

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.4/20/2026

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, April 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., President M Lancour called the meeting to order.

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

Recognition of Individuals:

Hanaah Alexander - Outstanding Student Teacher Award from NMU and Director's Special Merit Award through NMU's School of Education, Leadership, and Public Service. Congratulations!

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 amended. 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 March 16, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Paul, to adopt the minutes for the March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

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

Approval of the Finance Statement for March 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 March 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the checks written for the Month of March 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments: 6 visitors

Kathy Liimatta: Thank you for allowing me to work here for 25 years. It has been wonderful.

Glady's Dupuis: Thank you for taking a chance on me. The staff and administration have always been supportive.

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Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. April 29th CCASB Showcase of Excellence Night 6-730 Open House at the MS/HS
- b. Bid Package accepted through April 30th at 2 pm in the superintendent's office for Package 1: new entrances at both buildings
- c. The Food Service Spend Down Plan has been submitted and approved by the state
- d. 61v Grant: Faculty training, June 15th, \$195,000 worth of equipment will be ordered before August
- e. Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week: May 4 - 8
- f. Spring Band Concert May 5th
- g. Unified BB game; May 8th at 1pm
- h. Bike to School: May 19th
- i. FINNO-UGRIC Programming June 18-20 (Activities in the MS/HS in collaboration with the City of Hancock)

Principal Reports:

Mollie Trewartha (MS/HS)

- a. Congratulations to co-valedictorians Krissa Pietala, Alice Larson, and Salutatorian Jayna Keranen
- b. Student government will host a Variety Show on Tuesday, the 28th
- c. The Interact Club has been working with Copper Shores in the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign
- d. The Green Bandana Club has been planning events for May, Mental Health Month
- e. 16 students with perfect attendance in quarter 3 (2 students for all three quarters)
- f. State testing is complete
- g. Congratulations to Joan Kero and Stacy Bussiere for earning the Heart In Motion recognition
- h. Congratulations to Michele Serafin for receiving the latest Copper Shores Superior Educator Award
- i. April 29th is the last day for Hanna Alexander and Ila Goulette (our student teachers). They have been a wonderful addition to our staff
- j. Door Decorations featuring what students love about each teacher will be part of Teacher Appreciation Week
- k. Pitch in for Parks: May 6th
- l. Honors Convocation: May 15th at 6 pm
- m. Graduation will be on May 23rd at 10 am

Karen Eddy (Elementary)

- a. Young 5's - Second grade enjoyed an egg hunt in the library set up by the National Honor Society students
- b. MSTEP testing will continue through May 15th
- c. Kindergarten and young 5's registration was on April 9th (43 y5/K students registered). Bulldog Bootcamp will be on Aug 31
- d. 2nd-grade students participated in the Oral History Literacy Project put on by SLACK, Copper Shores, Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan, and NMU Center for Rural Health
- e. April 15th professional development included the 3rd through 8th-grade math teachers collaborating to align the curriculum
- f. Field Day: May 29th
- g. Kindergarten Graduation: June 2nd
- h. Picnic: June 3rd at Barkell

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Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

- a. Football postings are forthcoming for Varsity assistant, JV head coach, and possibly a middle school coach
- b. Spring schedules are live at hchbulldogs.com
- c. Division assignments by sport for 2026-2027 have been made. No changes to UP Finals sports. All statewide sports will be D4 except baseball (D3)

Student Council President Report:

- a. Variety Show will be on April 28th
- b. Planning a fundraiser (to help with Teacher Appreciation Week)
- c. Looking at reflections for next year

Liaison Reports:

HPS Foundation:

- a. no meeting

DDA:

- a. Navy Street Project (Porvoo Park to the Beach)

Hancock Recreational Committee:

- a. no meeting

CCASB:

- a. CCASB Awards were presented on Wednesday
- b. April 29th will be the CCASB Showcase of Excellence. All communities are invited.

Presentation by the Portage Lake District Library

- a. Positives of the library being in Hancock
- b. Improvements made
- c. New budget proposals

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to accept the resignation of Randy Heinonen, Assistant Softball Coach. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Paavola, to accept the resignation of Randy Heinonen, Assistant Softball Coach. Motion unanimously carried.
2. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to accept the resignation of Kaydance Pizzi, freshman Volleyball Coach. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member E Lancour, to accept the resignation of Kaydance Pizzi, freshman Volleyball Coach. Motion unanimously carried.
3. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve the hire of Sophie Heinonen, Assistant Softball Coach. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the hire of Sophie Heinonen, Assistant Softball Coach. Motion unanimously carried.

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4. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to accept the retirement/resignation of Gladys Dupuis, Elementary Teacher. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Paavola, to accept the retirement/resignation of Gladys Dupuis, Elementary Teacher. Motion unanimously carried.
5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to accept the retirement/resignation of Kathleen Liimatta, Elementary Teacher. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member E Lancour, to accept the retirement/resignation of Kathleen Liimatta, Elementary Teacher. Motion unanimously carried.
6. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Noah Earll, Industrial Arts - Career Technical Education (CTE) teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Paavola, to approve the hire of Noah Earll, Industrial Arts - Career Technical Education (CTE) teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion unanimously carried.
7. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the renewal of the ESS/WillSub Service Contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the renewal of the ESS/WillSub Service Contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion unanimously carried.
8. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to review/renew the contract with Portage Lake District Library. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to table the review/renewal of the contract with Portage Lake District Library. Motion unanimously carried.
9. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to review and approve the use of therapy dogs within the District. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the use of therapy dogs within the District. Motion unanimously carried.

It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to adjourn the open session to go into closed session for personnel issues. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the open session to go into closed session for personnel issues. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, absent; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; Jordan, yea; Paul, yea; and Paavola, yea. Motion unanimously carried.

Return to Open Session at 7:43 pm

It is recommended by Member E Lancour to approve the minutes of the closed session meeting on 4/20/2026. Moved by Member Jordan, Seconded by Member Paavola to approve the minutes of the closed session meeting on 4/20/2026. Motion unanimously carried.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion unanimously carried.