



**HASTINGS**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Hastings Public Schools**  
**Work Session Minutes**

April 16, 2026 6:00 PM

Board Room at HPS District Offices, 1515 W 8th St, Hastings, NE 68901

The meeting was advertised in the Hastings Tribune on Friday, April 10, 2026

Jim Boeve:	Present
Sharon Brooks:	Present
Erick Espinoza:	Present
Jodi Graves:	Present
Andrew McCarty:	Present
Tamisha Rose Osgood:	Present
Christopher Shade:	Present
Becky Sullivan:	Present
Stacie Widhelm:	Present

**1. Roll Call**

President Sullivan called the meeting to order.

Others in attendance: Laura Hargis, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Denise Behrends, Board Recording Secretary; Lawrence Tunks, Director of Technology and Operations; Dr. Thomas Szlanda, Director of HR and Operations; Chris Schukei, Director of HPS Foundation; Terry Julian, Technology Facilitator; Shelly Julian, Business Manager; Tanya Evans, Director of Special Education; Kristen Slechta, Director of Learning; John Hauser, Director of Learning and Support; Amy Sloan, Hawthorne Elementary Principal; Alison Flinn, Hawthorne Elementary Teacher; Damon Kugel, High School Assistant Principal; Sara Horstmann, Morton ELC Principal; Ben Welsch, HEA President; Brenda McKenzie, HEA Representative; Christie Alberts, OT/PT; Abby Brehm, High School Teacher; Will Vraspir, Hastings Tribune; Andy Jones, Hastings Public Access TV; and members of the public.

**2. Announcement - Becky Sullivan**

President Sullivan reminded those in attendance of the Open Meetings Act.

**3. Welcome to HEA reps and guests - Becky Sullivan**

President Sullivan welcomed HEA representatives and guests. She asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

**4. Review Board Norms/Goal - Becky Sullivan**

There were no Board member comments.

## **5. Board Report - Becky Sullivan**

Board members Jim Boeve, Chris Shade, Tamisha Rose-Osgood spoke about their PLC and building visits. Board members Sharon Brooks and Jodi Graves discussed the Foundation Event as a great celebration of HPS. Board member Erick Espinoza spoke about attending High School soccer matches and Preschool breakfast. Board member Brooks also noted upcoming Foundation staff idea grants and invited board members to attend HPS Foundation night at the Hastings Sodbusters baseball game on June 19th.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Christopher Prososki**

President Sullivan and Board member Boeve reviewed the Superintendent's Report. They highlighted LB 803, which requires each county, each city, and each school district to attend a joint public hearing (pink postcard meeting) if they levy any tax on property within the county.

### **6.1. Discuss, consider, and take action to employ temporary summer grounds help due to a conflict of interest with the Director of Technology & Operations**

President Sullivan discussed temporary summer employment of a student worker related to the Director of Technology and Operations. Board members held a discussion about the summer worker and will consider approval of employment to meet revised Nebraska Statute 49-1499.03 conflict of interest.

## **7. Table Policy 4032: Professional Growth**

Kristen Slechta, Director of Learning, provided an update on Professional Growth Policy 4032. This policy is again being tabled for further study and discussion. No action will be taken this month. Board members held a discussion about Policy 4032.

## **8. Policy Review: Second Half of the 5000 Series Policies**

President Sullivan led Board members through a review of the second half of 5000 Series policies. Board members held a discussion about the 5000 series policies to be adopted at the regular Board meeting.

Policy 5045: Student Fees, will be tabled for further study and review. No action will be taken this month. Board members held a discussion about Policy 5045.

## **9. Approve the 2026-2027 Master Agreement with Hastings Education Association**

President Sullivan and negotiations committee member, Jim Boeve, reviewed the 2026-2027 Master Agreement. Boeve reminded Board members that this is the second year of a two-year agreement, with a base salary of \$40,600. The negotiations committee will recommend approval of the 2026-2027 Master Agreement as presented.

## **10. Approval of E-Rate WAN Bids**

Director Lawrence Tunks reviewed the internet/WAN proposals and shared e-rate information with Board members. He reminded board members tht e-rate will cover 80% of the cost. Mr. Tunks will recommend approval of internet bids and services from Allo in the amount of \$227,100.00 for a 5-year contract. Board members held a discussion about e-rate and the WAN bids.

## **11. Approval of HVAC Bids for Hawthorne**

Director Lawrence Tunks reviewed the HVAC bids for the Hawthorne Elementary project. Mr. Tunks will recommend approval of the bid from Rutt's Heating and Air in the amount of \$33,920.00.

**12. Approval of Summer Roof Bids - Lawrence Tunks**

Lawrence Tunks reviewed the roof repair projects for the High School, Longfellow, and Lincoln buildings. Mr. Tunks will recommend approval of the Ziemba Roofing bid in the amount of \$311,990.00. Board members held discussion about the roofing projects and bids.

**13. Director of Learning Report - Kristen Slechta**

Director Slechta reviewed Summer Activity camps and will recommend approval at Monday's regular board meeting. Mrs. Slechta also introduced a strategic planning opportunity that she will bring to the Board for approval at a future meeting. Board members held a discussion about summer activities and the strategic planning options.

**14. \*Consent Agenda - Dr. Thomas Szlanda**

Director Szlanda informed Board members of 10 certificated, 12 classified, and 14 extra-standard positions that are currently unfilled throughout the district. Dr. Szlanda will recommend approval of the personnel agenda as presented. Board members held a discussion about staffing.

**15. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - Becky Sullivan**

Ben Welsch, HEA President, addressed the Board.

**16. Reminders - Becky Sullivan**

President Sullivan reminded Board members of the regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

**17. Executive Session - Becky Sullivan**

Board members went into closed session at 7:10 p.m.

*Motion to go into closed session. Motion made by Jodi Graves, Seconded by Jim Boeve. Motion passed*

- Jim Boeve: Yea
- Sharon Brooks: Yea
- Erick Espinoza: Yea
- Jodi Graves: Yea
- Andrew McCarty: Yea
- Tamisha Rose Osgood: Yea
- Christopher Shade: Yea
- Becky Sullivan: Yea
- Stacie Widhelm: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

**18. The Board of Education returns to Open Session - Becky Sullivan**

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 9:29 p.m. President Sullivan verified that discussion was confined to receiving legal advice and no action was taken.

**19. Adjournment - Becky Sullivan**

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

*Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Tamisha Rose Osgood, Seconded by Stacie Widhelm. Motion passed*

Jim Boeve: Yea

Sharon Brooks: Yea

Erick Espinoza: Yea

Jodi Graves: Yea

Andrew McCarty: Yea

Tamisha Rose Osgood: Yea

Christopher Shade: Yea

Becky Sullivan: Yea

Stacie Widhelm: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

Denise Behrends, Board Recording Secretary