

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Special Meeting

Moyer Elementary School
219 Highland Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075
September 8, 2025
6:30PM

Attendance Taken at 6:30 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 6:32pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates

The Board shared the following:

- This is the largest enrollment to date
- Woodfill's Big Top Festival is this weekend
- Mr. Darnell was recognized as the KMEA District 6 Administrator of the Year
- FTIS was named the most engaged school district for Junior Achievement
- Preschool began last week
- Welcome to Jenny Miller-Horn
- HHS has 2 National Merit Semi-finalists
- The Tower Park Complex will host its first event this Saturday, September 13: Girls Soccer Tripleheader vs. NDA
- The Cake Classic is this weekend
- Fall Break falls in the first week of October

2. Kentucky Journalism Teachers' Association Best of Kentucky Winners

Beth Brubaker gave the Board background on this state competition and introduced and highlighted the superior ratings of the following students:

Eva Smith - Feature Photo

Luke Deegan - Sports Photo

Keira Kobida - Sports Photo

Andrea Suarez Espinosa - Photo Package

Sophia Lippolis - Alternative Storytelling

Gemma Cutajar - Alternative Storytelling

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

3. National Writing Essay Winner - Anna Reynolds

Karen Kampschmidt shared with the Board the parameters of the national writing contest and introduced HMS student, Anna Reynolds. Anna told the Board she interviewed her Grandfather and chose altruism for her essay. The Board congratulated her and presented her with a Certificate of Achievement and a "State Champs" t-shirt.

C. Student Showcase - WES: Baby Chicks

Current Woodfill 3rd grade students presented their learning project on hatching baby chicks. Students shared information and took questions from the Board. Woodfill students presenting included:

Harrison Reed

Rowan Klare

Lula Coffren

Knox Graszus

Charley Meyn

Crosby Harris

Everlee Larkin

Ellie Hurtt

Penny Malott

Devin Franz

Addi Franz

Maiya Herman

Hayes Sonnet

Willow Cianciolo

Kate Smith

The Board thanked the students and gave each a "Rich in Tradition" t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

There were no community members signed up to speak to the Board.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared with the Board the project status at Tower Park and announced the girls soccer team will host a tripleheader at the new facility this Saturday, September 13. While the facility will be open on a limited basis for games only, he anticipates a community opening later in the Fall.

2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #14

Order #2682 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #14 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,078,795.60 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	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

B. Parental Leave Policies 03.1233 and 03.2233 Second Reading

Order #2683 - Motion Passed: Approval of Parental Leave Policies 03.1233 and 03.2233 as based on a Second Reading with an effective date of July 1, 2025 for all employees 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

C. Working Budget for 2025-26

Order #2684 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Working Budget for 2025-26 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

D. Approval of Legal Counsel

Order #2685 - Motion Passed: Approval of Mary Ann Stewart with the law firm Adams Law, PLLC to continue to provide legal counsel 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

E. Waiver for Shortened School Day

Request approval of a shortened school day for four 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 (ARD) has recommended a shortened school day, with the goal of gradually increasing time at school as health conditions allow.

Order #2686 - Motion Passed: Approval of a shortened school day for four students within our district boundaries 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

F. GMAP District Funding Assurances

Order #2687 - Motion Passed: Approval of the GMAP District Funding Assurances for 2025-26 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

G. CDIP - Phase I

Order #2688 - Motion Passed: Approval of the CDIP Phase I for 2025-26 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

H. CEP Revisions

Order #2689 - Motion Passed: Approval of revisions to Certified Evaluation Plan 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

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

There were no committee updates at this time.

B. Areas of Emphasis

Superintendent Brian Robinson shared the Areas of Emphasis for the 2025-26 school year. He also shared that the document is available for everyone to view on the new district website.

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

Keith Faust shared with the Board the legal requirements for SBDM members and that they had been met for this school year. He also shared a list of all SBDM members by school.

D. Title IX Report

Jamee Flaherty shared with Title IX Summary with the Board, noting HHS passed 1 of the 3 areas and it extremely close in a 2nd area. HHS administration feels we will hit at least 2 of the 3 for this school year.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2690 - 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 August 11, 2025, Tax Hearing of August 25, 2025, Special Board Meeting of August 25, 2025 and Working Board Meeting of September 4, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of August 2025

C. Authorization for Payment of Claims

D. Revised Director of Special Education and Transportation Job Description

E. Approval of Schoolwide Fundraiser

Highlands Middle School

Restaurant Nights

F. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS FCCLA - Mt. Sterling, KY - September 8-9, 2025

2. HHS FCCLA - Orlando, FL - October 15-18, 2025

G. Grant Extended Leave

1. Maria McGovney - Maternity - August 28 to November 7, 2025

H. Personnel Action Taken Since August 11, 2025

Change in position for the following Certified Employee

Jenny Miller-Horn - Exceptional Child Instructor at MES to Director of Special Education and Transportation - Districtwide

Change in position for the following Classified Employee

Rochelle McClintick - Office Assistant at WES to Library Media Assistant at HHS

Employment of the following Classified Employee

Jessica Jones - Office Assistant- WES

Connor Whitis - Custodian - Districtwide

Employment of the following Extra Service Positions

Lauren Bailey - Girls on the Run - MES

Kelly Booth - Detention Hall Monitor - HHS

Kerry Conley - FCCLA Sponsor - HMS

Dillon Goettke - Drama/Musical Assistant - HMS

Dillon Goettke - AV Specialist/Technician - HHS

Alyona Greene - World Language Club Sponsor - HMS

Corrine Posinski - Journalism Club - MES

John Warford - Academic Team Coach - HHS

John Warford - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employee

William Busener - Varsity Assistant Boys Soccer Coach - HHS

Jennifer Warford - Assistant Academic Team Coach - HMS

Resignation of the following Certified Employee

Sommer Rosa - Director of Special Education and Transportation - CO

Resignation of the following Classified Employee

Shannon Eaton - Principal's Secretary - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions

Gretchen Hinkel - World Language Club Sponsor - HMS

Jenny Miller-Horn - Girls on the Run - MES

Sarah Klensch - Assistant Academic Team Coach - HMS

Kevin Listerman - Senior Class Sponsor - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Spencer Cains - Assistant Band Director - HHS

Dakota Riley - Girls Head Wrestling Coach - HHS

Cali Rochelle - Color Guard and Winter Guard - HHS

Maureen Ryan - Girls Assistant Tennis Coach - HHS

I. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. KASS Fall Meeting - Lexington, KY - September 15-16, 2025

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional business to discuss.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent