

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



**Regular Meeting
March 18, 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 and Jack Haines
Also Present: Dr. Jessica Sonntag and Student Representative Savannah McMurtrie and Matthew Badal
Absent: Abigail Barrett and Student Representatives: Alex Casanas
Vice President Tim Badal entered the meeting at 6:31pm
- 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, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: 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**
 - E. **Admin Contracts**
 1. Kim Torman-3 year Contract 2026-2029
 2. Deb Kabasenche-3 year Contract 2026-2029
 3. Bonnie Osborne- 1 year contract 2026-2027
 4. Brandon Kriesch- 1 year contract 2026-2027
 5. Jeffery Wilkie- 1 year contract 2026-2027
 - F. **Certified Staff Renewals**
Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 6-0,
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- 6) **Royal Shout Out**
This month the Board highlighted the Elementary Chess team and recognized the K-5 students who competed in the State Tournament on March 8.
Our Kindergarten/1st grade team earned 4th place, and our 2nd/3rd grade team earned 9th place! Our 4th/5th-grade team finished 19th. Dr. Sonntag also recognized the Chess Team's Volunteer Coach, Austin McMurtrie for his dedication to these students.
- 7) **Citizens Request to Address the Board-None**
- 8) **Committee Updates**
 - A. Buildings, Grounds & Transportation

BG&T did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 1st, 2026 in the HBR District Conference Room.

B. IBCC

IBCC did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting will be held on May 13th, 2026 in the HBRHS Library

C. IVVC

IVVC did not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 1st, 2026

D. Food Service

The Food Service Committee met and have discussed how to move forward with HBR food service. Ultimately, the committee decided to simultaneously go out to bid for a new Food Service Management Company and post for a new self operated food service coordinator position. A decision will be made at the June Board meeting.

9) **Student Representative Update**

Student Representatives McMurtrie and Badal highlighted the March 19 Exploration Night at the high school, the first softball season in 7 years, the accomplishments of the Academic Bowl, HBR music festival and the upcoming Drama Club Production of the Twelfth Night (April 10 & 11). Additionally, they reported on their meeting with the middle school student advisory committee which focused on the condition of the track and the concern that students are using AI to complete work. Middle School students are interested in an exploratory class focused on appropriate use of AI.

A survey was provided to 8th -11th grade students. Over 20 students showed interest in participating in Bowling. Dr. Sonntag is looking into creating a girls and boys bowling team for next school year.

The current student representatives will have their last Board meeting in April. New Board Representatives will be seated in April as well.

10) **Administrative Update**

A. 26-27 Planning

Dr. Sonntag is currently focusing on scheduling and budgeting for the upcoming school year. IVVC Enrollment has declined compared to previous years, with 30 students registered for the 26/27 school year and approximately 57 students taking Waubonsese courses. In the past, the district has covered the cost for two Waubonese courses per semester for juniors and seniors. The Board is expected to vote on this at the May Board Meeting.

Dr. Sonntag also noted that new families continue to move into the district. This month, five new students enrolled at the elementary school, along with two new students at the high school. She continues to meet regularly with the administrative team to plan for the district's ongoing and future needs.

B. Financial Update

The district periodically conducts a debt service clean-out to ensure that funds collected for bond repayment remain accurate, transparent, and compliant with legal requirements. Because tax collections, interest earnings, and payment timing can fluctuate, small residual balances may build up in the Debt Service Fund, which is restricted to paying bond principal and interest. This process reconciles those balances, confirms that no excess funds are being held, and documents how any surplus is managed. When appropriate, allowable excess funds are transferred to other funds such as Capital Projects or Operations & Maintenance to support facility needs. After consulting with PTMA, it is recommended that the district proceed with a clean-out by issuing a 30-day General Obligation Bond, with an estimated residual balance of \$265,000 available.

11) **Discussion**

A. Board Governance

The Board discussed the tentative Board of Education meeting calendar, adding in the July meeting on the calendar and adjusting the time of the meetings to start at 6pm.

The Board also discussed Board training and evaluations.

In April we have committee assignments, officer assignments and the seating of the new Student Board Representatives

- B. Policy Review Section: Operational Services
The Board discussed Board Policy Section 4: Operational Services (Parts 4:10-4:40). In April, the Board will review Section 4: Operational Services (Parts 4:50-4:90).

12) **Action**

- A. Motion to approve the parent/ student handbook revisions as submitted
Motion to approve the parent/ student handbook revisions as submitted was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- B. Motion to approve the engagement letter for Newkirk & Associates as the Independent Auditor
Motion to approve the engagement letter for Newkirk & Associates as the Independent Auditor was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- C. Motion to approve the contract for Green Light Driving School as submitted
Motion to approve the contract for Green Light Driving School as submitted was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Debi White, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- D. Motion to approve the ALOP contract with KEC as submitted
Motion to approve the ALOP contract with KEC as submitted was made by Tim Badal and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- E. Motion to approve the changes in bank signatories as submitted
Motion to approve the changes in bank signatories as submitted was made by Darrin Gengler and seconded by Jack Haines, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea
- F. Motion to approve the Authorization of IMRF Personnel as submitted
Motion to approve the Authorization of IMRF Personnel as submitted was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Time Badal, passed 6-0
Darrin Gengler: Yea, Debi White: Yea, Myia Sittig: Yea, Jack Haines: Yea, Tim Badal: Yea and Greg Pritchard: Yea

13) **FOIA**

- A. SmartProcure FOIA, Staff List
- B. Abbas Khan CEO, Civic IQ Inc: Purchasing since May 1, 2025
- C. Sony Ellen III, LRS Recycles: Waste Management and Recyclable Company Invoices, Contracts, and Bids

14) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

15) **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made by Jack Haines and seconded by Tim Badal, passed 6-0 at 7:39pm with a unanimous voice vote, Aye
Darrin Gengler: Aye, Debi White: Aye, Tim Badal: Aye, Myia Sittig: Aye, Jack Haines: Aye and Greg Pritchard: Aye

The next regular meeting of the Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Board of Education will be April 15th, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.