Highland County School Board

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Virtual / HHS Library
Closed Session – 6:00 p.m. ~ Business Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order
B. Announcement and vote to enter closed session
Under the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711, public bodies may hold closed sessions to discuss, consider, or interview of prospective candidates for employment; to discuss or consider admission or disciplinary matters; discuss or consider the acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property; protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters; or consultation with legal counsel.

2. CLOSED SESSION

3. OPENING

A. Reconvene from Closed Session
B. Moment of Silence
C. Pledge of Allegiance — *Art Students*
D. Approval of the Agenda

4. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. Davenport Investment Update — *Mr. Watson*
B. Teacher of the Year & Support Staff of the Year — *Dr. Nycum*
C. VSBA Spring Regional Student Art Contest — *Mrs. Deeds*
D. Teacher Appreciation Week Activities — *Dr. Nycum*

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are welcome to address the Board. Each individual speaker will be allowed three minutes for remarks and group representatives will be allowed five minutes. Issues or concerns involving personnel matters or naming individuals are not appropriate for the public comment setting. As a reminder, Board Members cannot respond during this time.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. High School Update — *Mr. Good*
B. Elementary School Update — *Mr. Johnson*
C. Superintendent's Update — *Dr. Nycum*

7. CONSENT AGENDA*

A. Payment of the May 13, 2026 Vendor Bills

All School Board meetings may be recorded for accuracy of the minutes.

The HIGHLAND COUNTY School Board is committed to nondiscrimination with regards to sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, military status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. This commitment prevails in all of its policies and practices concerning staff, students, educational programs and services, and individuals and entities with whom the Board does business.

B. Approval of the April 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
C. Personnel Report
D. Out-of-District Transfer Requests

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. HCEA Update
B. PTO Update
C. ESEA Grants *Ms. Botkin*
D. Pre-School Screening – May 21st 4:00pm – 6:30pm
E. Next School Board Meeting – Thursday, June 11th – HHS Library at 7:00PM
F. Close Out School Board Meeting – Thursday, June 25th – HHS Library at 6:00PM

9. ACTION ITEMS*

A. 4-H Camp School Bus Use Agreement
B. Migrant Education Regional Program Agreement 2026-2027

10. BOARD COMMENTS

An opportunity for members of the board to make individual comments, share updates, or express viewpoints related to board matters. Comments are limited to board members only.

11. CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

A. Announcement and vote to enter closed session
Under the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711, public bodies may hold closed sessions to discuss, consider, or interview of prospective candidates for employment; to discuss or consider admission or disciplinary matters; discuss or consider the acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property; protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters; or consultation with legal counsel.
B. Reconvene from Closed Session

12. ADJOURNMENT

Suggestions or concerns you have regarding current issues from this meeting may be shared to hcps@highland.k12.va.us or call (540) 468-6300.

*Board Action Required
+Addendum Item

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HIGHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher Appreciation WEEK

MAY 4 - 8, 2026

Monday

SCA Breakfast - Claire's

Tuesday

Lunch from Burke & Herbert Bank - Pizza

Wednesday

Chair Massages from Heart & Soul

Infused Water from HMC

Thursday

Highland's PTO Soda Bar & Snacks

Friday

Pizza Lunch from Blue Grass Valley Bank

Special Teacher Plant Sale - Ag Greenhouse
$5 Voucher
3:30 pm - 5:00pm

HIGHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 9, 2026 ~ 7:00 P.M.

HHS LIBRARY - 244 MYERS MOON ROAD, MONTEREY, VA 24465

Board Members Present: Sherry Sullenberger, Jason Wilfong, and Kenny Hodges
Administrative Staff Present: Superintendent: James "Nick" Nycum, High School Principal: Tim Good, Elementary School Principal: Tim Johnson, Technology Director: Gary Lane, Board Clerk: Tabitha Ulmer

AGENDA ITEM # 1 CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order
   Mrs. Sullenberger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
B. Announcement and vote to enter closed session
   Mrs. Sullenberger made a motion that the Highland County School Board go into closed session pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3711 A.1 Discussion of personnel matters –administration.
   Mr. Hodges seconded the motion, and the motion passed by the following vote: YES: Sullenberger, Wilfong, Hodges. Motion passed by a 3:0 vote.

AGENDA ITEM # 2 CLOSED SESSION

Under the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711, public bodies may hold closed sessions to discuss, consider, or interview of prospective candidates for employment; to discuss or consider admission or disciplinary matters; discuss or consider the acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property; protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters; or consultation with legal counsel.

AGENDA ITEM # 3 OPENING

A. Reconvene from Closed Session
   Mrs. Sullenberger made a motion to return to regular session at 7:10pm and certify by recorded vote, that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed by the Highland County School Board and such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.
   Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion, and the motion passed by the following vote: YES: Sullenberger, Wilfong, Hodges. Motion passed by a 3:0 vote.
B. Moment of Silence
C. Pledge of Allegiance
   Second grade students led us in the pledge of allegiance.
D. Approval of Agenda
   Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026 agenda. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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AGENDA ITEM # 4 SPECIAL RECONGNITON AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. FFA Creed Speakers
The speakers could not attend.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AGENDA ITEM # 6 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. High School Update
Mr. Good reported that report cards will be issued on April 10 and SOL testing will begin May 19, with after-school remediation available daily until 4:30 p.m. He recognized Ms. Nelson and Personal Finance students for their success, with three students qualifying for the Virginia Personal Finance State Championship and four for the Virginia Economics State Championship on April 17 in Richmond. An update was provided on the Agriculture and FFA programs, including full greenhouse operations, an upcoming plant sale on May 9, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Field Day on April 17 at the Highland County Fairgrounds, which will include a greenhouse ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mr. Good concluded with a spring athletics update, noting a recent varsity softball district win, continued improvement among teams, and the track team's first meet scheduled for April 10.

B. Elementary School Update
Mr. Johnson reported that kindergarten students recently took a field trip to observe maple syrup production, and fourth grade students visited Monticello. He noted that the school is preparing for student growth assessments at the end of April and SOL testing at the end of May, with report cards scheduled to be issued on Friday. Planning is underway for a 250th birthday celebration of America, which will include classroom activities and an end-of-year event with parent involvement. Current attendance was reported at 94.26%.

C. Superintendent Update
Dr. Nycum welcomed Bella from the Virginia School Boards Association in Charlottesville and noted that 44 instructional days remain in the school year. He shared that a recent division luncheon recognized Vernon Simmons as Support Staff Member of the Year and Mike Warf as Teacher of the Year, both selected by faculty and staff for their dedication and representation of Highland County. Dr. Nycum provided a licensure update, recognizing several staff members for their accomplishments, including Mrs. Evelyn Beers (full licensure), Mrs. Jennifer Blakley (Virginia licensure, continuing toward proper endorsement), Mrs. Bonnie Botkin (licensure), Mrs. Cheryl Jolley (Virginia licensure), Mrs. Diana Smith (license renewal), and Mrs. Jessa Fowler (full licensure). He also reported that he and Mrs. Sullenberger presented the division's budget request to the Board of Supervisors and noted several upcoming events, including Agriculture Day and the 11:00 a.m. greenhouse ribbon cutting. He highlighted continued efforts to promote healthy initiatives through "food is medicine," and announced that the Ned Show will be presented to students on April 21.

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Mrs. Sullenberger commended the administrative staff for their role in the staff recognition process and noted that the selected award recipients were very deserving of the honors.

AGENDA ITEM # 7 CONSENT AGENDA*

A. Payment of April 9, 2026 – Vendor Bills
Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026 vendor bills. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of the March 12, March 19, & March 26, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the March 12, March 19, & March 26, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Sullenberger seconded the motion, and it passed 2:0 with Mr. Wilfong abstaining.

C. Personnel Report
Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the personnel report. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- B1: Appointment of Dalton Armstrong, Substitute, effective 4/10/2026
- C1: Appointment of Melody Moats, Middle School English Teacher, effective 4/1/2026
- C2: Appointment of Jerry Gregory Jessee, Special Education Teacher, effective 8/1/2026

ACTION ITEMS # 8 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. HCEA Update
Mr. Johnston reported on recent staff and instructional updates, including professional development on Canva Code and the implementation of a digital hall pass system. He highlighted student activities across content areas, including Spanish projects on pre-Columbian art, English coursework and assessments, and community-based projects tied to the Highland County Fair. He also noted elementary gifted programming, including a planned field trip and interdisciplinary projects, as well as preparation for Fine Arts Night on May 29 at 6:00 p.m., which will showcase performances from students across multiple grade levels.

B. PTO Update
Mr. Obaugh provided an update from the PTO, noting the most recent meeting was held on April 7. He reported that $562 was raised through donation boxes at the Maple Festival. Bog Bags are currently being sold, with 15 of 50 already purchased. He shared that a community survey is in development and a community group meeting is scheduled for May 4. Planning is underway for Teacher Appreciation Week with a $2,000 budget, including $50 Teachers Pay Teachers gift cards for each teacher and remaining funds allocated toward a soda bar. The next PTO meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the HES Library.

C. Next School Board Meeting - Thursday, May 14th HHS Library at 7:00PM

D. School Board Meeting – Thursday, June 11th – HHS Library at 7:00PM

E. Close Out School Board Meeting – Thursday, June 25th – HHS Library at 6:00PM

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ACTION ITEMS* # 9

A. 2026-2027 Part B Flow Through Special Education Annual Plan
   Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Part B Flow Through Special Education Annual Plan. Mr. Wilfong second the motion and it passed unanimously.
B. Technology Disposal List
   Mrs. Sullenberger asked Mr. Lane to address the availability and condition of surplus technology items. Mr. Lane stated that most items are outdated, no longer supported, broken, and hold little to no resale value. He noted that the division utilizes a company to recycle the majority of these items. Mr. Hodges inquired about procedures for computers with broken screens. Mr. Lane explained that devices damaged accidentally are replaced, while damages resulting from neglect are charged to the student.
   Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the technology disposal list. Mr. Hodges second the motion and it passed unanimously.
C. 2026-2027 Staff Contracts
   Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 staff contracts. Mr. Hodges second the motion and it passed unanimously.
D. FFA State Convention Overnight Field Trip
   Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the FFA State Convention overnight field trip. Mr. Wilfong second the motion and it passed unanimously.
E. Governor's School Overnight Field Trip
   Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the Governor's School overnight field trip. Mr. Wilfong second the motion and it passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM # 10 BOARD COMMENT

An opportunity for members of the board to make individual comments, share updates, or express viewpoints related to board matters. Comments are limited to board members only.

Mr. Hodges said again that the teacher of the year and the staff member of the year was well deserved.

AGENDA ITEM # 11 CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

N/A

AGENDA ITEM # 12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hodges made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 7:55pm.
Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X X

School Board Chairman School Board Clerk

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FREE PRE-SCHOOL

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

IS YOUR CHILD READY? LET'S CHECK TOGETHER!

Vision, Hearing, Language, Motor Skills & Cognitive Development

- Ages: Birth - 5
- Highland High Library
- May 21 | 4-6 PM
- No Appointment Needed
- (540) 468-6308

Head Start Preschool Applications Available



Highland County Public Schools

SHENANDOAH VALLEY HEAD START CONSORTIUM