

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

November 10, 2025

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:28 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:

- Girls soccer made it all the way to the state final
- Freshman football finished their season undefeated and as district champs
- Dance won Regionals in Hip Hop and were Runners up in Pom
- Varsity Cheer won Regionals on Saturday; Cheer also competed in the Lilliana Schalek Invitational with HHS winning the Grand Championship, JV winning their division and HMS Cheer winning their division and winning the Grand Championship
- MES Santa House celebrated their 50th Anniversary with another wonderful event
- HHS Band won the Mid States Grand Championship for the 2nd year in a row
- HHS Volleyball are District Champions
- Middle and elementary cross country took 5th place at State
- HHS Theatre presented a wonderful production of "Peter and The Starcatcher"
- Lori Duncan was named the Region 6 KMEA Teacher of the Year
- Nikki Everett was selected the Elementary Art Teacher of the Year
- FTIS Preschool was recognized as a 5 Start Program
- MES was recognized as a Common Sense School for digital citizenship
- 4 HHS students have been selected for the Thomas More Juried High School Exhibition
- HHS and HMS were recognized as high attendance schools in our region
- Veterans Day programs tomorrow across the district
- Tower Park Grand Opening will be November 19 at 5pm
- Holiday Walk will be December 7 from 4 to 7pm

2. Tradition of Excellence - Nikki Everett

The Board presented Nikki Everett with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of her achievement as the 2025 Kentucky Art Educator of the Year.

C. Student Showcase - JES: 5th Grade Leadership Jobs

Representatives from Johnson's 5th Grade presented to the Board on their jobs, noting that every 5th grader has a job with many students coming in early to complete their tasks. The following students presented:

Alyssa Berry

Noah Cady

Hadley Duesing

Georgia Frase

Evelyn Glover

Landon Koller

Penelope Montoya

Lincoln Pinelo

Juniper Scalf

Caroline Seiter

Andrea Truta

The Board commented on the quality of the students' presentation and leadership. They thanked the students and presented each with a "Tradition of Excellence" t-shirt.

D. Community Forum

There were no community members requesting to speak to the Board.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared the progress of the Tower Park project with the Board, noting the storage building is underway and the grand opening of the complex will take place on November 19 at 5pm.

2. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #16

Order #2697 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #16 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$676,113.40 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	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

3. Riegler Blacktop Pay Application #7

Order #2698 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #7 to Riegler Blacktop in the amount of \$156,218.30 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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

B. Policy 08.221 Revision - First Reading

Order #2699 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval based on a First Reading of the revision of Policy 08.221 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

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

Board members shared that both the Budget and Calendar committees will be meeting in the next few weeks.

B. Brigance

Jamee Flaherty shared with the Board that more students were tested and a higher percentage were ready for Kindergarten this year.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2700 - 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 Mr. Jeff Beach.

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 October 13, 2025 and Working Meeting of November 6, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of October 2025

C. Food Service Report for October 2025

D. Attendance Report for 2nd Month of 2025-26

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. Procedure 08.132 AP.1 Update

G. Advanced Coursework District Plan

H. ZH Commissioning Proposal

I. Human Nature Proposal

J. Jamf Proposal

K. Revised First Green Agreement for HHS/HMS

L. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

- 1. HHS Boys Basketball - Georgetown, KY - December 12-13, 2025**
- 2. HHS Boys Basketball - Miramar Beach, FL - December 26-31, 2025**
- 3. HHS Business - New York City, NY - February 17-20, 2026**

M. Personnel Action Taken Since October 13, 2025

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Tanya Ard - Cafeteria I - WES

Molly Bucher - Instructional Assistant - JES

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Curt Petkus - Girls Assistant Wrestling Coach - HHS

Employment of the following Certified Substitutes

Ryan Kirk

Crystal Lopez

Jessica Martin

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Trisha Hall - Custodian - HMS

Michelle Rains - Custodian - HMS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Position

Natalie Heilman - Girls Assistant Wrestling Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employee

Nick Angelis - Band Director and Winter Percussion - HHS

N. Grant Extended Leave

- 1. Rachel Stephenson - Maternity - February 20 - April 10, 2026**
- 2. Erika Volpenhein - Medical - September 22 - October 31, 2025**

O. Approval of Superintendent Travel

- 1. Bluegrass Risk Management - Lexington, KY - November 20, 2025**
- 2. AESE Annual Conference - Colorado Springs, CO - December 2-5, 2025**

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent