

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.11/17/2025

Regular Meeting
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District Board of the Hancock Public School District, Houghton County, State of Michigan.

Meeting open - Pledge of Allegiance.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hancock Public Schools was held in the boardroom on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:31 p.m. President M Lancour called the meeting to order.

Present: Michael Lancour, Emilie Lancour, Catherine Jordan, Rebecca Ylitalo, and Taylor Paul

Absent: Charlie Klein and Rod Paavola

Recognition of Individuals:

- Congratulations to the following Hancock football players for their earned all-conference team placement: First team: Ben Keranen - Defensive Back, Second Team: Trent Pietila - Fullback, Drew Sturos - Defensive Back, and Forrest LaCourt - Punter. Honorable Mention: Tyler Jaehnig - Running Back, Trent Pietila - Linebacker, and Mason Wiitanen - Offensive Line
- Congratulations to the Hancock Volleyball Team and Coach Lamppa on their District Championship. Also on the All conference selections: First team: Azura Aho, Chloe Bastian, and Romey Koskela. Second team: Vaeda Brooks and Alice Larsen
- Congratulations to Barkell Elementary and Hancock Middle/High School, and its Principals, Faculty, and Staff on a successful 1st quarter and parent/teacher conferences.
- Thank you to Jeff Hauswirth for organizing the Veterans' Day Assembly and to SRO Olson for serving as the honorary speaker.

Agenda Items:

Routine Matters

Adoption of Agenda

It is recommended by Superintendent Salani that the submitted agenda be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes.

It is recommended by Secretary E Lancour that the submitted minutes of the Regular meeting of October 20, 2025, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Jordan, to adopt the minutes for the October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Approval of checks written for the Month of October 2025.

It is recommended by the CCISD Assistant Business Manager, Jeff Klein, with concurrence by Board Treasurer Ylitalo, that the checks written for the Month of October 2025 be approved as presented. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the checks written for the Month of October 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

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Approval of the Finance Statement for October 2025

It is recommended by the CCISD Assistant Business Manager, Jeff Klein, with concurrence by Board Treasurer Ylitalo, that the finance statement for the Month of October 2025 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the checks written for the Month of October 2025. The motion unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments: 4 visitors (no comments)

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. District Audit complete: Thank you to Business Manager Jeff Klein
- b. Board Referendum Update: waiting on "official Canvasser's tally of the Vote" from the clerk. PFM/Thrun drafting the Resolution for the Board to accept at the December meeting
- c. Congratulations to Barkell and MS Teams on the well-deserved honor and recognition as US News and World Report 2026 honorees!
- d. Staff Christmas Party: December 12th at Small Craft
- e. Social Media will continue; encourage others to share posts

Principal Reports:

Mollie Trewartha (MS/HS)

- a. 17 students earned perfect attendance for Quarter 1
- b. Thank you to Jeff Hauswirth for organizing the Military Care Packages Drive and the Veterans Day Assembly. Kudos also to Officer Olson, Jana Meckler, and Sarah Pelty.
- c. Heather Murphy has organized the TV Canathon for the MS/HS
- d. P-T Conferences were held on Nov 12th
- e. The School Improvement Committee has been refining three surveys for students, parents, and teachers. These will be sent out in Dec or Jan.
- f. A 6-12 Behavior Definitions Rubric has been established
- g. Nov 20th 2pm Spanish 7 Skit Performances
- h. Dec 9th 7:30pm Holiday Band Concert
- i. Dec 10th: half day for students (professional development day)

Karen Eddy (Elementary)

- a. Teachers have been meeting by grade level with Literacy Coach, Heidi Knuuttila, to review materials and plan for implementation
- b. Data Review on October 21st (m-step, Renaissance, Acadience, behavior referrals)
 - i. 77.4% of third-grade students were advanced or proficient on the Math 2025 M-step (state 42.7% and ISD 59.4%)
 - ii. 91% of first-grade students are fluent in phoneme segmentation according to the fall benchmark assessment
 - iii. A small group of staff will be trained on SWIS to enter behavior referral data and run reports
- c. During the Week of Nov 3-7, 110 students received an assessment and dental education. Smiles on Wheels also provided 91 cleanings, 90 fluoride varnishings, and 351 dental sealants.
- d. 4th and 5th-grade students attend the Veterans Day Assembly at the HS on November 11th
- e. 98% of parents participated in parent-teacher conferences

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- f. The student council is learning to raise and lower the flag and properly fold it, making cards for the military packages, and all classrooms are participating in the TV6 Canathon
- g. Congratulations to Tanner Juopperi, Addison Vizanko, and Alexis Hansen for having their art selected for three of the 12 drawings to be on the CCEA notecards, which will be sold at area art galleries.
- h. Week of Dec 1: Scholastic Book Fair
- i. Dec 6: Pancake Breakfast
- j. Dec 9: Christmas Concert
- k. Dec 17: Breakfast with Santa
- l. Week of Dec 15: Bulldog shop

Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

- a. Sports are fully staffed
- b. Volleyball earned conference and district championships
- c. Girls Cross Country was runner-up in D2 at UP Finals (8th year in a row of 1st or 2nd)
- d. Winter schedules are up at hchbulldogs.com

Student Council President Report:

- a. Hat Day fundraiser (\$1 to wear a hat)
- b. Forming a subcommittee to work with staff to create a consistent exam exemption among all staff

Liaison Reports:

HPS Foundation:

- a. All submitted grants were fully funded. Thank you!!!

DDA:

- a. no meeting

Hancock Recreational Committee:

- a. Hancock Trails Groomers are on their own payroll
- b. The Disc Golf Course will continue
- c. Looking into a splash pad on the Quincy Green (potential ice area in winter)
- d. Possible DNR grant for a stage and restrooms on Quincy Green (CTE students to help with construction?)
- e. Policies were updated
- f. A playground grant was received
- g. Waiting on final amounts for ball field dugouts

CCASB:

- a. no meeting

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the district audit conducted by Anderson, Tackman, and CO, PLC. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the district audit conducted by Anderson, Tackman, and CO, PLC. Motion unanimously carried.
2. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the adoption of all Thrun Law Policies. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the adoption of all Thrun Law Policies. Motion unanimously carried.

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3. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the 31aa Resolution to opt into the MDE waiver for receiving the grant no later than November 30. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the 31aa Resolution to opt into the MDE waiver for receiving the grant no later than November 30. Motion unanimously carried.
4. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the Elementary Student/Parent Handbook. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the Elementary Student/Parent Handbook. Motion unanimously carried.
5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Kyra Pakkala, GSRP Paraprofessional Aid. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the hire of Kyra Pakkala, GSRP Paraprofessional Aid. Motion unanimously carried.
6. It is recommended by Athletic Director Ryan Towels to approve the hire of Paul Dube, JV Hockey Coach. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the hire of Paul Dube, JV Hockey Coach. Motion unanimously carried.
7. It is recommended by Athletic Director Ryan Towels to approve the hire of Cassey Kolbus, Interim Cheer Coach. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the hire of Cassey Kolbus, Interim Cheer Coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Adjourn to Closed Session

Adjourn the open session to go into closed session for the Superintendent Evaluation. Moved by Member Paul, Seconded by Member Jordan to adjourn the open session at 6:31 pm to go into closed session for the superintendent evaluation. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, absent; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; Jordan, yea; Paul, yea; and Paavola, absent. Motion unanimously carried.

Return to Open Session at 8:22 pm

It is recommended by President M Lancour to approve the rating of 'Effective' on the Superintendent Evaluation for Chris Salani. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the rating of 'Effective' on the Superintendent Evaluation for Chris Salani. 'Effective' is the highest rating available on the evaluation tool this year. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, absent; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; Jordan, yea; Paul, yea; and Paavola, absent. Motion unanimously carried.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Jordan and seconded by Member Paul to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion unanimously carried.