HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
3886 Van Buren Street
January 8, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Bolhuis, Chanski, DeWitt, Hall, Hemmes, Hooper, Sneden

Administrators Present: Armstrong, Baer, Beel, Briggs, Crete, Farkus, Glass, Maday, McClure, Meersma, Mucha, Stefanich, Szymanski, Taylor, Thomas, VanderJagt, Verwys, Waldie

Dr. VanderJagt, Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda
Motion by Hooper, supported by Bolhuis to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Election of Board of Education Officers
Dr. VanderJagt, Superintendent, opened the floor to accept nominations for president.

Motion by Hooper, supported by Hall to nominate Chanski for president.

Ample time was provided and no other nominations were made.

Motion by Sneden, supported by Hall to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote: Bolhuis-Aye, Chanski-Aye, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hemmes-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Sneden-Aye

Motion Carried - Chanski will hold the office of president.

President Chanski opened the floor for nominations for the remaining offices:

<u>Vice-President-</u>

Motion by Hall, supported by DeWitt to nominate Hooper for vice-president.

Ample time was provided and no other nominations were made.

Motion by Hall, supported by Sneden to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote: Bolhuis-Aye, Chanski-Aye, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hemmes-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Sneden-Aye

Motion Carried - Hooper will hold the office of vice-president.

<u>Secretary-</u>

Motion by Hall, supported by Hemmes to nomination Sneden for secretary.

Ample time was provided and no other nominations were made.

Motion by Hall, supported by DeWitt to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote: Bolhuis-Aye, Chanski-Aye, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hemmes-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Sneden-Aye

Motion Carried - Sneden will hold the office of secretary.

Treasurer-

Motion by Hall, supported by Bolhuis to nominate DeWitt for treasurer.

Ample time was provided and no other nominations were made.

Motion by Hooper, supported by Hall to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote: Bolhuis-Aye, Chanski-Aye, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hemmes-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Sneden-Aye

Motion Carried - DeWitt will hold the office of treasurer.

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer-

Motion by Bolhuis, supported by Hemmes to nominate Hall for Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Ample time was provided and no other nominations were made.

Motion by Hooper, supported by Sneden to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote: Bolhuis-Aye, Chanski-Aye, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hemmes-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Sneden-Aye

Motion Carried – Hall will hold the office of assistant secretary/treasurer.

Board Recognition

- In honor of January being School Board Recognition Month, on behalf of administration, staff, students, and community Dr. VanderJagt recognized and thanked the Hudsonville Public Schools Board of Education for their commitment to provide quality academic, fine arts, and athletic programs for our students.
- The board recognized Ben Farkus for being named the 2025 Region 4 Athletic Director of the Year.
- The board recognized the Boys' Water Polo team for capturing the 2025 Michigan Boy's Water Polo Association Championship.

Teaching and Learning Feature

High School Teacher Chloe Bellinger along with students Collin Bickers, Kerrigan Hussey, and Ahin Kim shared highlights the new Fashion Design course, now in its first year, which fosters creativity, design skills, and real-world application.

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

No one requested to address the board.

Action Items – Consent Agenda

Motion DeWitt, supported by Sneden to approve the following consent agenda items:

1. Approval of Minutes
   - Regular Meeting – December 11, 2025

2. Presentation of Bills

   The following is an analysis of the payments:

Payroll	$4,332,482.00
Benefits	3,156,548.00
Accounts Payable	775,263.00
Total General Fund	$8,264,293.00

Ayes: All

Motion Carried

Board of Education Code of Conduct
Motion by Sneden, supported by Hooper for the board agree to the Board Code of Conduct as presented.
Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Staff Appreciation Resolution
Motion by DeWitt, supported by Bolhuis to approve the Staff Appreciation Resolution establishing the week of May 4, 2026, as Staff Appreciation Week and May 5, 2026, as Staff Appreciation Day as presented by Dr. VanderJagt, Superintendent. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Human Resource Item
Motion by DeWitt, supported by Sneden to approve the following new hire recommendation as presented by Anne Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources:

Chelsey Harris

Position: Behavioral Coach, District

Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Student Council Report
Evan André, senior, thanked the board for their service in honor of Board Appreciation Month. The Student Council welcomed ten new freshmen to the council. Council students will be volunteering delivering snacks and water to teachers at the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. Evan provided a winter athletic update and shared that the upcoming musical will be "Cinderella."

Building Reports
Georgetown Elementary Principal Randy Waldie brought the building's comfort dog, "Roo." Roo has been a great asset to their building, offering assistance to students in so many ways. Mr. Waldie's family is the host and handlers, while in the building are Matt Cooley and Emily Becker.

Early Childhood Center Director Tricia Maday shared that new students to preschool are getting familiar with the routine of school and are doing great. The building celebrated with a fun assembly before the holiday break. Students are enjoying being recognized for positive behaviors and are SOARing at school. Tricia thanked the board for the new playground equipment that is halfway through completion.

The 5/6 Building @ Georgetown Principal Melanie McClure shared that Angela Ernstes' STEAM students worked on a project to improve how to make things in our community more accessible. Six students were chosen to represent the school and present their projects to legislators and representatives in Lansing.

High School Principal Jordan Beel thanked Ami Taylor for highlighting the Fashion and Design class at this evening's meeting and thanked the board for their approval of this new class offering. He shared that the high school did various things to make the holidays more special for families in need.

Superintendent Report
Dr. VanderJagt shared that Joy Hemmes is representing the Board on the Hudsonville Education Foundation board and asked if there were other board members interested in serving. Being none at this time, Joy volunteered to continue to serve. Dr. VanderJagt will also send the board a survey on committee service interest for the finance, human resources, and policy committees.

Adjournment
Motion by Bolhuis, supported by Hemmes to adjourn 7:30 p.m. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Robin VandenBerg, Recording Secretary for the Board of Education