

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

January 13, 2025

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:31 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Sarah Foster

Mr. Noah Gibson

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates

Board members shared the following:

- HHS Dance Team are State Champions in Pom and Hip Hop
- HHS Cheer took 3rd place at state
- Welcome to Noah Gibson
- Big thank you to both City and FTIS crews to snow removal
- HMS production of Willy Wonka Jr. will run January 24-26
- Kindergarten registration begins January 21
- Booster Bash is February 1

2. School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Brian Robinson thanked the Board and presented each member with a gift.

a. Presentation by FTEA to Board Members

FTEA Treasurer Stephanie Ewald recognized and expressed appreciation for the Board members and their service to the school district. Each board member was presented with a gift.

3. Holiday Card Artist - Parker Greene

The Board recognized and thanked Highlands High School student Parker Greene whose original artwork was selected for the district's 2024 holiday card. Parker discussed her inspiration for her work and was presented with a check for \$50 and several keepsake cards.

4. HHS Dance Team State Championships

The Board congratulated the HHS Dance Team on their State Championships in both Large School Hip Hop and Overall Pom. Team members included:

- Ella Cunningham
- Drew Ellison
- Rose Ewald
- Cate Fischer
- Elise Hellmann
- Morgan Herald
- Brianna Horner
- Meredith Kleier
- Annie Kuhnhein
- Addy Orme
- Abbie Rowland
- Adalynne Shaw
- Shelby Shields
- Sarah Steiden
- Saryn Stepner
- Reese Witte

Team members were presented with Certificates of Achievement and "Champions" t-shirts.

5. NaviGo Scholars - Spring 2025

The Board recognized the following students for being chosen NaviGo Scholars for the Spring of 2025:

- Ethan Adhikary
- Lauren Battle
- Abigail Berling
- Wyatt Carbone
- Camren Losey

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

C. Student Showcase - WES: Student Lighthouse Project

WES Lighthouse Team members shared the Lighthouse concept and projects with the Board. Students included:

- Carson Allen
- Audyn Cook
- Renae Eberenz
- Paityn Frakes
- Theo Gaskins
- Johanna Geisshuesler
- Gabby Hunter
- Owen Menefee
- Whitney Ofori-Attah

- Kaden Ries
- Evelyn Tremper

The Board was impressed with the team's success and presented each student with a "Rich in Tradition" t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

No community members requested to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Organization of Board

1. Election of Officers

Order #2606 - Motion Passed: Appointment of Julie Kuhnhein as Chairperson, Clem Fennell as Vice Chairperson, Brian Robinson as Secretary and Andrew Remlinger as Treasurer 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

2. Schedule of Regular Meetings for 2025

Order #2607 - Motion Passed: Approval to hold the regular monthly Board meetings for 2025 at 6:30pm on the second Monday of each month and hold regular monthly working meetings at 4pm on the Thursday prior to each monthly meeting with exceptions as identified on the 2025 Board Meeting Dates list passed with a motion by Mr. Noah Gibson and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

3. Board Member Per Diem as Per Policy 01.821

Order #2608 - Motion Passed: Approval to donate stipends for the regular monthly meetings into a special fund for targeted purposes to be identified by the Board 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

4. Appointment of Board Members to Committees

Order #2609 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2025 Board Committees List passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mr. Noah Gibson.

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

B. Draft Working Budget for 2025-26 School Year

Order #2610 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Draft Working Budget for the 2025-26 school year 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

C. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Jerry Wissman shared with the Board that construction continues on the Tower Park project despite the weather. Crews are currently working on foundation for the building. At this point, Morel feels we are still on schedule.

2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #6

Order #2611 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #6 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$523,296.00 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

D. Calendar for 2025-26 School Year

The recommended beginning and ending times for the school day are as follows:

SCHOOL	SCHOOL DAY	STAFF DAY
HHS	8:00am – 2:45pm	7:45am-3:00pm
HMS	8:00am – 2:45pm	7:45am-3:00pm
JES	8:15am – 3:00pm	8:00am-3:15pm
MES	8:15am – 3:00pm	8:00am-3:15pm
WES	8:15am – 3:00pm	8:00am-3:15pm

The day at each school includes 375 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes for lunch for a total of 405 minutes for each day. The high school may have 2 shortened days during the exam schedule for a total of no more than 2 hours each day.

This school year, we continue to include 6 shortened days when classes will begin one hour later than the typical schedule. The time will be used for Professional Development and will allow teachers time to collaborate on common issues, including curriculum and assessment across grade level and to address school-wide issues. The elementary schools will have classified staff available to work with students whose parents need to keep them on a regular schedule. All late arrival days will be on a Wednesday and there will be three per semester. The proposed dates are September 17, October 15, November 19, January 21, February 18, and March 18.

Our total instructional time exceeds the state minimum requirement of 1062 instructional hours. The number of hours above the state minimum is at least 25 hours at all schools. Although the state no longer allows districts to bank time for early dismissals and school closures, the time does allow the district flexibility in case delays are needed.

The Preschool Program Calendar will consist of a 3 hour day, 4 days per week. During the 2025-2026 school year, the preschool program will be placed at Moyer Elementary. The recommended instructional day for preschool is Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 11:00am for the morning session and 11:45am to 2:45pm for the afternoon session. It is recommended that preschool begin on September 2, 2025 with two transition days (August 27 and 28), and end on May 7, 2026, to allow time for required screenings, testing, and parent meetings.

Order #2612 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2025-26 school calendar, the length of the day at each school, the beginning and ending times for each school, the preschool calendar, and the shortened exam days at HHS and shortened days for PD at all five schools passed with a motion by Mr. Noah Gibson and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

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

E. Tuition Rates for 2025-26 School Year

	In State	Out of State
Grades K-12	\$3800	\$7280
Preschool	\$315 monthly	

Description	Fee
Employees	
Grades K-12	\$1500
Grades K-12 Out of State	\$3000

Additional Procedures

A non-refundable fee of \$50 must be submitted with all tuition applications. Any new tuition student participating in athletics or a school sponsored extracurricular activity must pay a \$250 non-refundable deposit before attending the first practice/event. All fees will be applied to tuition if the student actually attends a FTIS school.

Parents who have a history of three late payments will be required to pay tuition in full prior to the beginning of the school year. A general letter notifying all tuition parents of this change will be sent in mid-February to give them time to save money for an August payment.

Order #2613 - Motion Passed: Approval of the tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year for Grades K-12 at \$3800 In State and \$7280 Out of State, an additional tuition charge for Preschool of \$315 per month, and to require a non-refundable application fee of \$50 and continue the procedure to require a \$250 non-refundable deposit for new tuition students to begin participation in athletics/extracurricular activities (all fees will be applied to tuition if the student attends an FTIS school) 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
Mr. Noah Gibson	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resiliency Poll

Jamee Flaherty shared the Resiliency Poll data with the Board. Data shows the district is trending in a positive direction.

B. Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)

Keith Faust shared CDIP Phase III with the Board. He reviewed the goals that have been set for achievement in specific areas by 2029.

C. Board Committee Updates

The Board shared that the Breakfast Committee will deliver breakfast sandwiches for late arrival on January 15.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2614 - 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. Noah Gibson.

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

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 9, 2024 and Working Meeting of January 9, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of December 2024

C. Food Service Report for December 2024

D. Attendance Report for 4th Month of 2024-25

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. District Technology Report - 2nd Quarter

G. Approval of 2023-2024 Audit

H. Approval of Schoolwide Fundraisers

Highlands Middle School

- 8th Grade Bake Sale
- Penny Wars

I. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS All State Choir - Louisville, KY - February 5-7, 2025
2. HMS All State Choir - Louisville, KY - February 5-6, 2025
3. JES All State Choir - Louisville, KY - February 5-6, 2025
4. WES All State Choir - Louisville, KY - February 5-6, 2025
5. HHS Cheer - Orlando, FL - February 7-11, 2025
6. HHS FCCLA - Frankfort, KY - February 10-11, 2025
7. HMS 8th Grade - Dayton, OH - April 24, 2025

J. Personnel Action Taken Since December 9, 2024

Employment of the Following Classified Employees

Dawn Carson - AP Secretary - HHS

Rita Inlow - Cafeteria I - HMS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Keith Thompson - Boys Assistant Track Coach - HHS

Employment of the following Extra-Service Position

Katie Simon - Detention Monitor - HHS

Change in Classified Position

Mary Ellen Bush - Cafeteria I to Cafeteria Manager - HMS

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Roberta Kraus - AP Secretary - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Tye Lembright - Girls Head Golf Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra Service Positions

Nina Kearns - Girls Varsity Assistant Coach - HHS

Katie Stewart - Detention Monitor - HHS

K. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. Marzano Conference - San Antonio, TX - January 28-31, 2025

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:39pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent