

Board Members Present:

Anne Michelis
Bonnie Lobert
Jarell Brown
Todd Nissen
Brent Ott

Public Communications: None submitted

Board Member Absent:

Amal Berry
Mike Schmidt
Dr Derrick Coleman

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by HFA Board President Brent Ott.

Action Items:

A Motion for Approval of the October 15, 2025 Agenda.

Motion to approve by Bonnie Lobert, supported by Anne Michelis. All approved.

B. Motion for Approval of September 17, 2025 Minutes.

Motion to approve by Anne Michelis, supported by Jarell Brown. All approved.

Non-action Items:

Superintendent's Report:

Geoffrey Young stated that he would like to include a Student Spotlight that will highlight our student achievements and experiences. This month Zoie Appling will be our student. She was selected for the National Flight Academy in FL. Zoie talked about the program which focuses on Aviation and she met students from around the world. She greatly valued the experience and believes it will support her goal of joining the Air Force.

Human Resources Report.

- Special Education is under strain right now due to the increased numbers of students this year with IEP related needs along with staff turnovers. Despite the challenges, the school is working hard to remain compliant with IEP requirements and deadlines. We hired experienced contractors to ensure compliance, and meet state deadlines.
- New Staff members: Danielle Page Sander is the new 9th-grade special education resource teacher, Dr. Kate Murray – Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Student Achievement Brought on in an interim capacity to help refine the school's academic and instructional strategies, Vincent Interieri is our college advisor, HFA reinstated its partnership with Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) to bring back a full-time college advisor. His role is federally funded.

Enrollment Update.

- HFA current student count is 477, Brett Ott asked about the 500 count from the last meeting. Young explained that 500 was our projected numbers but sometimes students will register and not complete the process or students will start here and leave for different reasons. Michelle Davis stated HFA projected 475 for the budget so 477 is ok. We do hope to grow to 500 in the upcoming years.
Brett asked what are our recruiting strategies for the next school year, Geoffrey stated that recruiting is our focus right now. Enrollment just opened and we plan on tapping into charter middle schools without high school feeders.

Finance and Budgeting

- Michelle Davis reported The audit just happened, a draft has been received but they have not had time to sit as an administrative team and go over them. They will report on what was found after they meet. Brett asked do we anticipate any issues? Michelle answered one of the things that they mention is we were down in federal revenue about 150,000 which is more than we anticipated. Which can have an impact on the budget. The approved fund balance was 938 and we are at 950 to 970. The slight discrepancy is due to unanticipated supplemental lunch costs. But we are still up.

School Improvement

- Geoffrey Young: We are required to have the board approve the school improvement plan by September 1st, but in the previous year it was on the October agenda. He would like the plan for the upcoming year to be presented in the July meeting.

School Performance Metrics

SAT performance data, everyone was given a handout with data. Geoffrey explained that at first glance it looks like HFA is under performing in the state but most of our students are from Dearborn and Detroit. When you compare HFA juniors to juniors in Dearborn and Detroit. HFA's mean SAT score of 917 places the school between Dearborn (926) and Detroit (850), positioning HFA as performing above Detroit Public Schools and slightly below Dearborn for 24/25 school year.

Analysis of College Board data and Michigan School Dashboard reports showed strong year-over-year improvement for HFA students: Statewide Average: Increased from 947 to 956 (+9 points) between the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 school years. HFA Average: Increased from 889 to 917 (+28 points).

This demonstrates that HFA's rate of improvement exceeded the state's growth rate, indicating that instructional and programmatic efforts implemented last year are producing positive results.

Superintendent Evaluation:

These three areas represent the Superintendent's specific goals that will serve as his primary focus areas:

- District Mission, Vision, and Goals
- Organizational Leadership and Safety
- Communication and Community Relations

A written report outlining these specific goals and the activities related to each will be provided to the Board within the next couple of weeks.

The Henry Ford Academy Board meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

NEXT HENRY FORD ACADEMY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Drive-In Theater of the Henry Ford Academy Museum Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Borowicz