

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Middle School Robotics Room

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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 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. Mr. Castle was absent. All other members present.

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

Attachments:

Approve Minutes

- 4 Resolution to approve the minutes for the February 12, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting as presented
Roll Call: Kathy Belcher___ Burgess Castle___ John Messmer___ William Short___ Eric Thacker___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-046 Approve Minutes

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[Regular Meeting 02.12.2025.pdf](#)

5 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the February 2025 Financial Statements as presented.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-047 Approve Financial Statements

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		
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:

Mrs. Clark addressed the BOE about HCP, the soccer field, and the Chesterville baseball fields.

Ms. Miller addressed the BOE about the potential promotion of Mr. Russell.

Attachments:

7 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:

A. Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

B. Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student unless such employee, official, licensee, or student requests a public meeting; except that consideration of the discipline of a Board member for conduct related to the performance of their duties or their removal from office shall not be held in executive session.

C. Consideration of the purchase of property for public purposes, or sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, unfit-for-use property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.

D. Discussion with the Board's legal counsel of disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

E. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of employment.

F. Matters required to be confidential by Federal law or regulations or State statutes.

G. Specialized details of security arrangements and emergency response protocols where disclosure might reveal information that could jeopardize the District's security.

H. Consideration of confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, provided that both of the following conditions apply:

1. The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under one of the statutes referenced in R.C. 121.22(G)(8)(1), or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project, and

2. An unanimous quorum of the Board or its subcommittee determines, by a roll call vote, that the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

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 BOE entered executive session at 6:29 pm for letter E above.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-048 Executive Session

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

8 Regular Session Reconvened

Minutes:

Regular Session reconvened at 6:44 pm.

Attachments:

9 Accept Resignation Letters From Personnel

Resolution to approve the following resignations.

Lance Gallogly MS Custodian (effective 3-7-25)

Mary Louis 3rd Grade Title Reading (effective 6-6-25)

Kayla Chatterton HS English

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-049 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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

10 Approve Classified Subs

Resolution to approve the following classified substitutes.

Richard Dobucki Custodian

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-050 Approve Classified Subs

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

11 Approve Supplemental Contract

Resolution to approve the following supplemental contracts.

Caitlin Nelson Varsity Assistant Softball Coach (1 Year)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-051 Approve Supplemental Contract

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

12 Approve NJROTC Salary, Pay Structure, and Contract

Resolution to approve the salary, pay structure, and one year contract of Louis D'hondt and Paul Kunkle; salary subject to increase when congress enacts new scales and as such, the school share of salary could increase.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-052 Approve NJROTC Salary, Pay Structure, and Contract

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

13 Employ Certified Administrator By Two (2) Year Contract

Resolution to approve the following administrative contract per the adopted salary schedule.

Chad Russell Middle School Assistant Principal (step 0)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-053 Employ Certified Administrator By Two (2) Year Contract

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

14 Approve First Reading of Board Policy Changes

Resolution to approve the first reading of the following board policy changes.

PO 0131.1 Technical Corrections

PO 0171 Rescind Review of Policy

PO 1422.01 Drug Free Workplace

PO 2271 College Credit Plus Program

PO 2340 Field and Other Sponsored Trips
 PO 2431 Interscholastic Athletics
 PO 2460 Revised Special Education
 PO 5113 Inter-District Open Enrollment
 PO 5120 Assignment Within District
 PO 5131 Student Transfers
 PO 5136 Revised Personal Communication Devices
 PO 5223 Release Time For Religious Instruction During The School Day
 PO 5330 Use of Medications
 PO 5350 Student Health, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention
 PO 5460 Graduation Requirements
 PO 5610 Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Expulsion of Students
 PO 5751 Parental Status of Students
 PO 5780.01 Parent's Bill of Rights
 PO 6151 Insufficient Funds Checks
 PO 7440.01 Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
 PO 8142 Criminal History Record Check For Contracted School Services
 PO 8452 Automated External Defibrillators and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 PO 8500 Food Services

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-054 Approve First Reading of Board Policy Changes

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

15 Approve Special Education Resolution

Approve the resolution to adopt Special Education Model Policies and Procedures

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-055 Approve Special Education Resolution

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

16 Approve OHSAA Membership

Resolution to approve the membership with the OHSAA for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-056 Approve OHSAA Membership

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

17 Approve Trip Request

Resolution to approve the following trip request.

NJROTC to Quantico, VA and Washington D.C. April 7-11, 2025

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-057 Approve Trip Request

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: John Messmer

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

Attachments:

18 Mid-Ohio ESC Estimate for Services During FY25

Resolution to approve the revised Mid-Ohio ESC service contract for FY2025

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-058 Mid-Ohio Estimate for Services During FY25

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

19 Bus Purchase

Resolution to approve the purchase of one (1) 72 Passenger Conventional bus from Rush Truck Centers at a cost of \$136,932 through the META Solutions stock bus bid contract which includes warranty, cameras, and undercoating as listed on form T4

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-059 Bus Purchase

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

20 META Solutions Master Services Agreement

Resolution to approve the Master Service Agreement with META Solutions for fiscal year 2026.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-060 META Solutions Master Services Agreement

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

21 Accept Donation

Resolution to accept a \$55,000 donation from Kokosing for soccer field enhancements.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-061 Accept Donation

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

22 Revised Appropriations and Estimated Resources

Resolution to approve the revised fund level appropriations and estimated resources.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-062 Revised Appropriations and Estimated Resources

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

23 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:

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B. Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student unless such employee, official, licensee, or student requests a public meeting; except that consideration of the discipline of a Board member for conduct related to the performance of their duties or their removal from office shall not be held in executive session.

C. consideration of the purchase of property for public purposes, or sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, unfit-for-use property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.

D. Discussion with the Board's legal counsel of disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

E. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of employment.

F. Matters required to be confidential by Federal law or regulations or State statutes.

G. specialized details of security arrangements and emergency response protocols where disclosure might reveal information that could jeopardize the District's security.

H. Consideration of confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, provided that both of the following conditions apply:

1. The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under one of the statutes referenced in R.C. 121.22(G)(8)(1), or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic

development project, and

2. An unanimous quorum of the Board or its subcommittee determines, by a roll call vote, that the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

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 BOE entered into executive session at 6:55 pm for letter E above.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-063 Executive Session

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

24 Regular Session Reconvened

Minutes:

Regular session reconvened at 8:22 pm.

Attachments:

25 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, April 9, 2025 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 8:23 pm. Mr. Short wasn't present at adjournment.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-03-064 Adjournment

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments: