

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

June 8, 2026

6:30pm ET (5:30pm CT)

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 6:31pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates

The Board shared the following:

- HHS Softball Team playing in State Semifinals this week
- Graduation went well this year
- HHS Baseball are District Champs
- HHS Tennis had 2 players qualify and play for State
- HMS Track Team finished 7th in the state
- HMS 4x800 Girls Relay Team won State Championship
- KYJTA and several Superior and Honorable Mentions at this year's state competition
- HHS had 18 Cappies nominations and 2 winners
- Dead Period is June 25 to July 9
- The schools are operating on summer hours so community members are encouraged to check the web to ensure someone is in the building to assist.

2. Cappies Winners

HHS Teacher Claire LaNicca spoke about the program's 18 Cappies nominations and recognized the 2 winners: Ben Pfetzer and Jake Hagerty. The students shared their experience with Board members and answered questions. The Board presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a Champions t-shirt.

3. HMS Track 4x800 Relay - State Champions

HMS Coach Jennifer Schmidt introduced the winners of the Middle School State 4x800 Relay. The Relay Team included: Willa Kiernan, Eva Lang, Anna Reynolds and Morgan Ripley. The Board congratulated the students and presented each with a Certificate of Completion and a Champions t-shirt.

C. Community Forum

There were no community members signed up to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Insurance Coverage

Order #2749 - Motion Passed: Approval of insurance coverage for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, as recommended by Assured Partners, to include coverage provided by Bluegrass Risk Management, KEMI, and Obsidian at a total estimated cost of \$364,003 passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell 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. Approval of School Fees for the 2026-2027 School Year

All school fees must be approved by the Board of Education annually. The fees include students' fees, textbooks, workbooks, materials and supplies, and lunch charges. It is recommended that overall fees be approved as listed below for the 2026-2027 school year.

Elementary

Student Fee – All Kindergarten	Amount
General Fee	\$20.00
Consumable - Social Studies, Math, ELA, & Digital Resources	\$20.00
Snack Fee	\$25.00
Technology Fee	\$85.00
Field Trips	\$50.00
Insurance	\$10.00
TOTAL KINDERGARTEN STUDENT FEE	\$210.00

Student Fee – All Students Grades 1-5	Amount
General Fee	\$40.00
Consumable Fee - Social Studies, Math, ELA, & Digital Resources	\$25.00
Technology Fee	\$85.00
Insurance	\$10.00
TOTAL GRADE 1-5 STUDENT FEE	\$160.00

Highlands Middle School

Student Fee	Amount
General Fee	\$30.00
Math Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Social Studies Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Language Arts Textbook Fee	\$10.00
Science Lab Fee	\$15.00
Technology Fee	\$115.00
Student Insurance	\$10.00
TOTAL HMS STUDENT FEE	\$200.00
Visual and Performing Arts	
Music (year-long band, strings, or choir)	\$10.00
Art (quarterly)	\$10.00
Comprehensive Visual Art (year-long)	\$35.00

Highlands High School

Student Fee	Amount
General Fee (ALL students)	\$15.00
Technology (ALL Students)	\$115.00
Student Insurance (ALL Students)	\$10.00
English	
English I (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
English I Advanced (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
English II (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Seminar (Common Lit, Perfection Vocab, & They Say I Say)	\$40.00
English III (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Language (AMSCO & Perfection Vocab)	\$40.00
English IV (Common Lit & Perfection Vocab)	\$25.00
AP Literature (AMSCO)	\$25.00

Art	
Sculpture	\$35.00
Art I	\$35.00
Art II	\$35.00
AP Studio Art	\$35.00
Art III	\$35.00
Photo I	\$35.00
Photo II	\$35.00
Fine Arts/Film	
Choir	\$10.00
Math	
All Courses (Digital resources, protractors, compasses, etc)	\$20.00
Science	
Freshman Physics, all levels (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Chemistry I (Lab Fees)	\$30.00
Biology I (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Biology I ADV (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Biology (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Chemistry I ADV (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Chemistry (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
AP Physics (Lab fees)	\$25.00
Anatomy & Physiology (Lab fee)	\$55.00
AP Environmental Science (Lab Fees)	\$25.00
Social Studies	
World History (Digital resources)	\$10.00

AP World History (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
US History (Textbook & Digital resources)	\$10.00
AP US History (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
Government (Textbook & Digital resources)	\$10.00
AP US Government & Politics (AMSCO reader & Digital resources)	\$28.00
We the People/AP Government (Center for Civics Education Textbook)	\$43.00

Additional Summer Course	Up to \$300
Advanced Placement	TBD
Dual Credit	TBD
Athletic/Extracurricular	
Athletic Fee	\$140.00
Uniform Fee	Up to \$150.00
Athletic Meal Fee	Up to \$150.00
Band Fee	\$110.00

Breakfast/Lunch Fees

Student Fee	Amount
Elementary Breakfast	\$2.50
Elementary Lunch	\$3.50
HMS/HHS Breakfast	\$2.50
HMS/HHS Lunch	\$3.75
Adult Lunch	\$4.00

Order #2750 - Motion Passed: Approval of the School Fees as listed above for the 2026-2027 school year 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

C. Acceptable Code of Behavior and Discipline 2026-2027

Order #2751 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Acceptable Code of Behavior and Discipline for 2026-2027 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

D. Policy 03.122 Revision for First Reading

Order #2752 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval of Policy 03.122 based on a First Reading 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. Policy 03.222 Revision for First Reading

Order #2753 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval of Policy 03.222 based on a First Reading passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell 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

F. Policy 05.3 Revision for First Reading

Order #2754 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval of Policy 05.3 based on a First Reading 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

G. Policy 08.113 Revision for First Reading

Order #2755 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval of Policy 08.113 based on a First 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	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

H. Policy Revisions for 2026-27 First Reading

Jamee Flaherty shared the changes as a result of legislation and explained we will not be approving Policies 07.111 and 07.13 as our district does not participate in the Federal Lunch Program.

Order #2756 - Motion Passed: Tentative approval based on a First Reading of the policy revisions 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

I. Payroll Dates for 2026-27

Order #2757 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Payroll Dates for the 2026-2027 fiscal 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
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

J. Evaluation of Superintendent

Order #2758 - Motion Passed: Acceptance and approval of the Superintendent's annual evaluation with an overall rating of Exemplary and 3% increase 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 AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

Board members shared the Breakfast Committee is working on the Opening Day event for staff. The Hall of Fame Committee will celebrate the inductees at the Blue/White Scrimmage in August.

B. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation Update

Chad Niedert shared with the Board that the controls programming finished earlier today. The Athletic Complex Project is nearly complete.

C. STAR Data

Keith Faust shared the results of the 2025-26 STAR testing with the Board. He pointed out where the schools have seen growth and stretch goals for the future.

D. SAT

Keith Faust shared the SAT results with the Board. Our students did very well compared to their State peers and the results are positive, especially after switching from the ACT after many years.

E. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since

Employment of the following Certified Employees

Beth Schneider - Part-time SLP/Job Coach - CO

Grace Silcott - Special Education Teacher - MES

Anna Tobias - Speech Language Pathologist - CO

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Courtney Maier - Special Education Instructional Assistant - HMS

Allyson Mudd - Instructional Assistant - JES

Alexis Peak - Instructional Assistant - JES

Transfer of position for the following Classified Employee

Jenny Lang - Principal's Secretary - JES to Administrative Assistant for Operations and Transportation - CO

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Sheri Chan - Grade Level Leader - Special Education - MES

Katie Leftin - Grade Level Leader - 2nd - JES

Katie Mills - Grade Level Leader - Kindergarten - JES

Karin Thomas - Grade Level Leader - 3rd - MES

Resignation of the following Certified Employees

Hailey Bathiany - Teacher - JES

Sydney Berger - Teacher - JES

Ann Listerman - School Counselor - HHS

Meredith Reber - Teacher - HMS/HHS

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Emma Eide - Instructional Assistant - JES

Grace Silcott - Instructional Assistant - JES

Termination of the following Classified Employee

Amanda Robertson Jones - Occupational Therapist - CO

Notice of Non-Renewal of the following Certified Employee

Ann Argo - Special Education Teacher - MES

Notice of Non-Renewal of the following Classified Employees

Molly Bucher - Instructional Assistant - MES

Jack Nienaber - Job Coach - HHS

Jenna Stone - Instructional Assistant - HHS

Olivia Workman - Instructional Assistant - WES

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Timothy Hawk - Boys Assistant Tennis Coach - HHS

Kristin Laskey - Boys Head Tennis Coach - HHS

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2759 - 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 May 11 and Working Meeting of June 4, 2026

B. Financial Report for Month of May 2026

C. Food Service Report for May 2026

D. Attendance Report for 9th and 10th Months of 2025-26

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. SRO Agreement for 2026-27

G. Amended Classified II and Extra Service Pay Schedules

H. Approval of Transportation Common Carriers for 2026-27

Common Carriers for 2026-27:

Executive

Croswell

Crown Charter

Miller

Campbell County

Enterprise

I. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS Softball - Lexington, KY - June 3-4, 2026

2. HHS Softball - Lexington, KY - June 5-6, 2026

3. HHS Softball - Lexington, KY - June 12, 2026

4. HHS FCCLA - Washington, D.C. - July 6-11, 2026

5. HHS Football - Bowling Green, KY - July 16-17, 2026

J. Approval of Superintendent Travel

K. Revised Facility Use Fee Schedule

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent