

Hickman Mills C-1 School District
Board of Education Regular Session Board Meeting

April 20th, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Board members: President- Bonnaye Mims
Vice-President- Byron Townsend
Dir. Clifford Ragan
Dir. Vanessa Claborn
Dir. Irene Kendrick
Dir. Ann Coleman
Dir. April Cushing

Also in attendance: Interim Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Board Secretary Cha'Sha Walker, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Dr. Dawn Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services Katie Roe, Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources Casey Klapmyer, Executive Director of Business and Finance Aigne Cox, Executive Director of Academic Services Dr. Yolanda Cargile and Attorney Carla Fields-Johnson

1. Welcome

President Mims welcomed everyone to the April 20th Board Meeting.

1.0 Call to order @ 6:11P.M.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Mims

2. Roll Call

Upon Roll Call the following were present

1. Adoption of Agenda & Roll Call

President- Bonnaye Mims
Vice-President- Byron Townsend
Dir. Clifford Ragan
Dir. Vanessa Claborn

Dir. Irene Kendrick

Dir. Ann Coleman

Dir. April Cushing

2.1 Recommendation: Director Townsend moved to adopt the agenda as presented Director Cushing seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick,Coleman =Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

3.0 Consent Items

- 1. Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Check Registers**

No Discussion

3.0 Recommendation: Director Townsend moved to accept the consent Items as presented Director Cushing seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

4.0 Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report:

Ms. Cox presented the financial report and provided an update on recent bond measures. She began by noting that, in accordance with board policy, financials are required to be presented at least quarterly; however, the administration has made a deliberate effort to present financial updates on a monthly basis to ensure transparency and consistent communication with the Board and community.

Ms. Cox shared positive news regarding the successful passage of two ballot questions that had been discussed in prior meetings. Question 1, a general obligation bond of approximately \$20 million, was approved by voters with 80.5% support. She explained that the bond will be used to pay down existing debt and address building maintenance and improvements across the district. She emphasized that the plan does not include major remodels or new construction projects. Additionally, this measure is expected to generate approximately \$1.4 million in additional operating revenue for the district beginning in the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

She further reported that Question 2 was approved by 74.9% of voters. This measure will transfer \$0.30 from the district's current \$1.10 debt service levy to the operating levy, resulting in

approximately \$2 million in additional annual operating revenue beginning next year. Ms. Cox emphasized that both measures will not result in an overall tax increase for homeowners but will instead allow the district to reallocate existing revenue more flexibly. She expressed appreciation to the community, Board, district staff, and voters for their support and efforts throughout the process.

Ms. Cox then reviewed the district's financials for the month ending March 31, 2026. Year-to-date revenues were reported at approximately 82.31% of the anticipated annual total, equating to \$75.4 million. She stated that the district will continue to monitor incoming revenues, submit reimbursement requests for federal funding, and manage financial processes through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Regarding expenditures, Ms. Cox reported that year-to-date spending is at 68.37% of the anticipated annual budget, totaling \$70.2 million. She noted that expenditures primarily include salaries and operational expenses, with additional costs expected in the spring related to graduation and summer school. The district will continue to monitor spending to remain aligned with the adopted budget and identify potential cost-saving opportunities.

Ms. Cox also addressed a request from Director Townsend made at a previous meeting to provide information to taxpayers regarding how school districts generate revenue and the impact of rising property values. She referenced the district's August 2022 voter-approved operating levy increase of \$1.35, which resulted in an additional \$8.2 million in revenue, representing a 36.3% increase. She clarified that this increase was not tied to property value growth but was specifically approved by voters to support salary increases for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

She explained that in the subsequent year, the district returned to using the State Auditor's calculation for setting the levy, which resulted in a more conservative revenue increase of 3.2%. She emphasized that revenue growth is limited by state guidelines, which cap increases at the lesser of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%. For 2025, the cap was set at 2.9%.

To provide further context, Ms. Cox reviewed historical financial data. In the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the district received approximately \$22.7 million in property tax revenue. In 2022–2023, following the levy increase, revenue rose by \$8.2 million. In 2023–2024, revenue increased to \$31.9 million, reflecting the capped growth rate of 3.2% under the State Auditor's formula.

Ms. Cox also discussed expenditure trends, noting that in 2022–2023, the district spent approximately \$37.2 million on salaries, an increase of \$236,000 from the prior year. In the following year, when the new salary schedule was implemented, salary expenditures increased by approximately \$12 million. She explained that salary increases also impact district-paid retirement contributions and benefits, resulting in a total increase of approximately \$14.8 million in personnel-related costs, compared to the \$8.2 million in additional revenue generated by the levy. This created a shortfall of approximately \$6.59 million.

Ms. Cox noted that the 2022–2023 fiscal year marked the first year the district experienced deficit spending, meaning expenditures exceeded revenues. She referenced financial data showing a deficit of \$3.2 million in the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

In closing, Ms. Cox stated that current financial projections incorporate the newly approved measures, anticipated ongoing revenue increases, and identified cost savings, including those approved by the Board on January 15 for the upcoming budget. Based on these projections, the district anticipates an ending fund balance of approximately 14.6% by the 2028–2029 fiscal year.

Operations Report:

Dr. Smith presented the April Operations Department report, beginning with updates related to Facilities, Technology, and overall departmental initiatives.

Dr. Smith reported that the department is actively engaged in the district's reconfiguration plan. The district has met with Superior Movers, the board-approved moving company, to coordinate transitions involving Santa Fe, Brooks Middle School, and Truman. The moving timeline is scheduled to begin as early as May 14, with the delivery of materials, supplies, and packing boxes to each school in preparation for the transition. The Technology Department will begin relocating equipment the week of May 25 to ensure systems are properly handled and ready for reinstallation. The physical move for all three schools is scheduled to begin June 1, with completion anticipated by June 18. Dr. Smith further reported that the Operations Department has partnered with the district's approved architectural firm, Hollis and Miller, to begin planning efforts made possible by the voter-approved measures passed on April 7. These measures will generate approximately \$6 million to support school improvements at Warford Elementary, which was not included in the previous bond, as well as address deferred maintenance needs across the district. As part of this process, the district initiated a stakeholder engagement effort at Warford Elementary. A ThoughtExchange survey was conducted from March 11 through March 27, providing staff, families, and community partners the opportunity to share input on future-ready, student-centered learning environments. Key themes identified from this feedback included the need for flexible learning spaces that support small group instruction, collaboration, hands-on learning opportunities, integration of technology, and access to outdoor learning environments.

Dr. Smith shared that this feedback was presented to Warford staff and the community on April 8, followed by additional stakeholder meetings. On April 16, initial design concepts based on the ThoughtExchange and stakeholder input were introduced. The district anticipates that the planning and design process will continue with ongoing engagement from staff, community members, and district leadership. The projected timeline for implementation of this work is summer 2027. Dr. Smith also reported additional cost savings for the district. Following a

previously reported savings of \$154,000, the district has identified an additional estimated annual savings of \$158,000 beginning in the 2026–2027 fiscal year. This savings is related to the district's health insurance plan and was achieved through coordination with the district's pharmacy support partner, allowing a plan participant to transition to a lower-cost medication alternative. Dr. Smith noted that the district continues to prioritize efficiency and cost-saving opportunities. Dr. Smith expressed appreciation for the Nutritional Services Department, specifically recognizing Ms. Kendra Moore and her team for preparing and organizing the meal for the meeting. In closing, Dr. Smith highlighted upcoming events within the Athletics Department. Decision Day is scheduled for April 22 at 1:30 p.m., during which graduating seniors will announce their post-secondary plans. Additionally, the elementary track meet is scheduled for April 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Academics Report:

Mrs. Katie Roe presented the April Academic Report. She began by expressing appreciation to Board members who participated in the district's Literacy Summit, noting that their engagement and presence were meaningful to staff and contributed to productive dialogue. She also shared that additional opportunities for continued conversation will be available for those unable to attend.

Mrs. Roe reported on four key areas, beginning with Curriculum and Instruction. She highlighted upcoming family engagement opportunities, including two meet-and-greet events. The elementary meet-and-greet night is scheduled for April 28 and is designed for students and families transitioning to new elementary schools, as well as incoming kindergarten students. She noted that families will receive newly developed kindergarten readiness toolkits to support learning at home.

Additionally, the secondary transition night is scheduled for April 30. This event will support incoming sixth-grade students, current middle school students transitioning to new settings, and incoming ninth-grade students (Class of 2030), providing them with information about their new schools and expectations.

Mrs. Roe also noted that district-wide MAP testing will officially begin the following day. While some MAP and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments have already taken place, the full implementation will occur across the district. She expressed confidence in student success and commended principals for their efforts in supporting and encouraging both students and staff.

In the area of Special Education and Health Services, Mrs. Roe reported that the district continues to seek qualified candidates for nursing and health aide positions. She encouraged outreach to potential candidates and partnerships with certification programs. She also noted ongoing efforts to recruit both support staff and certified staff to lead specialized programs for the upcoming school year. Dr. Cargile has been instrumental in identifying program locations, developing teams, and establishing professional development and goals to ensure program success.

Mrs. Roe provided an update on summer school, stating that enrollment is underway, with over 300 elementary students and nearly 125 middle school students currently registered. High school enrollment remains lower but is expected to increase. She reminded the Board that the application window remains open through the end of the month and that families may enroll through the Parent Portal, with assistance available from school staff if needed.

She also introduced the summer school administrative team, noting that each site will have both a principal and an administrative intern. Mrs. Roe emphasized that summer school provides valuable leadership opportunities for aspiring administrators. She shared that the team recently participated in a professional development session led by Dr. Edwards and is well-prepared for the upcoming program.

In the area of Student and Family Support Services, Mrs. Roe shared positive news regarding the district's Restorative Practices Grant. The grant, administered through the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County, has been renewed for an additional two years, totaling over \$1 million. She noted that this funding supports restorative practice coaches and ongoing professional development, providing significant benefits to students, staff, and the broader community.

In closing, Mrs. Roe shared that during spring break, Ms. Danika and district staff supported high school students by facilitating participation in programs such as Cinderella's Closet and Men of the Hour, helping students prepare for prom. She noted that building administrators assisted with this effort and that the initiative was well received.

Communications Report:

Lynn presented the Communications Report and introduced members of the communications team, including Rochelle Crosby, receptionist and communications administrator, and Cody Wahlberg, communications intern.

Lynn shared that the department's work is aligned with the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), with a primary focus on improving positive public perception and strengthening communication efforts. She reported continued progress in building and maintaining strong media relationships over the past three years, allowing the district to more effectively share positive stories and respond to media inquiries in a timely manner.

Lynn noted that the district has experienced a 4% increase in media mentions over the past year. While the department strives for a 90% positive media rate, the current rate is approximately 80%, reflecting some recent unfavorable coverage. However, she emphasized that this represents a significant improvement compared to prior years. She also reported that media mentions have increased steadily, with 188 mentions last year and 196 mentions already recorded this year.

In addition to media relations, Lynn highlighted efforts to provide consistent and meaningful communication to families. The district produces a monthly newsletter and enhanced "Board Briefs" following each board meeting. She explained that the Board Briefs format has been

revised to provide more detailed and engaging summaries, resulting in an increase in readership from approximately 30% to 45–50%.

Lynn also reported significant growth in the district's social media presence. Facebook followers have increased by 6%, primarily reflecting engagement from families and the community. Instagram followers have increased by 20%, with strong engagement from students and alumni. Overall social media reach has increased by 138% on Facebook and 16% on Instagram, while engagement has increased by 34% on Facebook and 160% on Instagram. She noted that posts celebrating students, staff, and alumni generate the highest levels of engagement.

Lynn further shared updates on family and community engagement efforts, including participation in community meetings, collaboration with the Board Engagement Committee, and promotion of partner programs. She emphasized the district's use of multiple platforms, including Peachjar, newsletters, and social media, to ensure families are informed about available resources and opportunities. She noted that this comprehensive approach distinguishes the district from others that rely on a single communication platform.

Lynn concluded her report by highlighting the importance of community partnerships and introduced the Caring for Kids Network presentation.

Caring for Kids

Mrs. Terry, representative from the Caring for Kids Network presented an overview of the organization and its partnership with the district. The presenter introduced key team members, including Executive Director Portia Seals, and described her role as Equipping Director, responsible for training school and district liaisons. She also acknowledged district leadership, including Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Edwards, for their continued support and advocacy.

Terry shared that the Caring for Kids Network was established in 2013 and began its partnership with the district in 2015. Since its inception, the network has expanded to serve 139 schools, is currently active in 114 schools, and operates across seven school districts, five charter schools, and one private school. The organization has served over 48,000 students and collaborates with 439 community partners, including faith-based organizations, businesses, and nonprofit and civic groups.

Terry emphasized three core components of successful school partnerships: relationships, collaboration, and goal alignment. Strong relationships among community partners, schools, staff, students, and families were identified as the foundation for effective support. Collaboration among partners allows for a collective impact that exceeds what individual organizations could achieve independently. Additionally, aligning partnership efforts with school-specific goals ensures that all initiatives directly support student success.

Terry noted that partnerships are sustained over time despite changes in district leadership, demonstrating long-term commitment from community partners. These partnerships provide a range of supports, including mentoring, tutoring, staff appreciation, and family assistance, contributing to improved school environments and student outcomes.

Outcome data was also shared, indicating that 32 goals have been achieved, 59 projects completed, 344 volunteers engaged, and over \$29,000 in financial contributions generated to support district initiatives. Additional data is expected at the end of the school year.

Terry concluded by inviting Board members to attend future district kickoff events, typically held in September, to learn more about partnership efforts and celebrate the impact of the Caring for Kids Network.

Recommendation: Director Coleman moved to accept the Superintendent's Report as presented Director Claborn seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

5.0 New Business

1. See to Succeed Vision Care Program

Recommendation: President Townsend moved to accept **See to Succeed Vision Care Program** Director Coleman seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

2. Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – RTI_Network Equipment Licensing and Support

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept **Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – RTI_Network Equipment Licensing and Support**

Director Coleman seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

3. Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Network Cabling and Infrastructure Project

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept **Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Network Cabling and Infrastructure Project** Director Coleman seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

4.Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept **Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)** Director Cushing seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

5. Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Switches Licenses

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept **Approval of E-Rate Award Agreement – Switches Licenses** Director Claborn seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

6.MSBA Board Policy Updates 2026-A

Casey Klappmeyer presented the MSBA 2026A policy updates for first read in accordance with Board Policy BF regarding first and second readings of policy revisions.

Mr. Klappmeyer reported that the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) has issued 2026A updates to districts across the state. These updates include revisions to multiple policy areas related to board effectiveness, clarification of MSBA delegate structures and roles, and guidance on the formation and operation of board committees.

He further explained that, based on feedback from the Board Secretary Workshop at MSBA's annual conference, MSBA has also revised policies related to board meeting minutes, policy adoption procedures, posting requirements, and district engagement and advocacy efforts.

Mr. Klappmeyer noted that all draft policies have been provided to the Board for review, along with a district-created quick reference guide outlining key changes for ease of reference. He specifically highlighted Policy BF, which addresses the process for board policy adoption. He

explained that MSBA has updated its model language and is eliminating references to required “first read” and “second read” language. Instead, MSBA’s updated guidance indicates that policies may be introduced and adopted following a first read, with additional readings left to Board discretion.

Mr. Klappmeyer emphasized that this change reflects the need for districts to remain responsive to frequent legislative updates and ensures timely compliance when immediate policy adoption is necessary. He also noted that, even under existing procedures, the Board retains the ability to waive policy when required and proceed with adoption on a single reading when legally appropriate.

He stated that while the district may continue its current practice of first and second readings, MSBA’s revised language removes the requirement for a second read in its model policy framework. He added that administration may recommend waiving policy when necessary to maintain legal compliance.

Mr. Klappmeyer confirmed that all proposed revisions are aligned with current state statutes and reference MSIP 6 standards established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), ensuring consistency with updated accountability and governance frameworks.

He concluded by stating that the draft policies are provided for Board review and will return for a second read and potential adoption at the next Board meeting in May.

No Action Needed- First Read

6.0 Ratification of Contracts

- 1. Service Agreement with Teachers Like Me for the 2026-2027 School Year**
- 2. KC Tarheels**
- 3. Character Strong**
- 4. CCVI**

5. Kelly Pediatric

6. Summit Behavioral

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept the **Ratification of Contracts as** presented Director Kendrick seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: Pass 7/0

7.0 Board Of Education Inauguration

1. Certified Election Results (Policy BBB-1AP(1))

Byron Townsend- 1,306

April Cushing - 1,205

Irene Kendrick- 1,291

Evelyn Hildebrand- 1,240

Matthew Williams- 997

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept the Certified Election Results (Policy BBB-1AP(1)) as presented Director Claborn seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman =Y;)

Result: 7/0

2. Inauguration Board Ethics Commitment (Policy BBF)

Ms. Walker, Board Secretary introduced and sworn in new Board Director **Evelyn Hildebradand** and Re-Elected board members Director **Byron Townsend** and **Irene Kendrick**.

3. Official Seating of Directors

a. No Action Taken in this process

4. Election of Board Officers (Policy BCA-1)

*Superintendent Dr. Carpenter entertained nominations for Board President, Vice President, Board Treasure, MSBA Deligate, and Board Secretary.

Board President: President Mims

Nomination made by: Director Claborn

Recommendation: Director Claborn moved to accept President Mims as President presented Director Townsend seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend,=Y;) Kendrick =N Ragan=A

Result: 5/1 Pass

Board Vice President: Ann Coleman

Nomination made by: Director Townsend

Recommendation: Director Townsend moved to accept Board Vice President Ann Coleman Director Claborn seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: 7/0

Board Treasure: Aigne' Cox

Nomination made by:Director Townsend

Recommendation:Director Townsend moved to accept the **Nomination of Aigne' Cox as Board Treasure, President Mims** seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick=Y;) Coleman (excused)

Result: 7/0

MSBA Deligate: Evelyn Hildebrand

Nomination made by: Director Coleman

Recommendation: Vice President Coleman moved to accept the **Nomination of Director Hildebrand as** presented Director Claborn seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman =Y;)

Result: 7/0

Alt: President Mims

Recommendation: President Mims moved to accept the **MSBA Delegate Alt.** presented Director Coleman seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick=Y;) Coleman (excused)

Result: 7/0

Board Secretary: Cha'Sha Walker

Nomination made by: Director Claborn

Recommendation: Director Claborn moved to accept Cha'Sha Walker as **Board Secretary** President Mims seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims,Cushing,Townsend, Kendrick, Coleman=Y;)

Result: 7/0

7.0 Adjournment

Recommendation:Director Claborn moved to adjourn Director Townsend Seconded the motion (Claborn,Ragan, President Mims, Coleman, Townsend, Cushing, Kendrick=Y;)

Result: Pass: 7/0

8:22PM

Chas'Sha Walker

Cha'Sha Walker , Board Secretary