

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #429**



**Regular Meeting
August 12, 2026**

The meeting begins at 6:00 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.
This meeting is also live streamed for public
viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcNJ6ijnqwe0nF8UpSCsB8A>.

- 1) **Call to Order - Regular Meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock Board of Education**
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Greg Pritchard
- 2) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler, Debi White, Tim Badal, Jack Haines, Myia Sittig and Abigail Barrett
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representatives: Niebert and Gengler
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4) **Approval of the Agenda**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 7-0,
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 5) **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Minutes** - Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes
 - B. **Treasurer's Report**
 - C. **Bills and Payroll**
 - D. **Personnel Report**Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0,
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 6) **Royal Shout Out**
Dr. Sonntag gave a shout to our Maintenance team and Summer Student Workers for the amazing work they did over the summer prepping our buildings for the new school year.
- 7) **Citizens Request to Address the Board-** None
- 8) **Presentation**
 - A. Sarah Quirk, Hinckley Village President: 150 Year Celebration
Sarah Quirk, Hinckley Village President, addressed the Board to share the excitement and plans for celebrating Hinckley's 150th anniversary in 2027.
Mrs. Quirk also shared that the celebration committee is seeking additional participation, sponsorships, and creative ideas to help make the anniversary year memorable. Several events are already being planned, with more information available on the Village website.
- 9) **Committee Updates**
 - A. IVVC
IVVC Met on August 5th, 2026. IVVC's first day for students is August 13th and curriculum night is August 19th.
 - B. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation
The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on August 5th, 2026. They discussed summer projects that were completed as well as upcoming projects for the school year. Discussion regarding the high school roof repair took place, as well as, the need to relocate the middle

school soccer games due to the field flooding. All middle school home games will be held at a temporary field north of the baseball field at the high school.

10) Student Representative Update

Neibert and Gengler provided updates on summer sports and reviewed the food service tasting presented by OrganicLife prior to the Board meeting. OrganicLife offered the Board a sample of its pasta bar as part of the tasting.

Gengler expressed enthusiasm about the new school year and the food service options OrganicLife will provide to students and staff. OrganicLife will also be serving the HBR staff next week in preparation for the start of the school year.

11) Administrative Update

A. FY26 End of Year Financial Summary

Dr. Sonntag provided an unaudited financial summary for the 2025–2026 school year. The district's audit is currently underway and will be presented at the September 16 meeting.

The district received approximately 102% of anticipated revenues and ended the year at approximately 103% of budgeted expenditures. As a reminder, the FY26 budget included an intentional spend-down of the Operations Fund, along with increased special education outplacement costs, resulting in a planned use of approximately \$650,000 in reserve funds. By the end of the fiscal year, the district had expended approximately \$950,000 in reserve funds. This additional use of reserves was driven by unplanned facility needs, higher substitute costs, and anticipated Operations Fund revenue that ultimately was not received.

B. Summer updates and looking ahead

Sonntag updated the Board with summer updates. Due to the weather the district has had technology issues all summer. The wifi system has been knocked out multiple times as well as Skyward Financial maintenance issues.

There was a storm yesterday that caused water to get into the lower level of the middle school, the 5th grade wing. With every power outage the sump pumps cut off allowing water to get into the building. We are working on drying this out and there was no major damage to the area but we are currently looking into a battery powered backup or generator to put in place. 5th Grade academy was supposed to take place today (August 12th) but we have shifted this to Tuesday the 18th.

New staff orientation will be held August 13th with 8 new teachers and 4 new paraprofessionals.

Enrollment is currently at 736 students, 15 new to HBR. Elementary school is at 301 students, middle school is at 235 and high school is at 198.

12) Discussion

A. Tentative FY27 Budget

The FY27 Tentative budget summary was presented. The district is projecting a balanced budget for the coming school year, although margins remain tight. The Evidence-Based Funding allocation has been finalized, but the unknowns continue to be CPPRT and health insurance increases.

Dr. Sonntag will serve as the State-Approved Director of Special Education. We currently have 2 part-time coordinators who will provide targeted support at the building level for teachers, students and families. Mrs. Terri Kray will provide this support at the elementary school and Mrs. Zartmann will coordinate services at the middle and high schools.

B. School Board Elections

Board members, Badal, White and Sittig are up for reelection next spring. August 25th is the first day to circulate petitions and will need to be turned to the DeKalb County Clerk the week of November 16th-23rd.

C. PRESS ISSUE 122 - first review

The Board discussed the first review of Press Issue 112, which primarily involved the required 5-year review and monitoring of multiple policies. There is suggested policy language for the new state cell phone in schools with legislation banning the use of personal communication devices from bell to bell. Another review on this issue will continue at the September meeting.

D. Website

Board Secretary Jack Haines has brought up a possible redesign of our district and building websites. Haines explained that the website is confusing and certain things are hard to find. Dr. Sonntag is looking into local colleges and surrounding districts to see if there is anyone who might like to take this on for us. Even looking into inviting HBR High School students to do a mock design.

13) Action

- A. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 meal prices as submitted
Motion to approve the 2026-2027 meal prices as submitted was made by Jack Haines and Seconded by Darrin Gengler; passed 7-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- B. Motion to approve the 2026-2027 substitute rates as submitted
Motion to approve the 2026-2027 substitute rates as submitted was made by Jack Haines and Seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-1, with 1 abstention
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Abstain, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- C. Motion to approve the Resolution for Permanent Fund Transfer from Working Cash to the Operations & Maintenance Fund
Motion to approve the Resolution for Permanent Fund Transfer from Working Cash to the Operations & Maintenance Fund was made by Debi White and Seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

14) FOIA

A.

Data Branch:

- All products from ESS/ESI, Kokua Education, Scoot Education, Zed Educate, and BuildEd
- All purchasing records from vendors (if existing): Verkada, Triton Sensors, Soter Tech, Motorola, IPVideo Corporation, Vocabulary.com.
- All purchase order records issued between January 1, 2023, and the present.
- All products from: Helios Ed/Core, Droplet, Docusign.
- All products from: Rapid Identity, Tools4Ever, Classlink, Clever, Learn21, ManageAD, Tenfold Security, CPSI Publishing.
- All products from: 95 Percent Group, Core Learning Edmentum, iStation, IXL Learning, Amplify, Curriculum Associates (i-Ready Learning), Imagine Learning.
- All products from: Edgenuity, Accelerate Education, Bright Thinker, Pearson, Stride, Edmentum, Imagine Learning, Subject AI.
- All products from Texthelp, Everway, Read and Write, GoGuardian, iBoss, Lightspeed Systems, Linewize, and Securly
- All products from: Apptegy, Finalsight, and ParentSquare

B. SmartProcure: any and all purchasing records from 3/25/2026 to current

C. Judiocracy: email filtering information

15) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

16) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0 at 7:14pm with a unanimous voice vote, Aye

Abigail Barrett: Aye, Debi White: Aye, Tim Badal: Aye, Myia Sittig: Aye, Jack Haines: Aye, Darrin Gengler: Aye and Greg Pritchard: Aye

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be September 16th, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.

