

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



**Regular Meeting
May 20, 2026**

The meeting begins at 6:30 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 6:30 PM by President Greg Pritchard
- 2) **Roll Call**
Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure
Present: Greg Pritchard, Darrin Gengler, Debi White, Myia Sittig, Tim Badal, Jack Haines and Abigail Barrett
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representative Katarina Gengler, Meegan Kubinski and Beckett Neibert
- 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 Jack Haines and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 6-0,
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 5) Motion to conduct a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed \$275,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District.
Motion to conduct a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed \$275,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
 - A. Comments by Board of Education members
No comments were made by the Board of Education Members
 - B. Any written comments by the public
No written comments were made by the public
 - C. Any oral comments by the public
No oral comments were made by the public
- 6) **Motion to close the Public Hearing**
Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 7) **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Minutes** - Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. **Treasurer's Report**
 - C. **Bills and Payroll**
 - D. **Personnel Report**
 - E. **Coach Recommendations**Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0,

Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

8) **Royal Shout Out**

The Board highlighted HBR Retirees, Kim Halverson, Bev Phillips and Terry Kaus this month. HBR is so grateful for their years of service and commitment to our HBR students.

Board Secretary, Jack Haines gave a shout out to the Hinckley and Big Rock Fire Departments and Hinckley Police Department for their display of community and support as they paraded our middle school athletes with lights and sirens as they arrived home from the state track meet.

9) **Citizens Request to Address the Board**

Dr. Sonntag read an email from former Student Board Representative, Matthew Badal. He wanted to wish the new Student Board Reps luck and left them with some advice for future board meetings.

10) **Presentation**

A. Katie Claypool addressed the Board, expressing gratitude for their support in “cultivating our future” at HBR through supporting our Grow Your Own initiative. Mrs. Claypool will participate in her Principal internship next school year at the middle school with Ms. Torman.

B. Student Board Representative, Beckett Neibert presented a course description for a new proposed course at the high school, Sports History.

11) **Committee Updates**

A. IBCC

IBCC met on May 13th, 2026 to review the year. New members were onboarded.

B. IVVC

IVVC met on May 6th, 2026. HBR students were recognized as award recipients. There was an approval for a lot purchase for an expansion. IVVC’s June 3rd meeting was moved to June 9th due to schedule conflicts.

C. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation

BG&T did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting is June 3rd, 2026.

12) **Student Representative Update**

Student Representatives Gengler, Kubinski and Neibert introduced themselves to the Board. They discussed the end of the year events including Senior picnic, prom and graduation. The representatives surveyed our returning high school students to determine if they had a personal device at home as we gather more information to assist with developing a Chromebook plan.

13) **Administrative Update**

Dr. Sonntag spoke about the end of year activities, planning for 26-27 school year, summer learning and the upcoming June 2nd community book discussion. The district is still actively seeking a teacher for replace Mrs. Rich at the high school. The role is for a Family and Consumer Science Teacher with emphasis on consumer education, culinary arts , fashion and design.

Dr. Sonntag updated the Board on HBR’s Food Service Audit. We had a clean audit and will have a triennial wellness committee meeting in June.

14) **Discussion**

A. Board Retreat planning

The Board discussed the June 10th Board Retreat details, with a start time of 5:30pm at the Big Rock Community Building.

B. PRESS ISSUE 121 - 2nd Read

There were some legislative updates but no significant changes to this Press Issue. Dr. Sonntag will answer two customization questions on behalf of HBR. The first question asks if we will post the agenda for the board meeting on all buildings and the board agreed. The second question is if we will do a roll call for all votes. The board decided to not do a roll call.

Post on all buildings BOE agendas going forward. Roll call-No, questions that jessica will answer on HBR behalf

C. Policy Review Section 4: Operational Services

No comments from the Board during this review

15) **Action**

A. Motion to Approve the IHSA 2026-2027 Membership Renewal

Motion to Approve the IHSA 2026-2027 Membership Renewal was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passes 7-0

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

- B. Motion to approve the elementary school pipe insulation project to be completed in summer 2026, from the FY27 budget, with an anticipated cost of \$60,000

Motion to approve the elementary school pipe insulation project to be completed in summer 2026, from the FY27 budget, with an anticipated cost of \$60,000 was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

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

- C. Motion to approve the middle school well project to be completed in summer 2026, from the FY27 budget, with an anticipated cost of \$42,000.

Motion to approve the middle school well project to be completed in summer 2026, from the FY27 budget, with an anticipated cost of \$42,000 was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 7-0

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

- D. Motion to approve Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 2 (two) dual credit courses per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBRHS student, for the 2026-2027 school year, pending Administrative course approval

Motion to approve Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 2 (two) dual credit courses per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBRHS student, for the 2026-2027 school year, pending Administrative course approval was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

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

- E. Motion to approve Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 1 (one) online (eg. Edgenuity) course, not offered at HBR, per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBR student, for the 2026-2027 school year, pending Administrative course approval

Motion to approve Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 to pay for up to 1 (one) online (eg. Edgenuity) course, not offered at HBR, per fall and spring semester, per full-time qualifying HBR student, for the 2026-2027 school year, pending Administrative course approval was made by Debi White and seconded by Abigail Barrett, passed 7-0

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

- F. Motion to Approve the High School Course, Sports History elective, as proposed

Motion to Approve the High School Course, Sports History elective, as proposed was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0

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

16) **FOIA**

A.

- Michael Henry, inquired about Legal Services and Payment for such over the past 3 years
- Owen Wang, Lake County Gazette, communication mentioning "Steve Lefko"
- Owen Wang, Lake County Gazette, policy and guidelines for religion in school, especially related to Ramadan
- Carla Carlos, Employee Research Data LLC: Staff Directory information
- Data Branch Research Team: purchasing records for Primex, American Time, and/or Sapling
- Data Branch Research Team: from 2021 to current, records / contracts with Blackboard Inc, Finalsite, DMX, Funds for Learning, E-Rate Consulting, N-Able, Raptor Technologies, and/or CSM Consulting

- Data Branch Research: From 2021 to current records with Absolute Software, Incident IQ, Hazel Health, Brandon Industries, CSM Consulting, and Funds for Learning

17) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Jack Hainesl, passed 7-0 at 7:38pm

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

18) **Executive Session**

- A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Motion to exit Executive Session was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 7-0 at 8:48pm

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

19) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Debi White, passed 7-0 at 8:49pm 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 June 17th, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.