

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Middle School Robotics Room

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Nate Huffman, Superintendent; John Messmer, Board President; Bill Short, Board Vice President; Eric Thacker, Board Member; Kathy Belcher, Board Member; Jason Fleming; Board Member, Board Member

Absent: Burgess Castle, Board Member; Jessika Roberts, Assistant Treasurer

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.

Attachments:

4 Approve Minutes

Resolution to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting as presented

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-171 Approve Minutes

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:

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5 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the June 2025 Financial Statements as presented.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-172 Approve Financial Statements

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:

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:

Ms. Hutchins asked about the potential land purchase and the associated funds that would be used for payment.

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 into executive session at 6:31 pm for item A above.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-173 Move from Regular to Executive Session

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
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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 6:38 pm.

Attachments:

9 Approve Classified Contract

Resolution to approve the following classified contracts for one year.

Tiffany D'Hondt Paraprofessional 2 (Step 0)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-174 Approve Classified Contract

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 Position Change

Shelly Adkins MS Cook/Cashier 5.5 Hours (Step 4)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-175 Approve Classified Position Change

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:

11 STRS Pickup Plan

Resolution to approve the STRS pickup plan for head building principals.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-176 STRS Pickup Plan

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:

12 SERS Pickup Plan

Resolution to approve the SERS pickup plan for the Transportation Director and Athletic Director

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-177 SERS Pickup Plan

Motioned: John Messmer

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:

13 Master Service Agreement

Resolution to approve the master service agreement between Specialized Education of Ohio, Inc. who owns High Road School of Bucyrus and Highland Local School District (effective 8/1/2025).

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-178 Master Service Agreement

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

14 Xtek - Technical Consulting Services

Resolution to approve the agreement with Xtek to provide technical consulting services related to general IT setup and repair services during FY2026.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-179 Xtek - Technical Consulting Services

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		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

15 Approve Revised NJROTC Salary

Resolution to approve the revised salary as provided by the Navy for Louis D'Hondt (pay structure to remain the same).

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-180 Approve Revised NJROTC Salary

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:

16 Financial Statement Compilation

Resolution to approve an agreement with The Auditor of State's LGS Division for financial statement compilation services related to fiscal year 2025.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-181 Financial Statement Compilation

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:

17 Transfer Class Funds

Resolution to approve the transfer of remaining unspent funds from the classes of 2023 and 2025 to the class of 2026.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-182 Transfer Class Funds

Motioned: John Messmer

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:

18 Land Contract

Approve the resolution authorizing the contract and further execution of documents by the individuals named in the resolution for the potential purchase of approximately 28+/- acres located in South Bloomfield Township, Morrow County, Ohio (currently part of tax parcel number N36-001-00-235-00).

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-183 Land 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:

19 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, August 13, 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:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-07-184 Adjournment

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: