

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Board of Education Regular Meeting

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

July 13, 2026

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

Attendance Taken at 6:29 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Clem Fennell IV
Mrs. Sarah Foster
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein
Mr. David Russell

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach

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:

- AP scores show some of the highest number in HHS history
- 4th of July parade went well and was well attended by the community
- Dead Period is over and teams have returned to practice with many holding tryouts this week

2. KYJTA - State Champions

HHS Teacher Beth Brubaker introduced the Journalism students recognized with a Superior Rating at the KYJTA State Competition.

These students included:

Adalyn Armstrong - *News Story*

Xander Bailey - *Sports Feature*

Alecia Cogsville - *Yearbook Theme Development*

Maggie Frimming - *Themed Photo Package*

Amelia Graves - *Feature Story*

Natalie Hinegardner - *Yearbook Theme Development*

Caleb Hurley - *Review*

Adalyn Klosterman - *Yearbook Photo Portfolio*

Keira Kobida - *Sports Photo*

Sophia Lippolis - *Yearbook Theme Development*

Kinley Manning - *Feature Story*

Ella Peabody - *Kentucky/JEA Journalist of the Year*

Eleanor Rogiers - *News Story and Yearbook Theme Development*
Andrea Suarez Espinosa - *Yearbook Photo Portfolio*
Highlands Yearbook Staff - *Yearbook Cover*

The Board spoke with the students and presented each with a Tradition of Excellence t-shirt and a Certificate of Achievement.

C. Community Forum

There were no community members signed up to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Tower Park Athletic Complex Project

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared the progress at the Tower Park Athletic Complex, noting we have completed owner training on the cameras and security. Morel is working through the punch list, drawing closer to project completion.

2. BG-4's

Order #2760 - Motion Passed: Approval of the BG-4 Contract Closeout Forms for Riegler Blacktop, Inc. and The Motz Group 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	Absent
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

B. Policy 03.122 Revision

Order #2761 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 03.122 based on a Second Reading passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mr. David Russell.

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

C. Policy 03.222 Revision

Order #2762 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 03.222 based on a Second Reading passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

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

D. Policy 05.3 Revision

Order #2763 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 05.3 based on a Second Reading passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

E. Policy 08.113 Revision

Order #2764 - Motion Passed: Approval of Policy 08.113 based on a Second Reading passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. David Russell.

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

F. Adoption of KSBA Policy Updates for 2026-2027

Order #2765 - Motion Passed: Adoption of the proposed KSBA Policy Updates for the 2026-2027 school year based on a Second Reading passed with a motion by Mr. David Russell and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

G. Lunch Program Recommendation for 2026-2027

Order #2766 - Motion Passed: Approval to opt out of participation in the Federal Lunch Program for the 2026-2027 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

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

H. School-wide Fundraisers for 2026-2027

Highlands High School

Jostens

Highlands Middle School

Jostens

PTO Annual Fundraiser

PTO Restaurant Nights

Book Fair

Health Moves Minds

Johnson Elementary School

Jostens

Hullabaloo

Johnson Color Run

Book Fair (Fall and Spring)

1st Day of School Supply Kits

Restaurant Nights

Artsonia/Artome

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 #2767 - Motion Passed: Approval of the School-wide Fundraisers for the 2026-2027 school year passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mr. David Russell.

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

I. Living Media Contract 2026-2027

Order #2768 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Living Media Contract in the amount of \$68,000 for the 2026-2027 academic year passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Absent
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 on August 14.

B. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since

Employment of the following Certified Employees

Amy Girkin - Physics Teacher - HHS
Emma Horn - Elementary Teacher - JES
Lindsey Hughes - Special Education Teacher - HMS
Addison Mangrum - Elementary Teacher - JES
Harper McEwen - Language Arts Teacher - HMS
Lillian Noderer - English Teacher - HHS
Jonathan Otto - Social Studies Teacher - HMS
Caleb Robinson - Strings Teacher - HMS/HHS
Amy Tucker - Occupational Therapist - CO

Change in Position for the following Certified Employee

Rachel Caswell - Elementary School Counselor at WES to High School Counselor at HHS
Brady Dowling - English Teacher at HHS to Assistant Principal at HHS

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Megan Dadosky - Special Education Instructional Assistant - HMS
Jack Nienaber - Special Education Instructional Assistant - HHS
Ashley Parsons - Elementary Principal's Secretary - JES
Erika Peter - Instructional Assistant - MES

Transfer of Position for the following Classified Employees

Julie Robinson - Instructional Assistant - JES to Preschool Instructional Assistant - MES
Eric Stamper - Custodian - MES to Building Supervisor - MES

Employment of the following Paraprofessionals

Michael Barrett - Freshman Softball Coach - HHS
Alyssa Dixon - JV Softball Coach - HHS
Matt Johnston - Digital Music Sponsor - HHS

Resignation of the following Certified Employees

Amanda Robertson Jones - Occupational Therapist - CO
Nate Roberts - Special Education Teacher - HMS
Rachel Stephenson - School Counselor - HHS

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Ryan Cunningham - HVAC Technician - CO
Lizbeth Gonzalez - Instructional Assistant - MES
Amanda Krebs - Preschool Instructional Assistant - MES

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions

Gordon Hallmark - Robotics Split Coach - HHS
Vera Schneider - Girls on the Run Split Coach - MES
Erica Thomas - Academic Team Assistant Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

Adam Caswell - Girls Tennis Coach - HHS
Brooke Meier - Freshman Softball Coach - HHS
Camdyn Meier - Field Maintenance Split Sponsor - HHS
Dayne Merkley - JV Softball Coach - HHS
Tony Spaulding - Boys JV Soccer Coach - HHS

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2769 - 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. Clem Fennell IV.

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

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 8, 2026 and Special Annual Working Meetings of June 18 and 19, 2026

B. Authorization for Payment of Claims

C. Procedure 03.27 AP.1

D. KSBA Procedure Updates for 2026-2027

E. Trauma-Informed Care Plan for 2026-2027

F. 2026-2027 Employee Handbooks

G. Title III MOU

H. Traceable Communications System

I. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS Business - New York City, NY - February 16-19, 2027

J. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. KASA - Louisville, KY - July 30-31

2. Leadership Retreat - Lexington, KY - August 3-4, 2026

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent