

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Middle School Robotics Room
Wednesday, September 10, 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.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

President

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Bill Short, Board Vice President	X		
Eric Thacker, Board Member	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		

4 Approve Minutes

Resolution to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting as presented.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-213 Approve Minutes

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: John Messmer

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

Attachments:

[Regular Meeting 08.13.2025.pdf](#)

5 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the August 2025 Financial Statements as presented.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-214 Approve Financial Statements

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

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

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:

7 Approve Classified Contracts

Resolution to approve the following classified contracts for one year.

Meghan Wissel Paraprofessional 2 (Step 0) (Effective 8/18/25)

Sarah Gorenflo Paraprofessional 2 (Step 1) (Effective 9/2/25)

Hannah Heck Paraprofessional 2 (Step 1) (Effective 9/2/25)

Mindy Marquez Bus aide (Step 0) (Effective 9/3/25)

Kelsey Kincaid Bus driver (Step 0) (Effective 9/8/25)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-215 Approve Classified Contracts

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Bill Short

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

8 Amend Classified Contract

Resolution to approve the following contract amendment for school year 2026.

Jenn Bolton (185 days to 150 days)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-216 Amend Classified Contract

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

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

9 Approve FMLA Request

Resolution to approve the following FMLA request.

Natalie Lally ES Teacher (11-17-25 to 2-17-25)

Ashley Bouma ES Teacher (1-12-26 to 4-6-26)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-217 Approve FMLA Request

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Bill Short

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

10 Approve Classified Subs

Resolution to approve the following classified subs.

Dana Kemmer Cafeteria

Rosanna Mason Paraprofessional

Jessica Meadows Cook/Cashier

Ashley Fetherolf Custodian/Cook/Cashier

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-218 Approve Classified Subs

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

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

11 Approve Substitute Teachers

Resolution to approve the Mid Ohio ESC teacher substitute list.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-219 Approve Substitute Teachers

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

12 Approve Supplemental Contract

Resolution to approve the following supplemental contract

Kristy Daugherty MS Assistant Cross Country Coach (0 Years) (Effective 8/1/25)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-220 Approve Supplemental Contract

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

13 Approve Trip Request

Resolution to approve the following trip requests.

FFA National Convention: Indianapolis (Oct. 29 - Nov. 1)

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-221 Approve Trip Request

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: John Messmer

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

14 Approve Paraprofessional 3 Stipends

Resolution to approve a \$600 stipend for the following paraprofessional 3's.

Amy Ragor

Michelle Marcum

Danielle Ulrey

Stephanie Jordan

Olivia Hamilton

Tara Weaver

Jenn Bolton

Tiffany D'Hondt

Lisa Stooksbury

Christa Smith

Alanna Salmons

Bethani Ebner

Tammy Ufferman

Ashley Hughes

Kila Stillwell

Carrie Roush

Loren Prosser

Nikol Stewart

Hannah Heck

Camryn Taylor

Crystal Kyser

Renae Schwartz

Anne Starner

Brian Ballard

Kristina Ferenbaugh

Stephanie Lehman

Brittany Mullins

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-222 Approve Paraprofessional 3 Stipends

Motioned: Bill Short
Seconded: John Messmer

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

15 MOU - Sick Leave Bank

Resolution to approve the Sick Leave Bank MOU between the Highland Education Association and the Highland Local School District Board of Education.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-223 MOU - Sick Leave Bank

Motioned: Bill Short
Seconded: John Messmer

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

16 Purpose and Budget Clauses

Resolution to approve the following Purpose and Budget Clauses for SY2025-2026.

- MS Student Council
- Backpack Blessings
- Purple Star - Military Fund

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-224 Approve Purpose and Budget Clauses

Motioned: Eric Thacker
Seconded: Bill Short

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

17 Approve Tuckpointing and Damp Proofing at Middle School

Resolution to approve the proposal (including the alternate) from Sheets Construction and Restoration for tuckpointing and damp proofing at the middle school.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-225 Approve Tuckpointing and Damp Proofing at Middle School

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

18 Approve Bus Lift Purchase

Resolution to approve the purchase of a lift from Napa Auto Parts for \$48,000.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-226 Approve Bus Lift Purchase

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

19 Slack Center Urgent Necessity Renovation

Resolution declaring urgent necessity for the purpose of renovating the Slack Center. Gutknecht Construction to be contractor for the renovation.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-227 Slack Center Urgent Necessity Renovation

Motioned: Eric Thacker

Seconded: John Messmer

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

20 Approve Funds and Special Cost Centers

Resolution to approve the following funds and special cost centers (SCC) for FY2026.

Marion Community Foundation: Fund 019 SCCs 9126 and 9226

Connectivity: Fund 451 SCC 9026

IDEA-B: Fund 516 SCC 9026

Title I: Fund 572 SCC 9026

Title IV: Fund 584 SCC 9026

IDEA ECSE: Fund 587 SCC 9026

Title II: Fund 590 SCC 9026

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-228 Approve Funds and Special Cost Centers

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

21 Revised Appropriations and Estimated Resources

Resolution to approve the revised FY26 fund level permanent appropriations and estimated resources.

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

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-229 Revised Appropriations and Estimated Resources

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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

22 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, October 8, 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 6:40 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 25-09-230 Adjournment

Motioned: Bill Short

Seconded: Eric Thacker

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