

Highland Local School District - Regular Meeting

Highland Local School District Board of Education

Slack Center Board Room
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Present: Nate Huffman, Superintendent; John Messmer, Board President; Kathy Belcher, Board Member; Jason Fleming, Treasurer; Board Member; Lynn Baldwin, Member; Nate Clark, Member; Chad Miller, Member

Absent: Jessika Roberts, Assistant Treasurer

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: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ Vacancy___ John Messmer___

Minutes:

Mr. Messmer called roll. All members present.

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		

4 Board Appointment

Whereas a vacancy has been caused on the board of education by reason of resignation; and Whereas this board of education has the legal authority to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term thereof; Now, therefore, be it resolved that C.J. Miller is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the board of education of the Highland

Local School District for the remainder of the unexpired term previously occupied by Mr. Eric Thacker.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ Vacancy___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-238 Board Appointment

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		

5 Oath of Office

Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and that you will faithfully and impartially discharge your duties as a member of this board of education to the best of your ability, and in accordance with the laws now in effect and hereafter to be enacted during your continuance in said office until your successor is elected and qualified?

- CJ Miller

Minutes:

Mr. Fleming administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller responded affirmatively.

6 Election of Officer - Vice President

Nate Clark moved to nominate Lynn Baldwin as Board Vice President for the remainder of 2026 due to the resignation of the Board Vice President. Mr. Messmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-239 Election of Officer - Vice President

Motioned: Nate Clark

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Chad Miller, Member	X		

7 Approve Minutes

Resolution to approve the minutes for the August 12, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting, August 17, 2026 Special Meeting, and August 24, 2026 Special Meeting as presented.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-240 Approve Minutes

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member			X

Attachments:

[00.01 Special Meeting 08.24.2026.pdf](#)

[00.01 Special Meeting 08.17.2026.pdf](#)

[00.01 Regular Meeting 08.12.2026.pdf](#)

8 Approve Financial Statements

Mr. Fleming

Resolution to approve the August 2026 Financial Statements as presented.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-241 Approve Financial Statements

Motioned: Lynn Baldwin

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member			X

9 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:

Mr. Stambaugh addressed the BOE about various things he has heard in the community.

Ms. Lewis asked the BOE about the flow of money related to open enrollment and asked if the BOE has considered redistricting.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick expressed gratitude for Mr. Rupe.

Tri-Rivers Superintendent addressed the BOE about the current state of Tri-Rivers and various things they are in the process of doing.

10 Amend Classified Contract

Resolution to approve the following contract amendment.

Marla Barnhart Paraprofessional (185 days to 150 days)

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-242 Amend Classified Contract

Motioned: Lynn Baldwin

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

11 Approve Classified Contracts for One Year

Resolution to approve the following classified contracts for one year.

Makenah Smith Paraprofessional 2 (Step 0)

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Minutes:

Mrs. Belcher moved to table this item. Mrs. Baldwin seconded the motion. All voted in favor of tabling.

Result: Tabled

Resolution: 26-09-243 Approve Classified Contracts for One Year - TABLED

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Lynn Baldwin

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

12 Approve Revised NJROTC Salaries

Resolution to approve the revised salaries as provided by the Navy for Louis D'hondt and Paul Kunkle (pay structure to remain the same) effective at the beginning of the current contract for the current school year.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-244 Approve Revised NJROTC Salaries

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

13 Approve Supplemental Contracts

Resolution to approve the following supplemental contracts.

Kayla Arthurs Elementary Vocal Music Director (9+ years)
 Michael Miller Assistant MS Robotics (1 year)
 Brianne Jaynes MS Student Council (3 years)
 Amber Billings HS Student Council (0 years)
 Jordan Kennedy-McPherson HS Website (5 years)
 Corey Strinka Play Director (4 years)
 Corey Strinka Art Play Director (4 years)
 Kara Banbury Yearbook (9+ years)
 Jordan Ellington Spanish Club (0 years)
 Brian Wetzel Middle School Robotics (3 years)
 Jordan Kennedy-McPherson National Honors Society (0 years)
 Mari Miller Art Club (9+ years)
 Bradley Smith Math Club (9+ years)
 Corey Strinka Drama Club (0 years)
 Tom Haring After School Assistance (1st Semester Split)
 Amber Billings After School Assistance (1st Semester Split)
 Shannon Belcher After School Assistance (2nd Semester)
 Chad Carpenter HS Fitness Coordinator (Fall) (1 year)
 Katie Pauley Senior Advisor (9+ years)
 Elena Manning Junior Advisor (3 years)
 Elena Manning Sophomore Advisor (3 years)
 Shannon Belcher Freshman Advisor (9+ years)
 Kara Banbury District Social Media (7 years)
 Amy Arnett-Tomasek Pep Band (8 years)
 Shawn Wilhelm HS Testing Coordinator (Hourly Rate)
 Angel Cahall Business Professionals of America (4 years)
 Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-245 Approve Supplemental Contracts

Motioned: Nate Clark

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

14 Approve FMLA Request

Resolution to approve FMLA for the attached list of eligible employees.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-246 Approve FMLA Request

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

15 Approve Mid Ohio ESC Teacher Substitute List

Resolution to approve the Mid Ohio ESC teacher substitute list.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-247 Approve Mid Ohio ESC Teacher Substitute List

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

16 Approve Transportation Agreement

Resolution to approve a transportation agreement between Highland Local Schools and Elgin Local Schools.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-248 Approve Transportation Agreement

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

17 Payment in Lieu of Transportation

Resolution to approve Payment In-Lieu of Transportation for the following student who lives in the Highland District and attends a valid community or chartered nonpublic school elsewhere within 30 minutes. Transportation has been deemed impractical.

Ashton Oswalt Genoa Christian

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-249 Payment in Lieu of Transportation

Motioned: Lynn Baldwin

Seconded: John Messmer

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

18 Approve Trip Request

Resolution to approve the following trip requests

FFA National Convention in Indianapolis (October 21 - 24, 2026)

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-250 Approve Trip Request

Motioned: Nate Clark

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

19 Approve Updated Safety Team

Resolution to approve the updated confidential safety team.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-251 Approve Updated Safety Team

Motioned: Kathy Belcher

Seconded: Lynn Baldwin

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

20 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 8/1/2026).

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-252 Master Service Agreement

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Nate Clark

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

21 Individual Service Agreement

Resolution to approve the individual service agreement between Specialized Education of Ohio, Inc., who owns High Road School of Bucyrus, and Highland Local Schools (effective 8/12/2026).

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-253 Individual Service Agreement

Motioned: Lynn Baldwin

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

22 Purpose and Budget Clauses

Resolution to approve the following Purpose and Budget Clauses for SY2026-2027:

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

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-254 Purpose and Budget Clauses

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

23 Approve Funds and Special Cost Centers

Resolution to approve the following funds and special cost centers (SCC):

- 019 9127 HES Greenhouse
- 019 9227 HES Cultivation Curiosity Outside the Classroom
- 019 9327 HES Kindness Club
- 019 9427 HHS Sustaining Personalized Strength and Conditioning through Performance Tracking Technology
- 019 9527 HES Instruments for the Elementary Music Classroom

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-255 Approve Funds and Special Cost Centers

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

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:

- Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.
- 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.
- 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: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Minutes:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:42 pm for item A above.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-256 Move from Regular to Executive Session

Motioned: John Messmer

Seconded: Kathy Belcher

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		

25 Regular Session Reconvened

Minutes:

Regular session reconvened at 9:05 pm.

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, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Slack Center Board Room.

Roll Call: Lynn Baldwin___ Kathy Belcher___ Nate Clark___ CJ Miller___ John Messmer___

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Result: Approved

Resolution: 26-09-257 Adjournment

Motioned: Nate Clark

Seconded: Lynn Baldwin

Voter	Yes	No	Abstained
John Messmer, Board President	X		
Kathy Belcher, Board Member	X		
Lynn Baldwin, Member	X		
Nate Clark, Member	X		
Chad Miller, Member	X		