

MINUTES
HOUGHTON-PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 17, 2026

Members Present: Baltensperger, Cischke, Burns, Massaway, Salmi, Vertin, Raffaelli

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Administrators, Hill, Filpus, Klein, Scullion, Marcotte, Fay; Jason Evans, Ian Evans, Special Olympics Committee, Gundlach Employees

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Massaway called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

The Board heard Public Comment.

3. Presentation Gundlach Champion Tour

4. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Raffaelli, with support from Mr. Baltensperger moved that the Board approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 regular meeting, the August 3, 2026 Work Session Meeting and the August financial statements and bills in the amount of \$173,0137.18. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Administrative Reports

Mrs. Scullion, Ms. Filpus and Mr. Klein reported on events occurring in their buildings. Mr. Fay gave an update on athletics. Mr. Hill gave a report on events occurring in the district.

6. MASB, MASA & CCASB Reports

There were CCASB reports. Mr. Baltensperger gave an MASB report, Mr. Hill gave MASA report.

7. Discussion/Action Items

1) Discussion-Strategic Plan Update John Scholten

2) Resolution to Approve 2026 HPTS Strategic Plan

Mrs. Cischke with support from Mrs. Vertin approved 2026 HPTS Strategic Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Resolution to Continue Using WillSub

Mrs. Cischke with support from Mr. Burns moved that the Board approve a resolution to continue using WillSub for the hiring of substitute teachers, food service workers and others as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Resolution to accept the 2026-2027 Board, Employee, Elementary, Middle and High School Handbooks

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board accept the 2026-2027 Athletic, Employee, Elementary, Middle and High School Handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Resolution to Approve the Houghton High School Course Listing

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mr. Burns moved that the Board approve the Houghton High School Course Listing. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Resolution to Hire New Personnel

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approve the hiring of:

Paige Lewandowski - Elementary School Art Teacher
Josh Karvakko - Middle School Football
Joel Durocher - Middle School Football Assistant
Jacob Dahling - Football Assistant
Brynn Arko - 9th Grade Volleyball Coach

Motion carried unanimously.

7) Approval of Fall Athletic Coaches

Mrs. Raffaelli with support from Mr. Salmi moved that the Board approve the hiring of fall athletic coaches for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Resolution to Approve the Thrun Policy Updates as Attached

Mr. Burns with support from Mrs. Vertin moved to approve the Thrun Policy updates as Attached. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Round Table/Discussion

Mr. Salmi talked about the special Olympics public comment. Mr. Burns advocated for us to rent out our facilities.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Salmi moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Massaway adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sara Marcotte, Acting Secretary


Mike Salmi, Board Secretary