

**HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP**  
**Students for Life**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA**

7:00 PM - June 12, 2023, Meeting

Harper Creek Administration Building  
7454 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014

<https://youtube.com/live/sgrUuPn-EqU?feature=share>

- I. The Harper Creek Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Bess.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bess followed by a moment of silence.
- III. Roll Call: Erin Allwardt, Beau Bess, Dale Borders, Brad Halverson, Barry Smith, Sara Wallace, Chae Waterson, Student Member -Cameron Winsor – All present
- IV. The Ceremonial Oath of Office for Mrs. Waterson was led by Mr. Bess.
- V. Review and Approval of Agenda – Addition of the action item E. -Setting of the Budget Hearing Date of June 26, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Borders

That the Harper Creek Board of Education add Public Budget Hearing date to the agenda as action item E.

Roll Call: Mr. Smith Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mr. Bess Y. Motion Carries: 7-0

- VI. Communications
  - A. President's Remarks – Mr. Bess thanked the audience in attendance and those watching on YouTube. He welcomed Chae Waterson. In addition, Mr. Bess mentioned that Summer School has begun for session one. He also thanked Deb Hall for the art display at Admin. Building. Lastly, Mr. Bess thanked all who participated in the graduation.
  - B. Administration – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the results of the CISD Board elections – Jean Goodrich: 2-year seat, Eric Greene: 6-year seat, and Catherine Yates: 6-year seat. In addition, Mr. Ridgeway discussed summer school stating that 200 students are attending at the middle school. He added that Beadle Lake Elementary childcare continues over the summer and that food service is busy with meals for summer school students as well as Eat Up/Meet Up. Another item Mr. Ridgeway discussed is the new Harper Creek website that will be up on July 1, 2023. Next, Mr. Ridgeway mentioned the *Grow Your Own Grant* that helps employees get further certifications or support staff can get their teaching certification. Human

Resource Director Tammy Chapman wrote this grant. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Strategic Planning proposed date of Monday, July 31, 2023, MASB classes, and book concerns. Lastly, Mr. Ridgeway congratulated the retirees from 2023: Matt Barton, Anita Cook, Bene Johnson, Kay Rauch, Mike Seedorff, Kathy Smalley, Dar Smith, and Sue Swanton.

C. Board Secretary - None

VII. District Updates

- A. Curriculum – Mrs. Williams submitted a report and highlighted areas in her report. First, she discussed the successes of the Kindergarten Countdown. This year's format allows teachers to test students on developmental skills and academic readiness. Next, Mrs. Williams discussed the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Health/Wellness course proposal using scope and sequence. Also, Mrs. Williams discussed the NWEA report. Our district's growth goal was to have every student make 60th-percentile growth toward closing achievement gaps. Lastly, Mrs. Williams stated that goal setting and keeping students highly engaged will continue to be focused upon as well as building the PLC culture.
- B. Facility – Mr. Robinson submitted a report to the Board. Mr. Robinson highlighted the Beadle Lake Elementary window film project that has been done and looks fantastic. Next, Mr. Robinson discussed the tennis court updates that have been completed and provides a much safer surface for students, athletes, and community members. Also, Mr. Robinson discussed the high school HVAC project has started and is being watched closely. Lastly, Mr. Robinson thanked all who worked hard to make graduation a huge success.
- C. Finance – Ms. Obermyer submitted a report including Board Breakdown, Cash Balance, and Check Registry. Ms. Obermyer discussed three new CDs that she and Mr. Ridgeway purchased. Lastly, Ms. Obermyer stated that she will discuss the Tax Levy and the new budget later in the agenda.
- D. Technology – Mr. Maynard submitted a report. Mr. Maynard highlighted summer projects and the projector replacement project for the high school auditorium. The projector will be an action item. Mr. Ridgeway recommends the projector purchase for the high school auditorium.

VIII. Comments Related to Agenda Items - none

IX. Consent Agenda - All items on this consent agenda were previously considered by the Harper Creek Board of Education and are recommended by Central Office, and will be acted upon in a single roll call vote of the Board. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests, in which event the matter shall be removed from the consent agenda and considered as a separate item.

- A. Approve the General Fund checks, School Services Fund checks (Food Service), and Student/School Activities Fund Checks, in accordance with the list discussed.

1. May 8, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. May 24, 2023, Extracurricular Meeting Minutes
3. May 24, 2023, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
4. May 24, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
5. June 8, 2023, Budget Committee Meeting  
Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Borders  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bess Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Smith Y.

Motion Carries: 7-0

X. Information and Discussion

- A. School Safety: Mr. Ridgeway discussed the safety assessment completed by Secure Education Consultants. The safety committee heard the report at the meeting. The consultants stated that Harper Creek has many positive measures for safety in place. A meeting in closed session with the Board and consultants will take place to hear recommendations. Also, Mr. Ridgeway discussed the Threat Assessment Training (Train the Trainer) that Kim Thayer attended.
- B. Committee Assignments: The Board assigned open committee positions. Building Committee (3): Beau Bess, Barry Smith, Erin Allwardt. Personnel Committee (3): Brad Halverson, Sara Wallace, Chae Waterson. Policy Committee (3): Dr. Borders, Erin Alwardt, Chae Waterson. MASB delegates Dr. Borders and alternate Barry Smith. CISD Representative – Dr. Borders Alternate: Barry Smith, HCEF – Beau Bess and Barry Smith
- C. Extracurricular Committee Update – Brad Halverson, Barry Smith, Sara Wallace. The committee met to set purpose and objectives. It was decided that the committee will meet three times a year (fall, winter, and spring). The objectives of the committee are to establish communication in both recruitments of student participation and marketing events before and after, handbook and policy oversite, more student participation, and a commitment to using data in decision making.
- D. 2023-24 Budget Update – Ms. Obermyer discussed the 2023/2024 proposed budget, revenue assumptions, and expense assumptions. Mrs. Obermyer also discussed possible adjustments. Mr. Ridgeway discussed Years of Service.
- E. Tax Levy Request – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the annual tax levy request. This levy allocates 18 Mills for operating purposes on non-homestead properties and 7.12 Mills for debt retirement purposes on both homestead and non-homestead properties for the 2023 tax collection year in the taxing units of the City of Battle Creek, and the Townships of Emmett, Fredonia, Leroy, Marshall, Newton, and Pennfield. Mr. Ridgeway recommends passing the tax levy.

- F. MHSAA Membership Resolution – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the MHSAA resolution that Harper Creek must pass every year to participate in MHSAA state-run tournaments and Harper Creek Community Schools agrees to follow the rules and regulations set by MHSAA. Mr. Ridgeway recommends passing the resolution.
- G. New Hires – Mr. Ridgeway recommends the hiring of three new teachers.
  - 1. Nicole Asher - Autism Spectrum Disorder Teacher – WPE- MA13
  - 2. Heather Ferrell – 7<sup>th</sup>-grade math – middle school -MA9
  - 3. Janie Neckermann – Integrated Arts – BLE -MA5Mr. Ridgeway recommends hiring the three teachers listed above.
- H. Review of Board Bylaws – Mr. Ridgeway discussed the level 2000 board policies for all board members to understand. Mr. Ridgeway discussed that policies at the 2000 level are board specific. Mr. Ridgeway also discussed 100 CBA courses that can be taken through MASB.

XI. Comments From the Audience – Mark Koster – asked the Board to consider weighing of grades of students who attend the Math and Science Center.  
Dru Koster – Spoke regarding weighing classes at Math and Science Center to get recognition for scholarships.  
Ethan Tabiadon –Discussed the reasons why weighing math and science classes would help students stand out to colleges.

XII. ACTION

A. Tax Levy Request

Reason for Board Consideration

The Harper Creek Board of Education must approve the tax levy for the district.

Analysis and Conclusion

That the Harper Creek Board of Education set the school district's tax levy at 18 mills for operating purposes on non-homestead properties, and 7.12 mills for debt retirement purposes on both homestead and non-homestead properties for the 2023 tax collection year.

Recommendation

Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mr. Smith,

That the Harper Creek Board of Education set the school district's tax levy at 18 mills for operating purposes on non-homestead properties, 7.12 mills for debt retirement purposes on both homestead and non-homestead properties for the 2023 tax collection year in the taxing units of the City of Battle Creek and the Townships of Emmett, Fredonia, Leroy, Marshall, Newton, and Pennfield.

Roll call vote: Mr. Smith \_Y \_\_, Mrs. Allwardt \_Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_Y \_\_, Mrs.

Waterson \_Y \_\_, Mr. Halverson \_Y \_\_, Mr. Bess \_Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_Y \_\_.

Motion carried: 7-0

B. MHSAA Membership Resolution

Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the 2023/2024 MHSAA Membership Resolution as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bess \_ Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_ Y \_\_, Mrs. Wallace \_ Y \_\_,

Mrs. Allwardt \_ Y \_\_, Mr. Halverson \_ Y \_\_, Mrs. Waterson \_Y \_\_.

Carries 7-0

C. Projector

Motion by Dr. Borders, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the high school auditorium projector purchase using ESSER funding with a cost of \$16,010.15 within a 5% variance as discussed and reviewed.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Halverson \_Y \_\_, Mr. Bess \_Y \_\_, Dr. Borders \_Y \_\_, Mr. Smith \_Y \_\_, Mrs.

Waterson \_Y \_\_, Mrs. Wallace\_Y \_\_, Mrs. Allwardt \_Y \_\_.

Motion carries: 7-0.

D. New Hires Motion by Mrs. Wallace, supported by Mr. Smith.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education approves the following new hires for the 2023/2024 school year.

Nicole Asher – Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Teacher – Wattles Park Elementary MA – Oakland University BS Western Michigan University.  
MA13

Heather Ferrell – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math -MA and BS Western Michigan University. MA9

Janie Neckermann – Integrated Arts Teacher – Beadle Lake Elementary. MA University of Southern California BA Illinois State University. MA5

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bess Y, Dr. Borders Y, Mrs. Wallace Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y,

Mrs. Waterson Y, Mr. Halverson Y.

Motion carries: 7-0

E. Setting the Budget Hearing Date June 26, 2023, 5:00 PM.

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Borders.

That the Harper Creek Board of Education set the Public Hearing For June 26, 2023, at 5:00 PM and hereby authorizes and directs the Administration to send a timely notice of the time, date, and place of the Public Hearing to the BC Shopper News and the Secretary of the Board of Education shall post notice of the Public Hearing in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Halverson Y, Mrs. Allwardt Y, Mr. Smith Y, Mrs. Wallace Y,

Dr. Borders Y, Mr. Bess Y, Mrs. Waterson Y.

Motion Carries: 7-0

XIII. Items for the Next Meeting – public comment

XIV. Adjournment – 9:00

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.