

**OHIO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT #505**

**A**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ohio High School District #505 was held on Monday, May 12, 2025

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**1.1 Roll Call**

**High School Board Members Present:** Harold Albrecht, Cindy Hacker, Brock Kaecker, Chad Deery, Janice Campbell, Reka Albrecht, Courtney Forristall

**Administrator Present:** Superintendent Hamilton, Principal Wilt, Superintendent Donnelly

**Board Recording Secretary:** Kelly Becker

**Other Attendees:** Sara Edelfson, Tina Anderson, Shad and Sarah Hansen

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Hacker, seconded by Reka to approve the agenda as amended.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

**II. CONSENT ITEMS IN ENCLOSED IN PACKET**

- 2.1 Approved Minutes from April 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- 2.2 Approved Treasurer's Report and Student Activity Account Report
- 2.3 Approved Payment of April Bills (\$44,614.31) which were prepared 5/6/2025 at 3:18 PM and Payroll (\$62,296.36). As far as our Budget we are exactly where we need to be.

Motion made by Deery, seconded by Forristall to approve consent items in packet as presented.

Roll call; Yes; Hacker, Kaecker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Forristall, Albrecht  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

**III. PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. SEATING OF NEWLY ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

- 5.1 The newly elected Board members were welcomed. The Board and community appreciate your interest and dedication to serve.

The canvassed results are as follows: Brock Kaecker and Courtney Forristall  
4 year terms.

Motion by Deery, seconded by Albrecht to approve the canvass  
results as presented and the appointment of Cindy Hacker and Janice Campbell  
for 2 year terms.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- 5.2 Oath of office was read and signed at this time. Congratulations!

## **VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (2 YEAR TERMS)**

- 6.1 At this time the Board Secretary will take over to run the election for President and Vice President.

1st "Nominations are now in order for the office of president"

Harold Abrecht is nominated by Cindy Hacker.

"Are there any other nominations for the office of president?"

2nd "Nominations are now in order for the office of president"

Brock Kaecker is nominated by Chad Deery.

"Are there any other nominations for the office of president?"

Hearing no further nominations there was discussion time for the Board.

After the discussion time Mrs. Hamilton read a quote out of the IASB  
School Board Journal.

"I wish I understood how important it was to part of one voice when dealing  
with community members. It does not mean that your individual thoughts are not  
important. However, talking with the community and respecting my fellow members  
needs to be balanced and at times it can be difficult."

"Hearing no further nominations, the nominations for the office of President are  
closed."

"All in favor of Harold Albrecht for Board President, raise your hand."

Cindy Hacker, Reka Albrecht, Harold Albrecht (in favor).

"All in favor of Brock Kaecker for Board President, raise your hand."

Chad Deery, Janice Campbell, Brock Kaecker, Courtney Forristall (in favor).

Majority Rules, Brock Kaecker is elected the new president of this Board of Education.

- 6.2 We will now take nominations for Vice President.

1st "Nominations are now in order for the office of Vice President"

Harold Albrecht is nominated by Chad Deery.

"Are there any other nominations for the office of Vice President?"

"Hearing no further nominations, the nominations for the office of Vice President are  
Closed."

"All in favor of Harold Albrecht for the office of Vice President, raise your hand."

The vote was unanimous, "Harold Albrecht is elected the new Vice President of this  
Board of Education."

## **VII. APPOINT STANDING COMMITTEES (2 YEAR TERMS)**

- 7.1 Building Committee (2) Harold Albrecht, Cindy Hacker

- 7.2 Policy (2) Cindy Hacker, Reka Albrecht

- 7.3 Sports Co-op (2) Chad Deery, Courtney Forristall

- 7.4 Teacher's Contract (2) Brock Kaecker, Janice Campbell

## **VIII. PRINCIPAL REPORT**

- 8.1 Attendance update: Our average attendance was 97.1% for April and 94.6.2% for the year average
  - 8.2 Grad Walk: Grad Walk will be held on Friday, May 16th at 2:00 pm.
  - 8.3 6-12 Awards Program will be held on Tuesday, May 27th at 8:15 am.
  - 8.4 Graduation: Will be held on Saturday, May 17th at 2:00 PM. Congratulations to our graduates!
  - 8.5 Sports Update: Track Sectionals quickly approaching. Girls-5/14 & Boys- 5/22. Both are in the Rockridge Sectional.
- A quick update on Co-op with Amboy school district. IHSA has made the decision to change schools enrollment number for 8 man football to 300. At this time LaMoille doesn't have any students interested in baseball and we do so that will allow us to add back boys baseball to offer to our boys. The new Co-op Intergovernmental Agreement will be on the June Board meeting as an Action item.

## **XI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- 9.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 82 HS: 20 Total: 102 (D)
- 9.2 Joint Annual Conference: Joint Annual Conference will be November 21, 22, 23, 2025. Registration and housing will open on Monday, June 2, 2025. Registration fees are \$540 for the three-day event plus a \$200 housing deposit.
- 9.3 Local Revenue: The levy was created and approved in the Fall of 2024 and was based off of an estimated EAV, the actual EAV is \$73,174,843 which is 6,288,879 more than our actual EAV for tax year 2023. The final 2024 tax extension report has been received (payable summer of 2025) and the total (both HS & GS Districts) tax rate for 2025 is approximately 5.29. This is the lowest tax rate of those we have been tracking since 2004 with a rate reduction of .07 from our previous year's rate (5.36).
- 9.4 Summer Building Project Update: Abatement work scheduled to begin 5/29/25 on the updating of our library/classroom/designated stem area.
- 9.5 Insurance Update: Administration and Union representatives have decided to proceed with Gallagher as our insurance consultant and to continue with our BCBS coverage.
- 9.6 Open positions: The goal is to be fully staffed for school starting in August. All positions are posted internally and externally. Also, we have connected with the District 1 Ag education program advisor to begin discussing how to bring an Ag and FFA program to Ohio. Conversations are underway with neighboring Districts to possibly share an Ag teacher, Spanish teacher and school counselor. We will be hiring a HS Science teacher.
- 9.7 Course Description Book: Revision proposals are being made to the 2025-2026 course description book to reflect the maximum number of credits each HS student is able to take per semester. Currently students are able to earn 4.0 credits per semester and graduation requirements are a total of 24 credits. The proposal is to increase the number of credits required to graduate to 28 credits for the incoming freshman and beyond. In addition, as we are working to hire a full time science instructor and moving our math teacher to a full time math teacher, graduation requirements proposed to include 3.0 math and science credits to graduation. Next year sophomores, juniors and seniors will still follow the graduation requirements listed in the 2024/2025 course description book. Courtney Forristall expressed her concerns with kids not having Study Hall's and raising the amount of credits we would be adding to a student's course load. Superintendent Hamilton explained that yes, the students have the option to build a Study Hall into their schedule.

- Superintendent Hamilton reminded the Board that administration is asking for Board clarification regarding graduation requirements so work can continue moving forward to update the Course Description Book. The decision was made to keep the graduation credit requirements at 24 and continue the discussion during the 2025/26 school year.
- 9.8 Superintendent transition plan: Mrs. Donnelly is contracted through June 30, 2026 with the Grade School District. Current work has started on transitioning Mrs. Donnelly to the Superintendent of Ohio High School District (7/1/25) which includes an intergovernmental agreement between the GS and the HS Districts. The next step will be the HS Board working with Mrs. Donnelly to create a contract for the 25/26 school year. During the 25/26 school year both the GS and HS boards will be in a position to work together to establish a multi year contract with Mrs. Donnelly. During this period of transition, Mrs. Hamilton is focusing on filling open teaching positions, creating the master schedule and student schedules and preparing a budget for the 25/26 school year.
- 9.9 Strategic Plan: Work will begin during the 2025/2026 school year to create a HS mission, vision and strategic plan that is developed with Board, teacher, student, parent and community member input.

## **X. CLOSED SESSION**

- 10.1 Convene to Closed Session for matters relating to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or Deliberations concerning salary and salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

### **CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Kaecker, seconded by Forristall to convene to Closed Session at 8:20 PM  
Roll call: Kaecker, Albrecht, Hacker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Forristall  
Supt. Hamilton, Becker, Supt. Donnelly  
Not present: Principal Wilt

### **RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION**

Motion by Deery, seconded by Reka to reconvene to regular session at 8:28 PM  
Roll call: Kaecker, Albrecht, Hacker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Forristall  
Supt. Hamilton, Becker, Supt. Donnelly  
Not present: Principal Wilt


## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

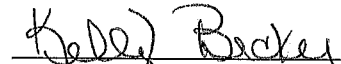
- 11.1 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Hacker to approve 2025/2026 Board Meetings and Times. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 11.2 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Forristall to approve MOU.  
Roll call; Yes; Kaecker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Forristall, Albrecht, Hacker  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
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- 11.3 Motion by Deery, seconded by Hacker to approve with regrets the resignation of Katrina Graff.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

- 11.4 Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Forristall to approve the employment of Maddie Dye as OHS Science teacher beginning January 5, 2026.  
Roll call; Yes; Deery, Campbell, Reka, Forristall, Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 11.5 Motion by Reka, seconded by Hacker to accept with regrets the retirement of Diane Byers who has been with Ohio Schools for 31 years.  
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 11.6 Motion by Hacker, seconded by Reka to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Ohio Grade School District #17 to share a school Superintendent for the 2025/2026 school year.  
Roll call; Yes; Campbell, Reka, Forristall, Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker, Deery  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.
- 11.7 First reading of Policy Manual Updates Press Issue #118.  
No action needed at this time.
- 11.8 Motion by Deery, seconded by Forristall to approve administration authority to hire an English teacher without prior Board approval.  
Roll call; Yes; Reka, Forristall, Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker, Deery, Campbell  
Nay: none. Motion Carried.

**XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- 12.1 Motion made by Reka, seconded by Forristall to adjourn this meeting at 8:39 PM.  
The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District office.

  
Brock Kaecker  
President

  
Kelly Becker  
Secretary