

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.6/22/2026

**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, June 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., President M Lancour called the meeting to order.

Present: Michael Lancour, Emilie Lancour, Rod Paavola, Rebecca Ylitalo, and Charlie Klein

Absent: Catherine Jordan and Taylor Paul

Recognition of Individuals:

Congratulations to Principal Trewartha for being asked to present at the ICPEL Conference in Las Vegas. She will share about her dissertation.

Thank you to all involved in the Finno-Ugric/ Juhannus Celebrations. Special thanks to the City of Hancock, Mark Riutta, Austin & Karl from REMC1, Jim Kurtti, and Kevin Manninen.

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 May 18, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Klein, to adopt the minutes for the May 18, 2026, Regular Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

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

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

Visitor Comments: 40 visitors

Many people spoke in support of the library and the continuation of the contract. Those who spoke shared the positives of being a public library and the benefits to the students and the community. Boni and Matthew were complimented. People appreciate the children's room. Multiple people expressed a timeline that would allow other funding sources to be considered. Student and community literacy are important factors. Many wonder about the funds the City may be able to provide and about the possibility of mileage.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. Names for the November election need to be turned in by July 21st
- b. The district email domain will change in July to @hancockps.org
- c. The MDE Food Service Admin Review/audit will take place on July 9th
- d. Both Principal Trewartha and Principal Eddy received "Effective" (the highest) ratings on their evaluations. Well Done!
- e. The 2026-27 calendar will be on the July agenda

Principal Reports:

Mollie Trewartha (MS/HS)

Karen Eddy (Elementary)

- a. Current work included staffing and hiring, student scheduling, curriculum, and school improvement activities.
- b. There will be interviews for the band position next week.

* The entrances and offices for both buildings are under construction.

- a. The MS/HS office has moved to the middle school end of the building
- b. Please use the alternate entrance to access the elementary office.
- c. Public Office Hours will be Monday - Thursday, 9 am-2 pm

Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

- a. no report

Student Council President Report:

- a. Reports will continue in September

Liaison Reports:

- a. HPS Foundation: meeting will be on July 22
- b. Hancock Recreational Committee: no meeting
- c. CCASB: no meeting
- d. DDA: Decision about parking and signage

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the final revised 2025-26 budget. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paavola, to approve the final revised 2025-26 budget. Motion unanimously carried.
2. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the final revised 2026-27 Budget and Spread Levy District Mileage. Looking at \$236,000 in deficit. Looking at ways to decrease through work with partners to not use the fund balance. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the final revised 2026-27 Budget and Spread Levy District Mileage.
3. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of State School Aid. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of State School Aid. We do this annually to ensure cash flow aligns with the state budget. Roll call vote: M Lancour, yea; Klein, yea; E Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; and Paavola, yea. Motion unanimously carried.
4. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the 1-year contract with Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC for the district audit. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the 1-year contract with Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC for the district audit. Motion unanimously carried.
5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the Thrun Policy Updates. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the Thrun Policy Updates. Motion unanimously carried.
6. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Kyla Larson, Elementary Teacher. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the hire of Kyla Larson, Elementary Teacher. She is a recent NMU grad. She will be teaching 5th-grade ELA and Science in the fall. Motion unanimously carried.
7. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the hire of Aili Stuber, Elementary Teacher. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the hire of Aili Stuber, Elementary Teacher. She will be teaching 1st grade in the fall. Member Paavola abstained. Motion carried.
8. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve tenure for Stacy Bussier, HS PE/Health teacher. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Paavola, to approve tenure for Stacy Bussier, HS PE/Health teacher. Motion unanimously carried.
9. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve tenure for Joe Slocum, ELA Educator. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Klein, to approve tenure for Joe Slocum, ELA Educator. Motion unanimously carried.
10. It is recommended by Board President M Lancour to approve the contract for Superintendent Salani. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Paavola, to approve the contract for Superintendent Salani. Motion unanimously carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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RECORD OF MINUTES

No.5/18/2026

Regular Meeting
Page 4

11. Discussion of the Portage lake District Library contract/continued partnership

Chris Salani commented:

- a. The community turn out is impressive and is positive for wanting the assets for the students and the community.
- b. There have been balance concerns for the past 8 years. The deficit in the budget includes the \$30,000 for the library. Part of the budget deficit is due to enrollment.
- c. Students come first, then the community
- d. We are looking at support from the Hancock Public School Foundation. They have always supported staff requests and scholarships. A request will be made at their next meeting. The city has expressed the possibility of contributing up to \$25,000. This would allow for potentially \$70,000 to operate short term or for the year.
- e. There are increased costs and strains to the district especially related to third parties.
- f. \$30,000 could be used to continue services just for students
- g. We want the community to engage with students and staff.

12. It is recommended by Board President M Lancour to authorize Superintendent Salani to expend up to \$30,000 of District Funds for Management of Library Services. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Klein, to authorize Superintendent Salani to expend up to \$30,000 of District Funds for Management of Library Services. Motion unanimously carried.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The motion unanimously carried.

Emilie Lancour
Board Secretary