maternity Leave (December 2, 2024 - February 28, 2025)**

G. Approval of Superintendent Travel

- 1. KASS Fall Summit - Lexington, KY - September 4-5, 2024**

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Board Chair Jeff Beach adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent