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Hastings Public Schools Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 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 Tuesday, April 14, 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. CALL TO ORDER - Becky Sullivan

President Sullivan called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

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; Terry Julian, Technology Facilitator; Tanya Evans, Director of Special Education; Kristen Slechta, Director of Learning; John Hauser, Director of Learning and Support; Amy Sloan, Hawthorne Elementary Principal; Anna Cafferty, Hawthorne Elementary Teacher; Krista Sherick, Hawthorne Elementary Teacher; Emily Struss, Hawthorne Elementary Teacher; Damon Kugel, High School Assistant Principal; Sara Horstmann, Morton ELC Principal; Ben Welsch, HEA President; Will Vraspir, Hastings Tribune; other members of the media and members of the public.

3. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

4. ANNOUNCEMENT - Becky Sullivan

President Sullivan reminded those in attendance of the Open Meetings Act

5. RECURRENT - Becky Sullivan

5.1. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion made by Jim Boeve, 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

5.2. Payment of Expenditures

Motion to approve the payment of expenditures in the amount of \$4,746,633.29. Motion made by Jim Boeve, Seconded by Sharon Brooks. 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

6. RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE - Becky Sullivan

There was no correspondence to receive.

7. Spotlight on Learning

President Sullivan introduced Hawthorne Principal Amy Sloan to present the Spotlight on Learning. Principal Sloan introduced teachers: Anna Cafferty, Krista Sherick, and Emily Struss who shared a presentation about the Hawthorne family groups.

8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - Becky Sullivan

Ben Welsch, HEA President, addressed board members.

9. SPECIAL BOARD FUNCTIONS - Becky Sullivan

9.1. Acceptance of Superintendent Resignation - Becky Sullivan

President Sullivan informed Board members that acceptance of Dr. Prosofski's resignation would be effective June 30. He would remain on paid administrative leave through that date.

Motion to approve the resignation of Superintendent Christopher Prosofski. Motion made by Jodi Graves, Seconded by Erick Espinoza. 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

9.2. Approve a Resolution to Adopt a More Current and Revised Second Half Set of the 5000 Series Policies

President Sullivan led Board members through a review of the second half of 5000 Series policies.

Motion to approve a Resolution to Adopt a More Current and Revised Second Half Set of the 5000 Series Policies. Motion made by Stacie Widhelm, Seconded by Tamisha Rose Osgood. 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

9.3. Discuss, consider, and take action to employ a temporary summer grounds worker 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.

Motion to approve the hiring of Sam Tunks as a temporary summer grounds help. Motion made by Christopher Shade, Seconded by Sharon Brooks. 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

9.4. 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 recommended approval of the 2026-2027 Master Agreement as presented.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Master Agreement with Hastings Education Association, as presented. Motion made by Erick Espinoza, Seconded by Jodi Graves. 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

9.5. Approval of E-Rate WAN Bids - Lawrence Tunks

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

Motion to approve E-Rate WAN bid from Allo, in the amount of \$227,100.00 for 60 months, as presented. Motion made by Sharon Brooks, 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

9.6. Approval of HVAC Bids for Hawthorne - Lawrence Tunks

Director Lawrence Tunks reviewed the HVAC bids for the Hawthorne Elementary project. Mr. Tunks recommended approval of the bid from Rutt's Heating and Air in the amount of \$33,920.00. Board members held a discussion about HVAC bids.

Motion to approve bid from Rutt's in the amount of \$33,920 for the HVAC project at Hawthorne, as presented. Motion made by Jodi Graves, 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

9.7. Approval of Roofing Bids - Lawrence Tunks

Lawrence Tunks reviewed the roof repair projects for the High School, Longfellow, and Lincoln buildings. Mr. Tunks recommended approval of the Ziemba Roofing bid in the amount of \$309,390.00. Board members held a discussion about the roofing projects and bids.

Motion to approve the roof bid from Ziemba Roofing, in the amount of \$309,390.00 for summer projects at High School, Longfellow, and Alcott. Motion made by Jim Boeve, Seconded by Sharon Brooks. 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:

9.8. Approve Tentative Graduation List - Kristen Slechta

Kristen Slechta shared the 2026 tentative graduation list. Mrs. Slechta recommended approval of the tentative graduation list as presented. Board members held a discussion about the tentative graduation list.

Motion to approve tentative 2026 Graduation list, as presented. Motion made by Stacie Widhelm, Seconded by Christopher Shade. 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

9.9. Approve 2026 Summer Activities Program - Kristen Slechta

Director Slechta reviewed summer activity camps and will recommend approval of the summer activities as presented.

Motion to approve 2026 Summer Activities program as presented. Motion made by Erick Espinoza, 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

9.10. 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 recommended approval of the personnel agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion made by Jim Boeve, Seconded by Sharon Brooks. 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

10. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - Becky Sullivan

There were no public comments.

11. DATES OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS - Becky Sullivan

President Sullivan reminded Board members of upcoming Board meetings for next month.

Work Session - May 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. - Board Room at HPS District Offices

Regular Board Meeting - May 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. - Board Room at HPS District Offices

12. MEDIA SPOKESPERSON - Becky Sullivan

President Sullivan announced that she will serve as the media spokesperson for this month.

13. Executive Session - Becky Sullivan

The board went into executive session at 6:33 p.m.

Motion to go into closed session. Motion made by Jodi Graves, Seconded by Sharon Brooks.

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

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

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 7:36 p.m. President Sullivan verified that discussion was confined to personnel issues and no action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT - Becky Sullivan

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Jim Boeve, Seconded by Andrew McCarty. 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