

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

July 14, 2025

6:30pm

Attendance Taken at 6:23 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

Mr. Clem Fennell IV

Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein

Mr. David Russell

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Sarah Foster

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates

Board members shared the following:

- 4th of July parade was enjoyed by all
- Early AP test results indicate HHS administered 1243 exams; 472 students scored a 3 or higher; based on NKU, 4114 college credits were earned with a value of over \$1.9M
- Niche rated HMS the top middle school in NKY
- First day of school for students is August 13
- Welcome David Russell to the Board

C. Community Forum

No community members signed up to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert gave the Board an update on Tower Park noting soccer teams will be able to practice starting around July 22. The facility will be open to the Public in mid to late September. NKU will be the alternative home field until the project is complete.

2. Change Order #4

Order #2665 - Motion Passed: Approval of Change Order #4 in the amount of \$30,150.00 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

3. Morel Construction Co. Pay Application #12

Order #2666 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #12 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,417,630.73 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

4. The Motz Group LLC Pay App#1

Order #2667 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #1 to The Motz Group LLC in the amount of \$11,250.00 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park project 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

5. The Motz Group LLC Pay App 2

Order #2668 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay Application #2 to The Motz Group LLC in the amount of \$372,231.24 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

B. Living Media Contract 2025-26

Order #2669 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept the Living Media Contract in the amount of \$65,000 for the 2025-26 school year 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

C. Adoption of KSBA Policy Updates for 2025-26

Jamee Flaherty shared with the Board that we made modifications to 3 policies: 3.19, 7.1 and 8.2323.

Order #2670 - Motion Passed: Adoption of the proposed KSBA Policy Updates for 2025-26 as presented for a 2nd 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

D. Lunch Program Recommendation for 2025-26

Order #2671 - Motion Passed: Approval to opt out of participation in the Federal Lunch Program for the 2025-26 school year 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

E. Amended 2025-26 Calendar

Order #2672 - Motion Passed: Approval to amend the 2025-26 School Calendar to change May 19, 2026 to a Make Up Day and May 26, 2026 to Closing Day 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

F. School-wide Fundraisers for 2025-26

Highlands High School

Jostens

Highlands Middle School

Jostens

PTO Annual Fundraiser

Book Fair

Health Moves Minds

Johnson Elementary School

Jostens

Hullabaloo

Johnson Color Run

Book Fair (Fall and Spring)

1st Day of School Supplies Kit

Restaurant Nights

Artsonia

Kroger Rewards/Box Tops

H2O for Life (Service Learning)

Moyer Elementary School

Jostens

Santa House

Artsonia/Artome

Book Fair (Fall and Spring)

Restaurant Nights

Kroger Rewards

EduKit (Supply Kits)

Woodfill Elementary School

Jostens

Big Top

Book Fair

Turkey Trot

Volleyball Boosters League

Artsonia/Artome

Restaurant Nights

Supply Kits

Order #2673 - Motion Passed: Approval of the School-wide Fundraisers for the 2025-26 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

G. Traceable Communications System

Jamee Flaherty shared the 4 page document for our compliance with SB181.

Order #2674 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Traceable Communications System 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	Absent
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein shared the HOF inductees will be recognized at the Blue/White Scrimmage on August 15.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2675 - 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 Mr. David Russell.

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

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 9, 2025 and Special Annual Working Meetings of June 18 and 19, 2025

B. Financial Report for Month of June 2025

C. Food Service Report for June 2025

D. Attendance Report for 10th Month of 2024-25

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. District Technology Report - 4th Quarter

G. KSBA Procedure Updates for 2025-26

H. SRO Agreement for 2025-26

I. Trauma-Informed Care Plan for 2025-26

J. 2025-26 Employee Handbooks

K. Updated School Fees for 2025-26

L. Administrator Indices 2025-26

M. Driver Approval Agreement

N. Transportation Procedure Verification Form

O. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS Football - Hoover, AL - July 10-12, 2025
2. HHS Football - Ironton, OH - July 18, 2025
3. HHS Dance - Lexington, KY - July 23-26, 2025
4. HHS Volleyball - Lexington, KY - August 1-3, 2025

P. Grant Extended Leave

1. Audrey Kinney - Maternity - September 27 - December 1, 2025

Q. Personnel Action Taken Since June 9, 2025

Employment of the following Certified Employees

Lauren Bailey - Elementary Teacher - MES

Denise Bezold - Special Education Teacher - HMS

Jessica Gross - Special Education Teacher - HHS

Change in Position for the following Certified Employee

Amanda Wagner - Special Education Teacher to English/LA Teacher - HMS

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Heather Beckett - Cafeteria - WES

Briana Daley - Preschool IA - MES

Catherine Raaker - Special Education IA - WES

Morgan Smith - Special Education IA - WES

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Nathan Dilts - FBLA Coach - HHS

Lindsey Van Orsdel - Instructional Resource Support - MES

Katy Wall - Instructional Resource Support - MES

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Cali Rochelle Abramson - Color Guard Coach - HHS

Thomas Gray Torsell - Cross Country Assistant Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Certified Employee

Amanda Zornada - Teacher - HMS

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Tina Bacon - Counseling Office Secretary - HHS

Jessica Gross - Cafeteria - HMS

Christopher Middendorf - Custodian - HHS

Linda Schwarz - Bus Driver - Districtwide

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Bert Richey - Boys Head Golf Coach and Girls Assistant Basketball Coach - HHS

Jen Meier - 8th Grade Volleyball Coach - HMS

R. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. Leadership Retreat - July 21-22, 2025 - Louisville, KY

2. KASA Conference - July 23-25, 2025 - Louisville, KY

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent