

Highland County School Board

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, June 09, 2026

Virtual / HHS Library

Closed Session – 5:00 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

D. Approval of the Agenda

4. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. Senior Class Achievements

Mr. Good

B. Recognition of HCPS Growing Highland Program in VSBA Showcases for Success

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 June 11, 2026 Vendor Bills

B. Approval of the May 13, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

C. Personnel Report

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.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. HCEA Update
- B. PTO Update
- C. Close Out School Board Meeting – Thursday, June 25th – HHS Library at 6:00PM
- D. Next School Board Meeting – Thursday, July 9th – HHS Library at 7:00PM

9. ACTION ITEMS*

- A. ESEA Grants
- B. Authorization of Signature in Absence of Division Superintendent
- C. 2026-2027 VHSL Membership
- D. Motion to Amend Personnel List Previously Adopted during the April 9, 2026, School Board meeting to allow deliberation/actions considered in Closed Session as described in Agenda Item 1(B) (if needed)
- E. Action on Superintendent's Personnel Recommendation(s)

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

DIVISION: Clarke County Public Schools**PROGRAM: Cultivating Impact: A Clermont Foundation and Clarke County Public Schools Partnership**

Clarke County Public Schools, in partnership with the Clermont Foundation, has developed a vertically aligned middle school program integrating agriculture and science through hands-on learning at Clermont Farm. Aligned to Virginia Department of Education standards, students in grades 6–8 engage in progressively complex, real-world experiences. Sixth graders explore Earth science through water systems and conservation practices, seventh graders apply life science concepts through ecosystem and environmental stewardship activities, and eighth graders connect physical science to agricultural applications through animal science studies. This approach strengthens student achievement by increasing engagement, deepening conceptual understanding, and improving retention of scientific content. Students demonstrate greater mastery of Standards of Learning through applied experiences, while also developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The program has led to measurable improvements in academic performance and fosters awareness of agricultural careers, environmental responsibility, and future workforce readiness.

CONTACT: Jessica Nail, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
nailj@clarke.k12.va.us | 540-955-6100

**DIVISION: Highland County Public Schools****PROGRAM: Growing Highland: A K–12 Agricultural Learning & Community Partnership Model**

Growing Highland: A K–12 Agricultural Learning & Community Partnership Model integrates a student greenhouse with a division-wide Agricultural & Natural Resources Field Day to deliver hands-on, career-connected learning for all students. In a small, rural division with limited access to off-campus experiences, HCPS brings industry and real-world applications directly to students through partnerships with organizations such as Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, local FFA and 4-H programs, and Bath Community Hospital through its “Food is Medicine” initiative. All PreK–12 students participate in applied learning experiences aligned to science Standards of Learning, increasing engagement and content retention. The greenhouse supports year-round, inquiry-based instruction, while Food is Medicine connections reinforce nutrition, wellness, and real-world application. This model has strengthened student engagement, expanded STEM and CTE pathways, and contributed to improved academic outcomes through meaningful, place-based learning.

CONTACT: Jen Neil, Agriculture Teacher
jneil@highland.k12.va.us | 540-468-6300

HIGHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MAY 13, 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. Wilfong 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 7:22pm 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. Hodges 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

Art students led us in the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the May 13, 2026 amended agenda. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM # 4 SPECIAL RECONGNITON AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

- A. Davenport Investment Update
Not available.
- B. Teacher of the Year & Support Staff of the Year
Dr. Nycum and Mr. Good recognized Mr. Vernon Simmons as the Support Staff Member of the Year for 2025-2026, and Mr. Warf as the Teacher of the Year for 2025-2026. Each received a gift card from the PTO.
- C. VSBA Spring Regional Student Art Contest
Mrs. Deeds recognized Lyla Swecker (Kindergarten), Lucy Honaker (middle school), and Paula Gomez (11th grade) for having their artwork selected to compete in the VSBA Regional Art Contest. Although they did not place, she noted that being chosen for the competition is a significant accomplishment and expressed pride in their achievement. Each student received their framed artwork, a certificate, and a commemorative pin.
- D. Teacher Appreciation Week Activities
Dr. Nycum went over the week's events and how much we appreciate our staff.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cane Sampson addressed the Board during public comment, expressing concerns regarding School Board governance, transparency in hiring practices, staff retention, employee morale, leadership decision-making, and the impact of staffing disruptions on student instruction. He also questioned certain proposed facility expenditures in light of staffing concerns and shared his view that additional options for public participation, such as remote comment opportunities, should be considered.

Mrs. Sullenberger referenced Policy BDDH-KD regarding public comment and shared her interpretation that School Board members may ask questions during the public comment period, while members of the public may not engage in back-and-forth discussion. Dr. Nycum stated that he would seek clarification from legal counsel.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. High School Update
Mr. Good reported that SOL testing will begin next week and reviewed several upcoming end-of-year events, including the Drama Club performances on May 21 and 22, Fine Arts Night on May 26, the FFA Banquet on Saturday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m., District Track at Narrows on May 18, Regional Track at East Montgomery on May 26, and a softball game hosting Bath on May 14 at 5:00 p.m. He also spoke in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, noting that strong organizations are built by great people, and shared remarks honoring the Teacher of the Year and Staff Member of the Year recipients.
- B. Elementary School Update
Mr. Good shared Mr. Johnson's update, reporting that Highland Elementary has begun IRW testing, with SOL testing scheduled to begin next week. He also noted several upcoming elementary events, including kindergarten's trip to the safari park, second grade's visit to the state park, first grade's trip to the Frontier

Culture Museum, Fine Arts Night on May 29, and Kindergarten Night on June 4 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Superintendent Update

Dr. Nycum reviewed upcoming dates and events, including the Region 5 meeting on May 19, the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 20 to seek clarification regarding state special projects funding, a meeting with Bath Community Hospital scheduled for next Friday, Fine Arts Night on May 29, Highland High School graduation on June 6 at 10:00 a.m., FAPT and CPMT meetings on June 8, and the last day of school on June 11.

AGENDA ITEM # 7 CONSENT AGENDA*

A. Payment of April 9, 2026 – Vendor Bills

Mrs. Sullenberger asked about the status of the boilers. Mrs. Simmons reported that they do not run right. Mr. Hodges said our attorney might have to step in and help us get these companies out to fix them.

Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the May 13, 2026 vendor bills. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with Mrs. Sullenberger abstaining from check number 17877.

B. Approval of the April 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Personnel Report

- A1: Resignation of Billie Terry, Special Education Aide – 4/30/2026
- A2: Resignation of Megan Obaugh, School Counselor – 6/30/2026

Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the presented resignations. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- B1: Retirement of Lynne Botkin, Title I Reading Teacher – 6/30/2026

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the retirement. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- C1: Appointment of Tim Hiner, Substitute – 5/15/2026
- C2: Appointment of Thomas Moore, Special Education Aide – 8/1/2026

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve C1 and C2 appointments. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hodges made a motion to table C3 and C4 appointments. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- D1: Appointment of Lindsay Callison, Middle School Math Teacher – 8/1/2026
- D2: Appointment of Richard Miller, Principal and Athletic Director – 8/1/2026
- D3: Appointment of Anna Beers, School Counselor – 8/1/2026

Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve D1, D2, and D3 appointments. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hodges made a motion to advertise for a Title I Reading Specialist. Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Out-of-District Transfer Requests

Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the out-of-district transfer request. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS # 8 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. HCEA Update

Mrs. McWhorter reported on a variety of instructional updates and student activities across the division. Mrs. Springer has been analyzing benchmark data with teachers to identify student strengths, areas of need, and priority standards for targeted SOL review, while also discussing instructional resources and supports. Spanish students in Mrs. Hupman's classes have been engaged in novel studies, reflective writing, multimedia projects, and creative presentational speaking assignments. Mrs. Jolley took gifted middle and high school students on an educational visit to Monticello and the UVA campus to further their studies in government, civics, architecture, and history. HCEA recognized Karen Sweeney for serving as a substitute in fourth grade and noted concerns regarding the absence of media literacy services while she is filling that role. Mr. Johnston also highlighted the upcoming Fine Arts Night on May 29, featuring student artwork and musical performances from PreK through high school. Mrs. Cockerham shared that high school English students attended a performance of *Twelfth Night* at the American Shakespeare Center, while seniors recently completed *1984* and are participating in practical life-skills instruction, including resume writing, cover letters, tax preparation, and mock interviews.

B. PTO Update

Mr. Obaugh reported that all blue bog bags have been distributed, with 15 white bags still remaining. He shared that the community survey draft was completed over the weekend and is currently under review by school staff prior to public release. He also noted that the group is researching 501(c)(3) designation status. In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, the group provided all lead educators with PTP cards, hosted a soda bar and trail mix bar, and supported the Teacher and Staff Member of the Year with gift cards, noting that the honorees were highly deserving. Mr. Obaugh also encouraged additional community members to join the group.

C. ESEA Grants

Ms. Botkin presented the Title 1 Part A, Title II, Title III, and Title IV grants.

D. Pre-School Screening – May 21st 4:00pm – 6:30pm

E. 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

ACTION ITEMS* # 9

A. 4-H Camp School Bus Use Agreement

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the 4-H Camp School Bus Use Agreement. Mr. Wilfong second the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Migrant Education Regional Program Agreement 2026-2027

Mr. Wilfong made a motion to approve the program agreement. Mr. Hodges second the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Amended FY27 School Budget

The Board of Supervisors eliminated all our capital requests but agreed to begin building back our capital account with \$50,000.

Mrs. Sullenberger spoke about the money Dr. Nycum has been working diligently on to get back from the state.

Mr. Hodges made a motion to approve the amended FY27 school budget. 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.

Board members offered remarks of appreciation and recognition during closing comments. Mrs. Sullenberger congratulated Mr. Simmons on being named Staff Member of the Year, sharing personal reflections on knowing him for many years, and also thanked Mr. Warf for his decades of service, noting their long coaching history together. Mr. Hodges commended both individuals, describing Mr. Simmons as a dedicated, honest, and hardworking employee who is highly respected by both peers and students, and reflecting on his longstanding professional relationship with Mr. Warf. Mr. Wilfong echoed those sentiments, thanked local legislators for their support and advocacy for the division, expressed appreciation for law enforcement training in school facilities as a proactive safety measure, and recognized the PTO and local businesses for their support during Teacher Appreciation Week. The Board collectively wished Mr. Good well in his future endeavors. Mr. Warf also shared words of praise for Mr. Simmons, the students, and the school division.

AGENDA ITEM # 11 CLOSED SESSION (IF NEEDED)

N/A

AGENDA ITEM # 12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hodges made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 8:49pm.

Mr. Wilfong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X

School Board Chairman

X

School Board Clerk