

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

August 10, 2026

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

Attendance Taken at 6:30 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

Board members shared the following:

- Shout out to the staff in all of the buildings for getting everything ready for the students to return
- Back to school events will be this week and next
- The first day of school is Tuesday, August 18
- Fall athletes are fully into their respective seasons
- Friday night will be the Blue/White Football Scrimmage and the Hall of Fame Induction will be Saturday
- Johnson and Moyer playgrounds received new turf over the summer
- Woodfill received a brand new marquee

C. Community Forum

No community members requested to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Propose Real and Personal Property Tax Rates for 2026-2027

Order #2772 - Motion Passed: Proposal of Real Property Tax rate of 90.2 cents and Personal Property Tax rate of 102.7 cents for the 2026-2027 school year passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV 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

B. Employee Perfect Attendance Incentive

Order #2773 - Motion Passed: Approval to authorize the Superintendent to award a yearly perfect attendance bonus and develop monthly incentive drawings September 2026 through May 2027 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

III. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

No additional updates at this time.

B. Highlands Athletic Project at Tower Park Update

Chad Niedert advised the Board the status is the same at the Tower Park facility with the priority being the punch list and HVAC controls.

C. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since July 13, 2026

Employment of the following Certified Employees

Ashton Hahn - Elementary Classroom Instructor - JES

Brooke Kraus - Elementary Classroom Instructor - WES

Change in Position for the following Certified Employee

Samantha Reynolds - Elementary Teacher at WES to School Counselor at WES

Employment of the following Classified Employees

Katlyn Combs - Special Education Instructional Assistant - JES

Employment of the following Paraprofessionals

William Busener - Boys JV Soccer Coach - HHS

Mahammad Dabdoub - Varsity Assistant Soccer Coach - HHS

Graham Koppi - Woodwind Instructor - HHS

Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Bailey Cain - Girls on the Run Split Coach - JES

Danielle Cooper - DC Trip Coordinator - HMS

Jenny Davis - STLP Sponsor - HMS

Scott Pahren - Grade Level Leader - 8th Grade - HMS

Holly Workman - Science Department Chair - HMS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Employees

James "Cal" Frank - Soccer Goalkeeper Coach - HHS

Resignation of the following Certified Employee

Casey Gesenhues - Elementary Classroom Instructor - JES

Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Lori Bogart - High School Cafeteria - HHS

Tarrance O'Connor - Special Education Instructional Assistant - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions

Katie Leftin - Girls on the Run Split Coach - JES

Katie Mills - Grade Level Leader - Kindergarten - JES

Katie Stewart - National English Honor Society - HHS

John Warford - Grade Level Leader - 8th Grade - HMS

Leave of Absence for the following Employees

Teresa Beggs - 08/13/2026 - 09/25/2026 - HHS

Madison Helminiak - 08/28/2026 - 11/30/2026 - MES

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2774 - 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 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

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 13, 2026 and Working Meeting of August 6, 2026

B. Authorization for Payment of Claims

C. Financial Report for Month of July 2026

D. District Technology Report - 4th Qtr. 2025-26

E. District Data Security and Breach Procedures

F. School Fundraisers

Highlands Middle School

Sunset Slush

PTSO Spiritwear

G. Notification and Approval of Student Trips

1. HHS Dance - Lexington, KY - July 23-26, 2026

H. Approval of Superintendent Travel

1. KASS Fall Summit - Lexington, KY - September 8-9, 2026

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

Chairperson

Superintendent