

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.2/16/2026

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.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hancock Public Schools was held in the boardroom on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5:37 p.m., President M Lancour called the meeting to order.

Present: Michael Lancour, Emilie Lancour, Catherine Jordan, Rod Paavola, Taylor Paul, and Charlie Klein

Absent: Rebecca Ylitalo

Recognition of Individuals:

- Thank you to the Barkell Nordic Ski volunteers for their support of this amazing program.
- Congratulations to the first-semester honor roll students.
- Thank you to the Interact Club for their red bell work over the Christmas holidays.
- Thank you to the Spirit committee, student council, faculty, and staff for all the help with Wingding
- Congratulations to the Elementary spelling bee winners, Marcus Turnquist - first place, and Pearl Murr - second place. Middle School 6th grade Charlotte Kerry and Zoey Spelich, seventh grade James Thompson and Cathy Farrell, 8th grade. Viviana Paoli and Jocelyn Turnquist.
- Congratulations to the solo and Ensemble Festival participants, Alex Freeman, Ethan Perrault-Fill, Nate Thompson, and Mason Wiitanen, who all received a first rating and will advance to the state-level competition. Congratulations to the middle school students on a great performance.

Agenda Items:

Routine Matters

Adoption of Agenda

It is recommended by Superintendent Salani that the submitted agenda be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member E Lancour, 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 January 19, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Paul, to adopt the minutes for the January 19, 2026, Regular Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Approval of checks written for the Month of January 2026.

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 January 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the checks written for the Month of January 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

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Approval of the Finance Statement for January 2026

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 January 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the checks written for the Month of January 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments: 8 visitors (no comments)

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. Trane presentation with Gwen Pettit and Dean Weber
 - i. "Guaranteed Energy Saving Performance" contracts
- b. GSRP Transportation Grant available (applying to purchase a van)
- c. Area Wide PD was held on Feb 13th
- d. Meeting with HEA to determine 27I issuance
 - i. One-time reportable compensation for all employees
- e. Partnership with 96.3 to be the home of Hancock Athletics

Principal Reports:

Mollie Trewartha (MS/HS)

- a. Congratulations to the hockey team for their win
- b. All the sophomores attended a day at the CTE center on Tuesday, Feb 3rd
- c. Michigan State police Computer Crimes Unit presented to all students in grades 6-12 on Feb 10th
- d. The Green Bandana Project hosted a mental health awareness night on Feb 12th
- e. 8th-hour tutoring is available for all students 6-12. Monday through Thursday

Karen Eddy (Elementary)

- a. Star Lab this week and last week for grades preschool through fifth
- b. Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIP), grades 1-4, were reviewed with parents. Initial plans were established for the students considered one year behind in reading, and for kindergarteners
- c. UPPCO employees delivered an electoral safety presentation for all 4th graders
- d. MTTs data review showed that 96% of students are at or above the benchmark for the Fall and stayed for the Winter
- e. Feb 10th was Family STEM night, partnered with MTU's Center for Science and Environmental Outreach. 88 students and 53 adults attended
- f. Hearing and Vision screenings will be held Feb 17-20th
- g. Financial Night, partnered with Superior National Bank, will be held for families on Feb 26th
- h. March is Reading Month: "Pop into a Good Book."
- i. Family Literacy Night: March 12th "Popcorn and Pajamas."
- j. Young 5's and Kindergarten Registration - April 19th

Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

- a. Head FB coach Interviews will be on Feb 17th and 19th

Student Council President Report:

- a. None this month

Liaison Reports:

HPS Foundation:

- a. Approved all January grant requests (\$15,935: Elementary equipment, STEM, Robotics Competition, Afterschool Tutoring, and the Band Trip)

DDA:

- a. no meeting

Hancock Recreational Committee:

- a. no meeting

CCASB:

- a. The CCASB Awards Night will be on April 15th. Member M Lancour will host. Member E Lancour will present the awards for Hancock
- b. April 19th will be the CCASB Showcase of Excellence. All communities will be invited

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the designation of district banks. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the designation of district banks. Motion unanimously carried.
2. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Kate Griffith-Gast MS/HS long-term sub in social studies and science. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the hire of Kate Griffith-Gast, MS/HS long-term sub in social studies and science. Motion unanimously carried.
3. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Matthew Durocher, MS/HS long-term sub, as the Industrial Tech Instructor. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paavola, to approve the hire of Matthew Durocher, MS/HS long-term sub as the Industrial Tech Instructor. Motion unanimously carried.
4. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Amber Swetich, MS Special Education teacher. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the hire of Amber Swetich, MS Special Education teacher. Motion unanimously carried.
5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani that the CCASB award recipients be approved: Student Creativity nominee - Ethan Perrault-Fill; Employee award - Leanne Laakonen; School Service Award - Darron Olson, School Resource Officer; and the Educational Leadership Award - Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the CCASB award recipients. Motion unanimously carried.

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6. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to vote for Brad Baltensperger to be on the MASB Board of Directors. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Klein, to vote for Brad Baltensperger to be the MASB Board of Directors. Motion unanimously carried.
7. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve the renewal of the spring athletic coaches: Jenn Smith Varsity/Middle School track coach, Catherine Jarvis and Isabella Kangas, assistant track coaches, Ryan Towels and Kristen Wanhala, track volunteers, Paul Sintkowski, golf coach, Luke Paul, basketball coach, Craig Biekkola, softball coach and Carsen Chynoweth and Miranda Smith, 5th/6th grade basketball coaches. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the renewal of the spring athletic coaches. Member Paul abstains. Motion carried.
8. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve Addison Pizzi as a track volunteer. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Klein, to approve Addison Pizzi as a track volunteer. Motion unanimously carried.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Paavola, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The motion unanimously carried.

Emilie Lancour
Board Secretary