Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21 Board of Education was held Wednesday, November 19, 2025 in the Superintendent's Office

Call to order

President Aper called the meeting to order at 7:00

Roll Call
On roll call, the following board members answered present: Aper, Ballance, Cross, Cecil, Doolin, Wright and Sherwood.
Others present: Joe Yurko
Absent: Lauren DeJarnette

Consent agenda

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood to approve the consent agenda, including payment of bills and approval of minutes. Roll Call: Aper, yes; Sherwood, yes; Cecil, yes; Wright, yes; Doolin, yes; Cross, yes and Ballance, yes.

Opportunity for citizens/visitors to speak

Kent Hieronymus addressed the board.

Executive session

At 7:02pm a motion was made by Sherwood and seconded by Ballance to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Cecil, yes; Doolin, yes; Sherwood, yes; and Ballance, yes. Motion 7-0

Return to open session

At 8:25pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood to return to Open Session. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Sherwood, yes; Aper, yes; Doolin, yes; Ballance, yes; Cecil, yes; and Wright, yes. Motion 7-0

Superintendent's report

Several board members will be attending the IASB Conference Nov 21st – 23rd. A 3rd party was brought in to do an assessment on the roof and has provided some recommendations. Auditor will be here in December to present findings to the Board. We have not yet heard back from PRESS Policy Services with the updated policy information. Graduation & promotion dates were discussed and finalized. Discussed posting for anticipated vacancies due to planned retirements at the end of this school year. Will also be posting for a principal position for the JH/HS building since that is still vacant. Discussed the 2025 Tax Levy draft.

Principal's Report

Provided updates on the Veteran's Day program at the school put on by the 4th grade class. Great event put on by the staff and children. Ashley also provided info on the student of the October students of the month – Kobus Leesman & Allysnn Williams. K – 2 went on a fieldtrip to the pumpkin patch. We were given a 125 pound pumpkin to carve together for Halloween. Halloween parade was successful – it was a fun-filled day. Students did an excellent job during the lock-down drill.

Action Items

Approval of volunteer assistant HS Boys Basketball coach, Evan Cross

A motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Sherwood. Roll Call: Sherwood, yes; Ballance, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Cecil, yes; and Doolin, yes. Motion 6-0

Approval to post for anticipated vacancies due to planned retirements

A motion was made by Doolin and seconded by Cross. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Ballance, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Doolin, yes; Sherwood, yes; and Cecil, yes. Motion 7-0

Approve HS graduation date to be set for Saturday May 9th at 2pm

A motion was made by Sherwood and seconded by Doolin. Roll Call: Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Cross, yes; Sherwood, yes; Cecil; Doolin, yes; and Ballance, yes. Motion 7-0

Approve 8th Grade Promotion date to be set for Thursday, May 14th at 6pm

The motioned was made by Sherwood and seconded by Doolin to approve Eric Gardiner as Freshman Class Sponsor. Roll Call: Cross, yes; Ballance, yes; Doolin, yes; Wright, yes; Aper, yes; Sherwood, yes; and Cecil, yes. Motion 7-0

Adjourn

At 9:00pm a motion was made by Cecil and seconded by Doolin. 7 yea, and 0 no.

Dirk Aper, President

Brooke Ballance, Secretary