FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075
October 12, 2026
6:30pm ET (5:30pm CT)

Attendance Taken at 6:33 PM:

Present Board Members:
Mr. Jeff Beach
Mr. Clem Fennell IV
Mrs. Sarah Foster
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein
Mr. David Russell

I. OPENING OF MEETING
Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein opened the meeting at 6:33pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Recognitions

1. Board Bravos and Updates
The Board shared the following:
- The HHS Band is doing really well and won Grand Champion at the Campbell County competition over the weekend
- HHS Boys Golf are Regional Champs
- HHS Girls Golf had 2 players qualify for State
- HHS Girls Cross Country won the Conference Championship over the weekend
- HHS Girls Freshman Soccer won their Championship
- HMS 7th Grade Girls Volleyball finished their season undefeated (27-0)
- HHS Journalism was awarded Gold status by Jostens
- Students will be taking the PSAT on Tuesday
- 8th Grade Football team headed to the playoffs
- Winter sports begin next week
- FTIS received the Dark Sky Award for our work at the softball field. We are the first school district in the state to receive this certification.

2. National Merit Scholarship
The Board recognized the following students:
William Rayner - Semifinalist
Christian Bedinghaus - Commended
Jude Borden - Commended
John Buecker - Commended
Macy Davis - Commended

The Board congratulated the students on their success and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a Rich in Tradition t-shirt.

3. NaviGo Scholars
The Board recognized the following NaviGo Scholars:
Jadon Bargo
Dylan Fortner
Ryan Hamilton
Adalyn Klosterman
Vera Knight
Samira Kuame
James Kuhn
Arianna Lloyd
Chimdindu Nwachukwu
Isaac Pieper
Matteo Schroer
Parker Shipman
Luis Soto Valenzuela
Gage Thomas
Harper Teismann

While the students were not present, the Board expressed their congratulations and sent a Certificate of Achievement and a Rich in Tradition t-shirt to the high school for all of them.

C. Student Showcase - WES: Leadership Team Building
Woodfill 5th Graders presented on Leadership Day to the Board. These students included:
Miles Ballinger
Maddie Botto
Lincoln Broderick
Maddie Grimme
Emmett Laycock
Paul Lubbers
Rose Kremer
Amelia Means
Evan Nappi

Students talked about which challenge was the most difficult and what they enjoyed about Leadership Day. The Board presented each with a Rich in Tradition t-shirt.

D. Community Forum
There were no community members signed up to speak.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. KETS First Offer of Assistance

Order #2787 - Motion Passed: Approval to accept and match the entire KETS Offer of Assistance amount at the present time of this offer and any subsequent offers up to a total of $25/ADA for the 2026-2027 school year with the KETS First Offer of Assistance being $39,457 passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mrs. Sarah Foster.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

III. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Committee Updates

There were no committee updates this month.

B. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation

1. Project Update

Chad Niedert shared there is no pay app this month as items on the punch list are addressed. Progress is being made and a part is on order from Canada for the HVAC controls.

C. Brigance Report

Jamee Flaherty shared that 81% of incoming Kindergarteners were considered "Ready" this year. She shared that many students struggle with knowing their phone number. Our ready percentage continues to be steady and is above the state average of 50%.

D. Summer Enrichment Report

Jamee Flaherty shared the Summer Enrichment totals from this year. Our enrollment numbers are down from prior years, however it was pointed out that the College Application Bootcamp is no longer a summer enrichment course, as that work is now done in English class and could account for a portion of the reduced enrollment numbers. The Board suggested we survey the students to see what type of courses they would like to see offered next year.

E. Notification/Report of Personnel Action Taken Since September 14, 2026

Employment of the following Classified Employee

Mark Jessee - Bus Driver – Districtwide

Employment of the following Paraprofessionals

Rachel Gabbard - Softball Assistant Coach – HHS
Griffin Sanders - Archery Assistant Coach – HHS
Daniel Sanchez - Soccer Goalkeeper Coach – HHS

Employment of the following Extra-Service Position
Katie Leftin - Softball Field Maintenance (1/2 Split) – HHS

Leave of Absence for the following Employees
Ami Barth - 12/08/2026 - 01/19/2027 – JES
Christina Hudson - 02/15/27 - 05/07/2027 – MES

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Order #2788 - Motion Passed: With all Board members having had the opportunity to review and pursue any questions about all of the items contained therein, approval of the consent agenda passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mr. David Russell.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mr. David Russell	Yes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026 and Working Meeting of October 8, 2026

B. Financial Report for Month of September 2026

C. Food Service Report for September 2026

D. Attendance Report for 1st Month of 2026-27

E. Authorization for Payment of Claims

F. Special Education Policies and Procedures

G. District Technology Report - Q1

H. DPP Job Description

I. Approval of Unpaid Leave
1. Annie Bartoszek - October 20, 2026 to February 20, 2027

J. Notification and Approval of Student Trips
1. HHS Girls Golf - New Castle, KY - September 21-22, 2026
2. WES - Columbus, OH - April 30, 2027

K. Approval of Superintendent Travel
1. Bluegrass Risk Management Membership Meeting - October 23, 2026 - Lexington, KY
2. NCERT - October 28-31, 2026 - San Diego, CA
3. Superintendent Advisory Council - November 4, 2026 - Frankfort, KY

V. OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business to discuss.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Board Chair Julie Kuhnhein adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

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Chairperson

_____
Superintendent