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

Regular Meeting

June 17, 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, Tim Badal, Jack Haines and Abigail Barrett
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag
Absent: Myia Sittig
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 Abigail Barrett, passed 6-0,
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
5) **Consent Agenda**
Tim Badal announced the removal of Rebekah Hett from the Personnel Report to vote on separately for a conflict of interest
A. **Minutes -** Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes
B. **Treasurer's Report**
C. **Bills and Payroll**
D. **Personnel Report**
E. **Summer Program 2026 Personnel Recommendations**

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

Motion to approve the Rebekah Hett on the Personnel Report was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Darrin Gengler, passed 5-1 with 1 Abstention
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Abstain, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
6) **Committee Updates**
A. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation
The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on June 3. During the meeting, a community member requested permission to drive a golf cart on the path near the elementary school. While the path is currently designated for pedestrian use only, the committee approved the request. Signage will be installed outlining guidelines for golf cart use to help ensure the safety of all users.
HBR has received several requests from neighboring school districts seeking assistance from Bus Manager/Mechanic, Andy Lein, with maintenance of their school buses. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is currently reviewing these requests and discussing the logistics to ensure all questions and considerations are addressed before moving forward.

Mr. Kriesch also presented a list of proposed facilities projects for the next three to five years. The committee discussed the importance of prioritizing these projects as labor and material costs continue to rise. Mr. Kriesch and the Buildings and Grounds team will continue evaluating the most cost-effective options and develop a more detailed timeline for project completion.

B. IVVC

IVVC met on June 9th. The committee approved the FY27 Budget, including the purchase of 2 lots for future Construction Trades home building.

The first day for IVVC students will be August 12th and the next IVVC meeting will be held on August 5th.

C. Food Service Committee

Three organizations submitted bids for the Food Service Management Company. Whitsons, Quest Foods and OrganicLife. Organic Life came in as the lowest responsible bidder and will be our new FSCM. Dr. Sonntag would like the Board to discuss and think about the rising costs of meals. She presented a tired meal-price system. The elementary being a lower cost from the middle and high schools with the middle and high school having more food options.

7) **Presentation: Organic Life**

Joe Arvia with OrganicLife presented to the Board. He provided information about the organization and its focus on “real, fresh and authentic” food. OrganicLife will be partnering with HBR to provide meal service for students in the upcoming school year for breakfast and lunch. OrganicLife is the largest provider in the state of IL, serving districts like DeKalb, Naperville and DuPage to name a few.

8) **Administrative Update**

A. 25/26 school year-end review

Dr. Sonntag shared that the district collected chromebooks and chargers to see what the need for replacements will be and to analyze how HBR is using technology throughout the district. We are collecting these items so the district does not have to repurchase all of them.

Currently, the district is sitting at 60% of our revenue and 92% of our expenditures. We are waiting on Kane and DeKalb county to distribute their taxes and once they do HBR will have 98% revenue. The final expenditures will be presented at the August board meeting.

B. District Goal Update

The Board and Admin team discussed the multi-year goal of closing the academic achievement gap, making sure all of our students are meeting or exceeding the state expectations.

The elementary would like to revamp the goals specific to the assessments. Moving away from taking the MAP assessment at the Kinder-2nd grade level since it is a computer based assessment and using more hands-on, interactive assessments instead.

The administrative team recommended extending the district’s school improvement goals to from 2 years to 4-5 years. A longer timeline would provide a clearer picture of the impact of the teachers’ efforts and students’ academic growth. The district will be better able to evaluate progress and determine whether its strategies are effectively supporting student success.

C. 26/27 school year planning

1. 1:1 Technology Implementation

Dr. Sonntag explained to the Board that HBR’s goal is to return chromebooks back to classroom carts rather than having students use them throughout the entire school day. The district plans to phase in computer use based on grade level and instructional need. The district would like to reintroduce cursive writing and keyboarding instruction along with other learning practices that have taken a backseat in recent years.

The district is selling older chromebooks this summer to the community for those who would like a device at home for $35.

9) **Citizens Request to Address the Board**-None

10) **Discussion**

A. Draft FY27 Budget

Dr. Sonntag presented the FY27 draft budget for the Board. The district is projecting a balanced budget for the coming school year, although margins will remain tight. OM budget has narrow margins and we will have to dip into reserves if any significant health life safety projects popped up. The same goes for the transportation budget. The district is doing what we can to keep expenses down however all costs have gone up. Debt service clean-out bond is out for bid and will come to fruition in July. Once we receive this money we will do an interfund transfer from debt service to working cash.

B. Policy Review Section 4:165-4:190
The board discussed policy 4:165-4:190. This section focuses on the safety and security of our students and staff.

11) **Action**

A. Motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Certain Payments between the June 17 and August 12 board meetings due to no Board meeting in July, 2026
Motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Certain Payments between the June 17 and August 12 board meetings due to no Board meeting in July, 2026 was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

B. Motion to approve the FSMC contract with Organic Life for the 2026-2027 school year
Motion to approve the FSMC contract with Organic Life for the 2026-2027 school year was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

C. Motion to approve the 5-year (July 1, 2026- June 30, 2031) contract for Jessica Sonntag, as Superintendent for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429
Motion to approve the 5-year (July 1, 2026- June 30, 2031) contract for Jessica Sonntag, as Superintendent for Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429 was made by Abigail Barrett and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

D. Motion to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed $275,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2026, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof
Motion to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed $275,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2026, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea, Abigail Barrett: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

12) **FOIA**

A. Data Branch: All products from School Asset Manager, Collaborative Student Transportation, Prismatic Services Inc, Lead Public Schools, buildEd, and Transpar Group.
Data Branch: All products from CDW-G, AG Parts, K-12 Tech, and Vivacity Tech
Data Branch: All products from: Apptegy, Finalsite, ParentSquare, SchoolMessenger, and Blackboard Inc

13) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

14) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0 at 7:45pm with a unanimous voice vote, Aye
Abigail Barrett: Aye, Debi White: Aye, Tim Badal: 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 August 12th, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.