

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Middle School Robotics Room

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Nate Huffman, Superintendent; John Messmer, Board President; Bill Short, Board Vice President; Eric Thacker, Board Member; Burgess Castle, Board Member; Kathy Belcher, Board Member; Jessika Roberts, Assistant Treasurer; Jason Fleming; Board Member, Board Member

1 Call to Order

President

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Attachments:

2 Pledge of Allegiance

President

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attachments:

3 Roll Call

President

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer called roll. All members present.

Attachments:

4 Approve Minutes

Resolution to approve the minutes for the September 11, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting as presented

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-219 Approve Minutes

Motioned: Bill Short
Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[00.08 Regular Meeting 09.11.2024.pdf](#)

5 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the September 2024 Financial Statements as presented.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-220 Approve Financial Statements

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

6 Public Participation

Community

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient manner, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes has elapsed. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity. Persons desiring more time should follow procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board present and voting.

Minutes:

Mayor Whited addressed the Board to express the Village of Marengo's interest in the property with the baseball diamonds located in Marengo.

Attachments:

7 Accept Resignation Letters From Personnel

Resolution to approve the following resignations

Lainey Schmidt MS Aide (Effective 9-27-24)

Jennifer Alexander Preschool Aide (Effective 10-3-24)

Belle Ayala HS English Teacher (Effective 9-20-24)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-221 Accept Resignation Letters From Personnel

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

8 Accept Retirement Letter From Personnel

Resolution to approve the following retirement

Aaron Shipley NJROTC Instructor

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-222 Accept Retirement Letter From Personnel

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		

Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

9 Approve FMLA Request

Resolution to approve FMLA request for the following personnel

Laura Ball HS Custodian

Caitlin Harrod ES Teacher

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-223 Approve FMLA Request

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

10 Approve Classified Contracts for 1 Year

Resolution to approve the following classified personnel by one year contract

Jennifer Bolton MS EA2 (Step 6) (Effective 9-27-24)

Sarah Gorenflo ES EA2 (Step 0) (Effective 10-8-24)

Christa Smith ES EA2 (Step 3) (Effective 10-3-24)

Hannah Heck ES EA1 (Step 0) (Effective 10-7-24)

Ryleigh Dewart ES EA1 (Step 0) pending background check

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-224 Approve Classified Contracts for 1 Year

Motioned: Eric Thacker
Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member		X	
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

11 Approve EA3 Stipends

Resolution to approve a \$600 EA3 stipend for the following personnel

Jennifer Bolton MS Aide (Effective 9-27-24)

Christa Smith ES Aide (Effective 10-3-24)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-225 Approve EA3 Stipends

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member		X	
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

12 Approve Certified Contract For 1 Year

Resolution to approve the following certified personnel for 1 year contract.

Derek Bielecki HS English (Step 3) (Effective 10-2-24)

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-226 Approve Certified Contract For 1 Year

Motioned: Kathy Belcher
Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

13 Approve Certified Contract For 5 Years

Resolution to approve the following certified contract effective beginning SY2024-2025.

Jessica Norris Elementary Teacher

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-227 Approve Certified Contract For 5 Years

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

14 Approve Trip Request

Resolution to approve the following trip request.

FFA National Convention October 23th - 26th in Indianapolis

Youth and Government Conference January 25th - February 2nd at the Ohio State House.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-228 Approve Trip Request

Motioned: Bill Short
Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

15 Approve Substitute Teacher Pay Rate

Resolution to approve the substitute teacher pay rate of \$135.00 per day and \$150.00 per day for retired Highland teachers; effective 10/10/2024.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-229 Approve Substitute Teacher Pay Rate

Motioned: Eric Thacker
Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

16 Approve Athletic Ticket Price Change

Resolution to approve the ticket price change to follow changes in state law. All sub varsity, including middle school, will be \$6 for adults and \$5 for students.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-230 Approve Athletic Ticket Price Change

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

17 Approve Supplemental Contracts

Resolution to approve the following personnel for a supplemental contract

Julie McLeod MS Robotics Assistant (1 Year)
Tyler DeWeese HS Assistant Robotics (0 Years)
Ryan Stover HS Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach (6 Years)
Anthony Wilson HS Boys Varsity Assistant Basketball (9+ Years)
Garrett Fitzpatrick HS JV Boys Head Basketball Coach (3 Years)
Chris Rupe 8th Grade Boys Head Basketball Coach (9+ Years)
Payton Woodruff 7th Grade Boys Head Basketball Coach (8 Years)
Matt Bradley HS Girls Head Basketball Coach (9+ Years)
Matt Downing HS Girls Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach (9+ Years)
Brett Behnfeldt JV Girls Head Basketball Coach (9+ Years)
Hailey Guisinger 8th Grade Girls Head Basketball Coach (1 Year)
Brooke Squires 7th Grade Girls Head Basketball Coach (0 Years) (pending background check)
Adam Gilmore HS Head Wrestling Coach (9+ Years)
Alec Fulwider Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach (1 Year Split Contract)
Tristan Hinkle Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach (2 Year Split Contract)
Luke Clemens Head Middle Wrestling (9+ Years)
Katelyn Zellner MS Assistant Wrestling Coach (2 Years)
Rich Williams HS Head Girls Wrestling Coach (9+ Years)
Zach Baker Volunteer HS Wrestling Coach
Chris Ballard Volunteer MS Girls Basketball Coach
Dawn Hicks HS Head Girls Bowling Coach (5 Years)
Ty Hicks HS Head Boys Bowling Coach (5 Years)
Christy Barnett HS/MS Head Cheer Coach (7 Years)
Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-231 Approve Supplemental Contracts

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member			X
Burgess Castle, Board Member		X	
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

18 Approve Classified Subs

Resolution to approve the following classified personnel as subs

Jennifer Alexander Aide / Cook/Cashier

Alanna Salmons Aide / Cook/Cashier

James Rennie Aide

Mindy Marquez Cook/Cashier (Effective 9-26-24)

Linda Meade Aide/Secretary

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-232 Approve Classified Subs

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

19 Approve Substitute Secretary Rate

Resolution to approve the Substitute Secretary pay rate of step 0 per the adopted salary schedule for the position.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-233 Approve Substitute Secretary Rate

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

20 Blue Utility Building

Resolution to approve the enhancement of the blue utility building contingent upon receiving a \$50,000 donation from the athletic boosters. Total cost to the Board of Education outside of donations to the Board of Education not to exceed \$5,000.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-234 Blue Utility Building

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

21 Purpose and Budget Clauses

Resolution to approve the following Purpose and Budget Clauses for SY2024-2025

- Backpack Blessings
- HMS Student Council

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-235 Purpose and Budget Clauses

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

22 Medical Insurance

Resolution to approve the Cigna medical insurance proposal for calendar year 2025 with board and employee % contributions to remain at the % contribution rates utilized for calendar year 2024, including HRA and HSA board amounts.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-236 Medical Insurance

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

23 Payment in Lieu of Transportation

Resolution to approve Payment in Lieu of Transportation for the following students who live in the Highland District and attend a private school within 30 minutes of the Highland District. Transportation has been deemed impracticable.

Blakelee Staton Gilead Christian

Parker Staton Gilead Christian

Harper Gillen	Gilead Christian
Natalie Hurst	Gilead Christian
Gage Beacom	Gilead Christian
Jaidyn Julian	Genoa Christian
Ethan Dill	Genoa Christian
Norah Dill	Genoa Christian
Layla Hart	Genoa Christian
Lydia Hart	Genoa Christian
Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___	

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-237 Payment in Lieu of Transportation

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

24 Move from Regular to Executive Session

WHEREAS, as a public board of education may hold an executive session only after a majority of a quorum of this board determines by a roll call vote to hold such a session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the following matters:

1. To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual.
2. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes or for the sale of property at competitive bidding.
3. Conferences with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board of education that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
4. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.
5. Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes.
6. Specialized details of security arrangements where disclosure of the matters discussed might reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing or avoiding prosecution for a violation of the law.

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Local Board of Education, by a majority of the quorum present at this meeting, does hereby declare its intention to hold an executive session on item(s) as listed above.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

The Board entered into executive session for reason #1 above at 7:03 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-238 Executive Session

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Burgess Castle, Board Member		X	
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

25 Regular Session Reconvened

Minutes:

Regular Session reconvened at 7:38 pm.

Attachments:

26 Adjourn this Meeting and Confirm Next Meeting Date

Resolution to adjourn this meeting and schedule the next meeting of the Highland Local School District Board of Education to be held Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the middle school robotics room.

Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Minutes:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 24-10-239 Adjournment

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		

Burgess Castle, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments: