

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.5/18/2026

Regular Meeting
Page 1

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, May 18, 2026, at 5:31 p.m., President M Lancour called the meeting to order.

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

Recognition of Individuals:

Congratulations to Co-Valedictorians Krissa Pietala, Alice Larson, and Salutatorian Jayna Keranen

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 Paavola, 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 April 20, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adopt the minutes for the April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

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

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

Visitor Comments: 20 visitors

Member M Lancour thanked the community for its support of the library and said that the contract renewal will be on the June agenda.

Jean Battle confirmed the timeline and voting on the contract. She also commented about the library being a resource for those on a fixed income and that access to more books is important.

RECORD OF MINUTES

Ruth Gill stated that as a resident, she is proud and grateful for the library. The variety of materials and services is wonderful. All ages are served. The Staff is amazing. Please continue the library as it is a huge benefit for literacy. Her son, 16, said, "But I love the Hancock Library".

Deanna Levanen seconds Ruth

Susan Burak seconds Ruth and adds that it is wonderful to see the students. The library is a connection between the community and students. Please renew the contract.

Joyce Woodswell has used the library for 6 years and finds it warm, welcoming, and accepting. She often comes at lunchtime to interact with the students. She is a member of the growing book club. She is proud of the library.

Caroline Decker is both a parent and a user. The library is precious. She thinks there needs to be a conversation within the community. She is grateful for the library and its resources, like interlibrary loans and the summer reading program.

Dillon Gessell (from the Library Association of Michigan) shared about the intent of the contract since 2018. He talked about the designation of a Public school library and about libraries and literacy. Because it is a public library, there are many options for support from the association and grants.

Joel Levanen would like to see funding continue.

Sean Hammon has two daughters who are excited to use the library and are reading for pleasure. He hopes the school can find a way to make the budget work.

Laura Shilling and her daughter Jillian are both avid readers and have library cards. Laura has 6 grandchildren who are now or future students in the district. It is an important resource. They appreciate that the expansion has been great, giving access to all the libraries in the UP. It opens up the world.

Whitney Lasser says this is a community topic. We need to engage together because it affects everyone. We need to brainstorm.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. Jim Rautiola gives his thanks for the passing of the CTE mileage
- b. There will be a Director of Finance and Shared Services
- c. We received the latest Library Contract Scope on 5/15
- d. Looking at third-party contract services and RFP requests are going out (copying/printing, REMC, Snow Plowing, Set Seg, Lamers)
- e. Bond Update: Package 1 is much higher than the estimate. There will be a meeting soon to discuss the timeline with A1 Contacting.
- f. The Bulldog (GSRP) Van has arrived
- g. The MDE Waiver has been submitted for 1 snow day forgiveness

RECORD OF MINUTES

Principal Reports:

Mollie Trewartha (MS/HS)

- a. The annual Rotary Honors brunch was celebrated with Dollar Bay students on May 4th
- b. The MS/HS Band Concert was well attended on May 5th
- c. 5th and 6th-grade students played together in the Band Rocks! Concert on May 8th. The 5th grade will join the MS band, bringing the total to 24.
- d. The Green Bandana Club has been holding events for May, Mental Health Month. Students who participate in the activities are entered into a drawing for prizes.
- e. Students attended Pitch in for Parks on May 6th
 - i. 26 students cleaned up the Driving Park and Lauren Grove
 - ii. Students delivered 6 picnic tables created in the shop to the Creekside Trailhead in partnership with the Hancock Trails Club
- f. The Unified BB Game on May 8th was a great success. Thank you to Luke Paul and Jay Caserio for leading the effort. Rejean Kangas's Unified eSports team played at halftime. Thank you also to Jana Meckler and the band, the Booster Club for the concession stand, and Sarah Pelty for the posters and videos.
- g. Spanish 6 and 7 performed plays on May 12th and 14th.
- h. MSU Extension has a Teen Traffic Safety table during lunch on the 15th
- i. The Senior Honor Convocation was held on the 15th. Many students received scholarships, and club members were honored.
- j. The high school biology students also partnered with the Hancock Trails Club and the Keweenaw Wild Ones chapter to help develop native garden spaces at the new Creekside Trailhead.
- k. Field trips:
 - i. April 23-25 Band to Chicago
 - ii. May 8th: 7th graders visited the MTU APS Lab
 - iii. May 14th: 9th-grade biology classes worked at the Creekside Trailhead
 - iv. May 14th: Junior Achievement Girls Dream Fair: A STEM Experience! event at MTU for 7th/8th-grade girls
- l. May4-8th was Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers received daily treats, meals, and gifts. Thank you to parents and the district for helping us achieve the "best appreciation ever!"
- m. Principal Trewartha visited the 5th graders on the 11th to answer questions about middle school.
- n. The teacher in-service on the 13th had many different teams of teachers working together.
- o. Graduation will be on May 23rd at 10 am
- p. 6th Grade Hunter Safety May 18-19
- q. Camp Nesbit May 20-22
- r. Graduation Rehearsal, Walk-Thru at Barkell, and Senior Picnic, May 21st
- s. Graduation May 23rd at 10 am
- t. Middle School LEAD awards and picnic on June 2nd
- u. Grades 7-11 exams June 3-5

* The HS entrance and office will be under construction being June 8th! Trina and Mollie will be located in the MS office over the summer. Public Office Hours will be Monday - Thursday, 9 am-2 pm

RECORD OF MINUTES

Karen Eddy (Elementary)

- a. Thank you to the Hancock Rotary for their donation of a book and planting materials for each 3rd-grade student. The Interact Club read the books to the students.
- b. For the 2nd year in a row, Barkell Elem hosted 9 area teachers over 4 days to practice the decoding/encoding skills. Students received explicit instruction.
- c. Thank you to the Barkell PTO, families, and students for the time and support of Teacher Appreciation Week.
- d. 5th-grade transition activities are underway with administration, school social work, special education teachers, and 5th-grade teachers. On May 29th, the 5th graders will tour the MS.
- e. Field Day will be on May 29th. Rissa Cahoon designed the t-shirts. The STEM classes are creating the t-shirts. Thank you to Genevive Nordmark for overseeing the printing and sales of the t-shirts. T-shirt sales and sponsored shirts enable all students to have one for field day.
- f. Kindergarten Graduation will be on June 2nd at 9:30 am. Krissa P and Alice L will give the commencement speeches.
- g. Bike to School Day: May 19th
- h. Picnic: June 3rd at Barkell
- i. 5th-grade Mackinac Island trip: May 21-22

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. We are hosting the baseball district tournament on May 29th at the Driving Park
- d. Fall and winter scheduling for 2026-27 is underway

Student Council President Report:

- a. The Variety Show was a success on April 28th, and together with hat day, \$80 was raised
 - i. A \$20 gift certificate was given to Elija Gagnon for winning
- b. The picnic will be held in September
- c. Looking at the possibility of a Popcorn Friday fundraiser for the next school year

Liaison Reports:

HPS Foundation:

- a. Approved all the submitted grants
- b. Awarded over \$14,000 in scholarships
- c. Contributions to the library

Hancock Recreational Committee:

- a. Disc golf should be done soon
- b. The dugouts will be filled in to be surface level
- c. The path from the beach to the campground to the bike park to the Massto Hiito, then to the Porvoo Park, will be available
- d. The 26/27 budget was discussed, including the possibility of bathrooms on the Quincy Green, an ADA-compliant cabin at the campground, and an update to the HOCO.

RECORD OF MINUTES

CCASB:

- a. April 29th was the CCASB Showcase of Excellence. About 50 community members attended.
- b. The Fall Meeting was held, and the policy allowing members to attend virtually was updated

DDA:

- a. A walkway between the parking area behind the old bike shop and Quicy Street was discussed

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to accept the resignation of Jana Meckler, MS/HS Music Teacher. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paavola, to accept the resignation of Jana Meckler, MS/HS Music Teacher. Motion unanimously carried.
2. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve his attendance at the UP Administrators Academy in Escanaba, MI, on August 3-5, 2026. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve his attendance at the UP Administrators Academy in Escanaba, MI, on August 3-5, 2026. Motion unanimously carried.
3. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve his attendance at the MASA Fall Conference in Traverse City, MI, on September 23-25, 2026. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve his attendance at the MASA Fall Conference in Traverse City, MI, on September 23-25, 2026. Motion unanimously carried.
4. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the 2026-27 MHSAA Membership Resolution. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the 2026-27 MHSAA Membership Resolution. Motion unanimously carried.
5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the 2026-27 ISD Budget Resolution. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the 2026-27 ISD Budget Resolution. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, yea; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; Jordan, yea; Paul, yea; and Paavola, yea. Motion unanimously carried.
6. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Hanna Alexander, MS/HS Social Studies Teacher. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the hire of Hanna Alexander, MS/HS Social Studies Teacher. She was an excellent student teacher and is a recent NMU graduate. Motion unanimously carried.

It is recommended by Board President M. Lancour that the open session be adjourned to a closed session to discuss the superintendent contract. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the open session to go into closed session for contract discussion. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, yea; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; Jordan, yea; Paul, yea; and Paavola, yea. Motion unanimously carried. (6:30 pm)

Return to Open Session at 8:36 pm

It is recommended by Member E Lancour to approve the minutes of the closed session meeting on 5/18/2026. Moved by Member Ylitalo, Seconded by Member Paavola to approve the minutes of the closed session meeting on 5/18/2026. Motion unanimously carried.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.5/18/2026

**Regular Meeting
Page 6**

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Klein, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The motion unanimously carried.

Emilie Lancour
Board Secretary