Board of Education Minutes
Harrisburg Community Unit School District No. 3
Harrisburg High School, Media Center, 312 Bulldog Boulevard, Harrisburg, IL
Secretary Minutes for *Regular* Meeting of August 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3, Saline County, Illinois, was held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, as announced by posted public notice and by mail. The following members of the Board were present: Mr. Billy Smith, Mr. Kevin Dowdy, Mr. Ryan Lambert, Mr. Brandon Henshaw, Mr. Steve Smothers, Mr. Nathan Howton and Mr. Randy Smithpeters.

The following administrators were present: Dr. Amy Dixon, Natalie Fry, Debbie McGowan, John Crabb, Alesha Allen, Lana Bell, Amanda Stone, Elizabeth Dawe, Jason Varner, Andy Fehrenbacher, and Whitney Tripp.
The following Unit #3 staff members were present: Keri Holland, Lenae Milam, Russell Hunt, Jennifer Irvin, Amanda Schmitt, and Amie Stearns. Student Board Member: Adilyn Lane.
With a quorum of the members of the Board being present, President Smith called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

President Smith led the Board, staff and attendees in the *Pledge of Allegiance.*

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Dowdy seconded the motion to **enter into Executive Session to discuss:**
A. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees in an educational setting. Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
Upon a call of the President for a vote to be taken, it was determined the results of said motion carried.
Board entered into Closed Session at 5:02 p.m.

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion **to reconvene in open session** at 5:20 p.m. Upon a call of the President for a voice vote to be taken, it was determined the results of said motion carried.

Dr. Dixon introduced Adilyn Lane as the Student Board Member for this school year. She recited the Oath of Office and the Board Member Code of Conduct was reviewed.

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Dowdy seconded the motion to **approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Smothers moved and Mr. Howton seconded the motion to **approve the Bills Due and Payable.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Smithpeters seconded the motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Howton moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **approve the Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

The Board of Education reviewed the monthly Activity Fund Summaries from each building

RECOGNITION OF DISTRICT 3 SUCCESSES
Superintendent – Dr. Amy Dixon
- Welcomed students and staff back. We have had a very smooth start to the school year.

BELA – Principal Alesha Allen
- Will be accepting more students after the screenings and anticipate a waitlist.

West Side Primary – Principal Elizabeth Dawe
- Appreciated all the hard work and donations from the PTO board of officers.

East Side Intermediate - Principal Amanda Stone
- The school year if off to a strong start with staff focused on establishing classroom routines and building relationships with students.

Harrisburg Middle School - Principal Debbie McGowan
- Partnering with BELA for a gardening class called Pre-K Garden Buddies.

Harrisburg High School - Principal John Crabb

- Enrollment numbers are up a little from what was projected, but class sizes should not be an issue.

Special Education – Whitney Tripp

Technology, Media, Grants, Curriculum – Natalie Fry

- HHS has 7 students participating in the CEO program this year.

Transportation – Andy Fehrenbacher

- Bus 2 is being replaced with a new white bus. It is the oldest in the fleet and has the most miles.

Mr. Smithpeters moved and Mr. Lambert seconded the motion to **approve the updates of Press Plus Issue 122.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Remedy Design.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Howton seconded the motion to **approve the review of the past 6 months Executive Session Minutes. (All will remain closed).** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Henshaw moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **approve the raises for the District Nurses.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **approve the F3 Law Firm agreement.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

The Tentative Budget is on Display from 8-3 at the District Central Office 411 W. Poplar St.

The FY 27 Budget Hearing will be held during the Board Meeting on September 15th at 5 P.M.

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Dowdy seconded the motion to **approve the Executive Session minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Howton seconded the motion to **accept the following Resignations.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

- **Julie Martin as 1st Grade Teacher**
- **Alex Maxam as HMS Paraprofessional**
- **Heather Mott as HHS Paraprofessional**
- **Kelsyn Fricker as Boys Asst. Soccer Coach**
- **Elizabeth Mayhall as 6 hour Cook**

Mr. Smithpeters moved and Mr. Henshaw seconded the motion to **approve the FMLA request of Hillary Okerson.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Howton moved and Mr. Lambert seconded the motion to **reassign Rhonda Beckman to 1st Grade Teacher at West Side.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **reassign Elizabeth Mayhall to an EOC Aide position.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Smothers moved and Mr. Smithpeters seconded the motion to **employ Hannah Murphy as Asst. Cheer Coach for Football and Basketball.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Dowdy moved and Mr. Smothers seconded the motion to **employ the following Coaches.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

- **Kyle McGowan for HHS Asst. Football Coach**
- **Tyler Short for HMS Head Boys Track Coach**
- **Austin Beere for HMS Boys Asst. Track Coach**

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Smithpeters seconded the motion to **employ Joe Thompson for HHS Matrix, not to exceed 120 days.** On a call of the roll, the motion received a unanimous vote of **yea.**

Mr. Lambert moved and Mr. Henshaw seconded the motion to **adjourn the meeting.** Upon a call of the President for a voice vote to be taken, it was determined the result of said motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Nathan Howton, Secretary

Mr. Billy Smith, President