MINUTES
HOUGHTON-PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 20, 2026

Members Present: Baltensperger, Massaway, Cischke, Raffaelli

Members Absent: Burns, Salmi, Vertin

Also Present: Administrators Hill, Marcotte, Baril, Jason Evans, Mike Massaway

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Presentation

Progress on Elementary School expansion from Gundlach Supervisor.

3. Public Comment

The Board received public comment.

4. Consent Agenda

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026, regular meeting, July financial statements, and bills in the amount of $1,052,316.64. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Administrative Reports

Mr. Hill gave a report on events occurring in the district.

6. MASB, MASA & CCASB Reports

There was no CCASB report. Reports given for both MASB and MASA.

7. Discussion/Action Items

1) Designation of Depositories for School Funds

Mrs. Cischke with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board approve the designation of Superior National Bank as the depository of general fund, debt retirement, capital projects monies, federal tax deposits, athletics and school service accounts, and trust fund; Incredible Bank as the depository for the trust and agency fund; the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund as the depository for general fund and capital projects; and the Breakwater Federal Credit Union as the depository for the elementary trust and agency account. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Designation of Individuals Responsible for Posting Public Notice of Meetings

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approve the designation of Sara Marcotte and Colette Patchin for posting public notice of meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Delegation of Election Duties

Mrs. Raffaelli with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approve the delegation of Sara Marcotte to attend all election duties. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Adoption of Legal Reference Note

Mrs. Cischke with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board designate themselves as a General Powers School District by operational law. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Approval of Organizational Memberships – MASA, MASB, CCASB

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board approve the organizational memberships in the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators, the Michigan Association of School Boards and the MASB Legal Trust Fund, and the Copper Country Association of School Boards. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Approval of Annual Retainer Contracts – School Attorney and Auditor

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board approve the annual retainer contracts with the Thrun Law Firm serving as school attorneys for school elections and matters pertaining to school law, and Anderson, Tackman, and Company to serve as school auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Resolution to Participate in School Bond Loan Fund

Mrs. Raffaelli with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approve a resolution to participate in the School Bond Loan Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Designation of Carriers to Transport Students

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board designate Lamers Transit as the transportation provider for the district, all area schools, Copper Country I.S.D., Michigan Technological University, Houghton Transit Authority, Hancock Transit, and any other carrier designated by the Board or approved by the Superintendent as carriers to transport students. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Selection of Representative for CCASB

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board approves the selection of Mr. Burns as representative for the CCASB. Motion carried unanimously.

10) Approval of Board Member Travel

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board approve member travel to MASB, MASA, and NSBA functions and seminars, the U.P. Legislative Summit, Statewide education and local CCASB functions. Motion carried unanimously.

11) Resolution to Designate Julie Filpus as District Representative in the Absence of Superintendent

Mrs. Raffaelli with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board designate Julie Filpus as district representative in the absence of the Superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

12) Resolution Setting the First Day of School for 2026-27 School Year

Mrs. Cischke with support from Mrs. Raffaelli moved that the Board designate Tuesday, September 8th as the first day of school for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

13) Discussion Mid-year Superintendent Progress Report

Mrs. Massaway led a discussion about the Mid-year Superintendent Progress Report.

14) Round Table/Discussion

Mrs. Massaway led a discussion about the Mid-year Superintendent Progress Report.

8. Closed Session

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board adjourn to executive session to discuss negotiations. Through a roll call vote, the motion passed with voting as follows: Ayes: Baltensperger, Massaway, Cischke, Vertin, Raffaelli; Nays: none. The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:02 p.m. The Board returned to regular session at 6:21 p.m.

9. Discussion/Action Items – Continued

15) Resolution to Approve MEA Union Contract Agreement

Mrs. Raffaelli with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the Board of Education of the Houghton-Portage Township Schools approve ratification of the entire Master Agreement, reached between the Board of Education of the Houghton-Portage Township Schools and the Houghton-Portage Township Schools Education Association, be effective upon the date of the execution of the written contract by signatures of officials of both parties empowered to enter into the Master Agreement are completed. Motion carried unanimously.

16) Resolution to Approve Professional Staff Contracts

Mr. Baltensperger with support from Mrs. Cischke moved that the professional staff be provided with raises comparable with those agreed to in the teacher contract. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Baltensperger moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Massaway adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Baril, Acting Secretary

Mike Salmi, Board Secretary