

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HANCOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

RECORD OF MINUTES

No.9/21/2026

**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, September 21, 2026, at 5:31 pm. President M. Lancour called the meeting to order.

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

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 Paul, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

CCISD Presentation: Jim Rautiola, Superintendent, and Kristina Penfold, Special Education Director
A replacement millage will be on the ballot on November 3rd for Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw Counties. The funding supports services for over 1,000 special education students across the 14 local school districts and the ISD. It will continue at the current amount of 0.2903 mills. (This is different than the previous millages for the Infrastructure and CTE). More information can be found at copperisd.org/specialeducation

Erin Carlson Presentation: Erin Carlson and Michele Serafin are Family Engagement Champions.

- A shift from Involvement to engagement
- Bringing staff and community together to promote future learning as partners
- Hancock is one of 9 area schools involved in the program
- Chris Schuldt will lead Community Conversations focused on the book "Everybody Wins". The 5-6 meetings will be monthly and last no longer than 1 ½ hours.

Adoption of the August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

It is recommended by Board Secretary E Lancour that the submitted minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Jordan, to adopt the minutes for the August 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Approval of checks written for the Month of August 2026.

It is recommended by the District Business Manager, Jeff Klein, with concurrence by Board Treasurer Ylitalo, that the checks written for the Month of August 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Klein, to approve the checks written for the Month of August 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

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Approval of financial statement for the Month of August 2026.

It is recommended by the District Business Manager, Jeff Klein, with concurrence by Board Treasurer Ylitalo, that the Financial Statement for the Month of August 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the Financial Statement for the Month of August 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments: 6

Ruth Gill:

- She shared that the Hancock District Library millage will be on the November 3rd ballot
 - Board members attended the local district meetings
 - The community is amazed by the amount of library offerings
 - The community asks that we share what the library does
- She expressed concerns that the engagement piece has a follow-through plan and a way to measure outcomes so it doesn't become another ask for feedback without response.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

- a. Preliminary enrollment status: total - 524 (Spring count was 521)
- b. Consideration of electronic version of paperwork (Ipads/chrome books) to save on printing costs and reduce paper
- c. Health insurance increase of 12.9%
- d. Bid Package 1 is complete
- e. Barkell 3rd and 4th grade MSTEP scores are outstanding
- f. Save the date:
 - i. October 9th: Area-Wide In-service (in-house)
 - ii. Copper Bowl: Oct 19-23
 - iii. Nov 12th: Half-day with PT Conferences
 - iv. Dec 11th: Staff Holiday Gathering at Small Craft
- g. Wearable Emergency Alert Pendants: The PO has been submitted
- h. City Partnership update: The 711 Water St. renovation project will be presented at the 10/21 council meeting
- i. Hancock Area District Library and CCISD Special Education Millage will be on the ballot. Language from HPS will be discussed.

Principal Reports:

Karen Eddy - Barkell Elementary

- a. Grades 3-5 Spring 2026 MSTEP results compared to local schools and the state.
 - i. Math 3rd grade: 67.4% (state 42.9%)
 - ii. Math 4th grade: 60% (state 39.4%)
 - iii. Math 5th grade: 35.1% (state 32.2%)
 - iv. ELA 3rd grade: 65.2% (state 38.2%)

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- b. Open House
 - i. Held on September 1st and was well attended by Barkell families
 - ii. Thank you to the staff for preparing classrooms and welcoming students and families
- c. Family Engagement Series
 - i. Erin Carlson, Engagement Champion for Barkell
 - ii. Michele Serafin, Engagement Champion for the MS/HS
 - iii. Focused on strengthening family, school, and community partnerships
- d. Fall Benchmark Assessments
 - i. Acadience Reading - week of Sept 14th
 - ii. Renaissance Reading and Math - Week of Sept 21st
- e. GSRP Preschool started Sept. 14 and ends June 3rd
 - i. Current enrollment: 16 students (room for 2 more)
- f. Fall Fest Sept 29th, 5:30-7:30 pm
 - i. Sponsored by the PTO
 - ii. Opportunity for families to come together for fun at school

Mollie Trewartha - Middle and High School

- a. 6th grade orientation included RISE expectations, teacher-led stations, time with lockers, and a scavenger hunt
- b. RISE Behavior Expectations: Respect, Integrity, SISU, and Engagement
 - i. MS staff are teaching the expectations
 - ii. Mrs. Trewartha met with all HS students
- c. Student activities
 - i. Green Bandana Project participated in Copper Shores Suicide Prevention Walk. Sophomore Brielle Arceci was a featured speaker
 - ii. The Green Bandana Project will host a Suicide Awareness event at the volleyball games on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd
 - iii. Representatives of the US Navy visited HCH and gave a talk on leadership, teamwork, and service on Sept. 15th. On Sept. 16th, students participated in a team-building Navy SEAL activity
 - iv. Mrs. Serafin and 24 upperclassmen attended the MTU Career Fair on Sept. 16th

Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

- a. Volleyball off to a solid start, 12-2-1 record and #1 in Division 4
- b. Current open positions for MS boys basketball and girls JV basketball. Anticipating an opening for JV boys basketball.
- c. Currently drafting winter schedules and some advance work done on spring sports
- d. Football 3-1 start
- e. Cross Country has excelling individuals in both the MS and the HS

Student Council President Report:

- a. The role needs to be filled

Liaison Reports:

- a. HPS Foundation:
 - i. Meeting will be in October

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- b. Hancock Recreational Committee:
 - i. Approved ~\$15,000 to repair and paint the Lauren Grove pickleball courts
 - ii. "Dugout" project is near completion
 - iii. A millage renewal of .8 mils for 5 years is on the November ballot
 - iv. MI DNR land process will convert a local park
 - v. M-DOT has approved the installation of a crosswalk and signage for the connection of the path from the campground to the bike park (The city will cover the costs)
 - vi. Approved \$6,000 for an access trail connector along the side of the highway
- c. CCASB:
 - i. no meeting
- d. DDA:
 - i. Discussed the upcoming recreation millage

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to accept the resignation of Carolyn Decker, Representative, for the Hancock Area Library Board. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member E Lancour, to accept the resignation of Carolyn Decker, Representative, for the Hancock Area Library Board. Motion passed unanimously.
2. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to appoint Amy Hughes, Representative, for the Hancock Area Library Board. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Paul, to appoint Amy Hughes, Representative, for the Hancock Area Library Board. Motion passed unanimously.
3. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the renewal of a three (3) year MOU with the City of Hancock for SRO services. Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the renewal of a three (3) year MOU with the City of Hancock for SRO services. This is dependent on funding. The SRO is a vital piece of our community. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Klein, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm. The motion unanimously carried.

Emilie Lancour
Board Secretary