

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, September 8, 2025
6:30 PM
Forest Hills Administration Building

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHT - FHPS Operations Department
- IV. CONSENT GROUPING
 - IV.A. Superintendent/Board of Education
 - IV.A.1. Approval of Minutes
 - IV.B. Business
 - IV.B.1. Payment of Bills
 - IV.B.2. Pine Ridge Furniture
 - IV.B.3. Refunded Property Taxes
 - IV.C. Human Resources
 - IV.C.1. Employment of New Professional Staff
- V. SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES REQUEST
- VI. MASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
- VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
- VIII. BOARD COMMUNICATION
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 8, 2025

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

TOPIC: Department Highlight: FHPS Operations Department

The operations department provides maintenance, grounds, and custodial services across the district. Cory Anderson, Operations Director, will share some highlights of the work accomplished throughout the district.

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

CONSENT GROUPING

September 8, 2025

IV. CONSENT GROUPING

A. SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Approval of Minutes – Approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, Regular Meeting, with any added changes or revisions.

B. BUSINESS

1. Payment of Bills – Approve expenditures for the payment of bills for July 2025, as presented.
2. Pine Ridge Furniture – Approve the purchase of furniture for Pine Ridge from Custer Inc., Dew-El Corporation, Interphase Interiors, and VS America for an amount not to exceed \$251,815.
3. Refunded Property Taxes – Authorize reimbursement of \$28,393.08 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Employment of New Professional Staff – Approve the hire and issue contracts to the new professional staff, as presented, for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Items included in consent grouping are those that previously have been considered by the Board either in committee or at a prior meeting, or are of such a routine nature that discussion is not required. Board members may request that any item be removed from consent grouping for further discussion if additional information is needed or available.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 8, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOPIC: Approval of Minutes

Board of Education approval is requested for the minutes of the August 11, 2025, Regular Meeting.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, Regular Meeting.

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
held on August 11, 2025

The Forest Hills Board of Education met in regular session on August 11, 2025, at the Administration Building. President Fauson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Fauson, Michaud, Terryn, DeBoer, Ninemeier, Kermode, Colley

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: None

Member Kermode led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Certificates of Recognition were presented to the members of the Forest Hills Eastern Baseball team for their outstanding athletic achievement in winning the 2025 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 State Championship.

RECOGNITION
2025 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RECOGNITION – FHE BASEBALL

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Eastern High School Baseball Head Coach Ian Hearn for receiving the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA) Coach of the Year award.

2025 MHSBCA COACH OF THE YEAR

Motion made by Member Michaud, second by Member Kermode, that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve consent grouping items IV.A.1.-IV.D.1.

CONSENT GROUPING ITEMS

Member Terryn, Curriculum Committee Chair, and Member Ninemeier, Finance Committee Member, gave their respective committee reports.

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, DeBoer, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, Ninemeier

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Approved the minutes of the July 10, 2025, Special Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Authorized participation in the Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) statewide purchasing cooperative for 2025-2026 at an estimated cost not to exceed \$160,000.

PAPER

Approved the purchase of media center shelving for Pine Ridge from Dew-El corporation for an amount not to exceed \$40,151.

PINE RIDGE MEDIA CENTER SHELVING

Approved utilizing local purchasing options for diesel fuel throughout the 2025-2026 school year at an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

DIESEL FUEL

Authorized reimbursement of \$81,646.15 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

REFUNDED
PROPERTY TAXES

Approved the request to purchase the *Everyday Math* (EM4) three-year digital subscriptions from McGraw-Hill for an amount not to exceed \$178,200.

EVERYDAY MATH
(EM4) DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTIONS

Approved the hire and issue of contracts to the following new professional staff for the 2025-2026 school year:

EMPLOYMENT OF
NEW PROFESSIONAL
STAFF

- Jessica Danowski, Teacher, Eastern High School
- Jessica DeJong, Teacher, Northern High School
- Brendan Fleming, Teacher, Northern High School
- Zoe Hebert, Teacher, Eastern Middle School
- Cara Riley, Teacher, Central Middle School
- Kathleen Spease, Psychologist, Student Services
- Sadie Stowell, Teacher, Northern High School
- Jodi Tamminga, Supervisor of Student Support Systems, Meadow Brook Elementary School

Motion to approve the revised board policies as presented was made by Member Michaud and supported by Member Kermode. Board discussion followed regarding the proposed revisions to policy 5407.

BOARD POLICY

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, Ninemeier

NAYS: DeBoer

Motion passed by a 6-1 roll call vote.

With the approval of the motion, the Board revised the following policies:

Section 4200 Employee Conduct and Ethics

- 4221 Employee Speech (Revised Policy)

Section 5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement

- 5405 Title I Parent and Family Engagement (Revised Policy)
- 5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development (Revised Policy)

Motion to approve the superintendent contract addendum provided to the board was made by Member Kermode and supported by Member Colley. President Fauson clarified the timing for the request.

SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT
ADDENDUM

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, DeBoer, Ninemeier

NAYS:

Motion passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

A motion to conditionally grant reinstatement to "Student A" with the following conditions: Attendance area will be determined by district administration; "Student A" has a daily check-in with an FHPS staff member (subject to re-evaluation after the first semester); and "Student A" does not attend extra-curricular activities at the school of original expulsion through the 8th grade (subject to re-evaluation at the conclusion of 8th grade) was made by Member Ninemeier and supported by Member Michaud. Board discussion followed.

STUDENT
REINSTATEMENT
CONSIDERATION

AYES: Michaud, Kermode, DeBoer, Colley, Terryn, Fauson, Ninemeier

NAYS: None

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Superintendent Kirby has accepted the following resignations:

RESIGNATIONS

- Tracy Allers, Teacher, Northern High School

Superintendent Kirby shared the following:

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

- There were 40 new teachers in the new teacher orientation. Two additional hires will be joining the orientation.
- Bus routes will be available to families via the transportation app this Friday.
- Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Julie Davis did a great job leading the transportation team until the director vacancy was filled.
- An update was provided on the status of the state budget.
- An update was provided on the recently proposed (and failed) cell phone bill to address cell phone usage in schools. The current policy at Forest Hills Public School will not change.
- The Kent ISD will be providing additional information regarding the recently passed enhancement millage.
- The communications department published a great end-of-the-year Focus newsletter. The back-to-school edition will be available digitally and in print early this week.
- An update was provided on the current bond projects.
- The date for the start of school each year is a negotiated item with the education association. The goal is always to provide the information to families as soon as possible.
- Forest Hills received \$816,000 from the state 35m grant for literacy.
- The district's leadership team spent three full days of professional learning this week.
- The district has added supervisor of student support systems positions in our K-6 schools as a result of staff feedback.
- STEM pilots will be taking place on the Northern side of the district at Meadow Brook Elementary and Norther Trails 5/6 schools.
- He provided an update on the Junior Kindergarten enrollment numbers.
- There will continue to be a focus on safety initiatives.

- Great Start Readiness programs have been added at Thornapple, Meadow Brook, and Orchard View elementaries.
- The district is partnering with Hand2Hand, which provides weekend meals, at Meadow Brook, Collins, and Orchard View elementaries.
- There was a great turnout at the recent bus driver job fair.
- The staff Back to School Kickoff event will be Tuesday, August 19.

President Fauson thanked the staff, administration, and teachers for their efforts on back-to-school preparations.

BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS

President Fauson shared the format for the public comment portion of the meeting. Students will be given the opportunity to address the board first, followed by staff, and concluding with community members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The board received comments from seven members of the audience regarding the following topics:

- Student reinstatement
- Board policy 5407
- Government-sponsored education and DEI
- Faith and expert opinion
- Mahmoud v. Taylor
- Public comment placement on the board meeting agenda
- Cell phone policy
- Bus driver staffing

President Fauson inquired if there was other business of the board. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Malorie Ninemeier, Secretary
Forest Hills Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 8, 2025

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



TOPIC: Payment of Bills

The financial report is presented for Board approval and includes the following information:

Summary of Bills Payable

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve expenditures for the payment of bills for July 2025, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	11,832,236.10
DEBT FUND	754.76
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2023	2,223,083.42
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND 2025	2,145,164.70
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
Food Service	16,810.14
Childcare	18,759.60
Student/School Activity	96,039.91
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
	<hr/>
	\$ 16,332,848.63

Forest Hills Public Schools
Disbursements
For Month Ended July 2025

Fund	General Checking			Debt Service	Payroll Checking			Flex Checking - Employee Flexible Spending Accounts		Total Disbursements
	Checks (322601-322940)	ACH Checks (V100000)	ACH & Wire Disbursements	ACH Disbursement October / April	Checks (329611-329615)	Direct Deposit Payments	ACH & Wire Disbursements	Manual Payments	Debit Card Payments	
General	\$ 3,547,098.39	\$ 16,827.00	\$ 3,767,136.88		\$ 1,754.87	\$ 3,185,119.29	\$ 1,181,562.59	\$ 3,030.00	\$ 6,619.64	\$ 11,709,148.66
General, Athletics	81,207.24		11,435.98							92,643.22
General, Grants	38,775.35		8,495.87							47,271.22
GENERAL SUBTOTAL	3,667,080.98		3,787,068.73		1,754.87	3,185,119.29	1,181,562.59	3,030.00	6,619.64	11,832,236.10
Debt Service	754.76									754.76
Capital Projects-2023	2,223,083.42									2,223,083.42
Capital Projects-2025	2,144,844.70		320.00							2,145,164.70
Special Revenue Fund										
Food Service	16,783.87		26.27							16,810.14
Child Care	3,325.34		15,434.26							18,759.60
Student/School Activity	61,181.64		34,858.27							96,039.91
	\$ 8,117,054.71	\$ 16,827.00	\$ 3,837,707.53	\$ -	\$ 1,754.87	\$ 3,185,119.29	\$ 1,181,562.59	\$ 3,030.00	\$ 6,619.64	\$ 16,332,848.63

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 8, 2025

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



TOPIC: Pine Ridge Furniture

It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of furniture for Pine Ridge from Custer Inc., Dew-El Corporation, Interphase Interiors, and VS America for an amount not to exceed \$251,815. This has been reviewed by the Board Finance Committee and is recommended for Board approval.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education approve the purchase of furniture for Pine Ridge from Custer Inc., Dew-El Corporation, Interphase Interiors, and VS America for an amount not to exceed \$251,815.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

September 8, 2025

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



TOPIC: Refunded Property Taxes

It is recommended that the Board authorize reimbursement of \$28,393.08 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education authorize reimbursement of \$28,393.08 to Kent County for refunded property taxes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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September 8, 2025



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

TOPIC: Employment of New Professional Staff

The administration is recommending the employment for the following new staff members:

New Hire	Position	Building	Vacancy Due to:
Brandi Alpizar	STEM Teacher	Northern Trails	New position
Stephanie Ebright	1 st Grade Teacher	Meadow Brook	Transfer due to new section
Yohaina Haaz Melgarejo	Kindergarten	Ada Vista	Vacant position
Lana Nauta	Junior Kindergarten Teacher	Knapp Forest	New position
Kennedy Southland	MLL Teacher	Various	New position
Tara Steele	Instructional Coach for K-8 Gifted Services and MLL Teacher	Administration	Transfer due to new position/new position
Olivia Waalkes	Junior Kindergarten Teacher	Ada Elementary	New position
Bryce Wilker	Physical Education Teacher	Ada Elementary	Transfer due to specials staffing

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the hire and issue contracts to Brandi Alpizar, Stephanie Ebright, Yohaina Haaz Melgarejo, Lana Nauta, Kennedy Southland, Tara Steele, Olivia Waalkes, and Bryce Wilker for the 2025-2026 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

TOPIC: Supplemental Instructional Resources Request *SH*

The Instruction Department would like to recommend that the following supplemental resource be added to the supplemental instructional resources collection. The items have been reviewed by the Board Curriculum Committee and are recommended for Board of Education approval.

School: All Elementary Schools, Grades K-4
Title: *Kids Have Rights*
Author: Children's Advocacy Center
Reviewed by: Kim Van Antwerp, Tamasha James, Scott Haid, Sarah Dawson, Ann Lepch,
and Elementary Principals

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education approve the above Supplemental Instructional Resource request.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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September 8, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION

TOPIC: MASB Delegate Assembly

MASB's 2025 Delegate Assembly takes place on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Delegates selected by the boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. All delegates and alternates must be school board members, and certified by their board of education.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Forest Hills Board of Education certify ____ as the voting delegate and _____ as the alternate voting delegate at the MASB Annual Leadership Conference Delegate Assembly on October 23, 2025.