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, October 19, 2026, at 5:33 pm. President M. Lancour called the meeting to order.

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

Recognition of Any Delegation or Individual:

1) October is National Principals' Month. Thank you to Karen Eddy and Mollie Trewartha for your dedication to the students, staff, and school community
2) Margaret Hamilton, Software Engineer at MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, Hancock graduate, passes at age 90.

Agenda Items:
Routine Matters

Adoption of Agenda
It is recommended by Superintendent Salani that the submitted agenda be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Jordan, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

Adoption of the September 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
It is recommended by Board Secretary E Lancour that the submitted minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2026, be adopted as presented. Moved by Member Ylitalo, seconded by Member Paavola, to adopt the minutes for the September 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

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

Approval of the financial statement for the Month of September 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 September 2026 be approved as presented. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the Financial Statement for the Month of September 2026. The motion unanimously carried.

Visitor Comments: 5

- Deanna Levanen (supported by Joel)
    - I have been invested in the PTO for many years. I sent an email about Mackinac Island in the spring and am disappointed in the lack of response. I am concerned about stability in 5th grade. I do not feel heard. I am requesting a partnership between parents and the principal.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Report: Chris Salani

a. Positive enrollment status
b. The $1700 Federal Scholarship Tax Credit may begin in 2027; it provides a tax credit for cash contributions to scholarship-granting agencies and is an evolving topic.
c. 31aa waiver: Security and mental health funding (Provides the school Security Resource Officer (SRO) and social work at the elementary school)
d. The Trane Corp Partnership will provide full costs of work on Nov 3rd
e. Nov 12th: Half-day with PT Conferences
f. Dec 11th: Staff Holiday Gathering at Small Craft
g. Mr Earll presenting to the City Council about the 711 Water St. renovation project

Principal Reports:
Karen Eddy - Barkell Elementary

a. Reviewed reading data and created targeted intervention
b. A lot of collaboration on October 9th
c. Will continue to review MTSS data
d. Extracurriculars happening
    i. Fitness Club, Student Council, Robotics Club, and Lego Club
e. Fall Fest Sept 29th over 300 families attended
f. Fire Prevention Month
    i. Thank you to the Hancock Fire Department for holding assemblies
g. Can-a-thon
    i. Collection of all food, especially cereal boxes (domino challenge at end of the collection)
h. Halloween:
    i. 1st grade will sing at Portage Pointe and The Lighthouse
    ii. Mrs. Nordmark will guide the 5th grade pumpkin drop
    iii. 1:00 parade on Friday the 30th

Mollie Trewartha - Middle and High School

a. Sept 29th School Improvement K-12 met (align PD goals)
b. October 9th was focused on priorities, and departments met together for a data review
c. MTSS (RISE) reflection on discipline process
    i. A points system is starting (called Minga)
    ii. Rewards will be determined
    iii. Staff are getting adjusted to implementing
d. Sophomores from last year finished a project in the Creekside Native Garden
e. It's Copper Bowl Week
f. Meetings will be held Dec - April around engagement
g. Stacy Bussier will lead student government (and the spirit club)
h. Alumni and family are invited to join the pep band on a Friday night at the Copper Bowl game

Athletic Director report: Ryan Towles

a. Volleyball off to a solid start, 24-2-1 record with two tournament titles
b. Winter schedules should be posted soon

Student Council President Report:

a. The role needs to be filled

Liaison Reports:

a. HPS Foundation:
    i. Meeting will be this week
b. Hancock Recreational Committee: no meeting
c. CCASB: no meeting
d. DDA: no meeting

New Business/Discussion/Action Items:

1. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to accept the resignation of Marcus Sutherland, JV Boys Basketball Coach. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Jordan, to accept the resignation of Marcus Sutherland, JV Boys Basketball Coach. Motion passed unanimously.

2. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve the hire of Cole Smith, Middle School and JV Boys Basketball Coach. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the hire of Cole Smith, Middle School and JV Boys Basketball Coach. Motion passed unanimously.

3. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve the hire of Emily L'Espernace, JV Girls Basketball Coach. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Paul, to approve the hire of Emily L'Espernace, JV Girls Basketball Coach. Motion passed unanimously.

4. It is recommended by Athletic Director Towels to approve the renewal of the winter coaches. Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to approve the renewal of the winter coaches: Varsity Hockey: Joe Burchar, Assistant Varsity Hockey Coach: Kyle Hauswirth, Varsity Hockey Volunteers: Cam Burggrabe and Matt Marchall; JV Hockey Coach: Paul Dube, JV Assistant Hockey Volunteer: Matt Freeman, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach: Jay Caserio, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach: Carsen Chynoweth, Assistant Girls Basketball Coaches: Caitlynne Barrette and Lexie Turner. Motion passed unanimously.

5. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the Annual Summer Tax Resolution. Moved by Member Jordan, seconded by Member E Lancour, to approve the Annual Summer Tax Resolution. M Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; E Lancour, yea; Jordan, yea; Paavola and Paul, yea. Motion passed unanimously.

6. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to approve the Resolution to opt into the 31aa Security Grant. Moved by Member E Lancour, seconded by Member Jordan, to approve the Resolution to opt into the 31aa Security Grant. M Lancour, yea; Ylitalo, yea; E Lancour, yea; Jordan, yea; Paavola and Paul, yea. Motion passed unanimously.

7. It is recommended by Superintendent Salani to accept the resignation of Jack Johnson Elementary teacher. Moved by Member Paul, seconded by Member Jordan, to accept the resignation of Jack Johnson Elementary teacher. There will be a long-term sub to allow the district to hire the best candidate. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Member Paavola, seconded by Member Ylitalo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. The motion unanimously carried.

Emilie Lancour
Board Secretary