

Building and Site Sinking Fund Information

What is a Building & Site Sinking Fund?

It is quite common for school districts to address building and site needs by taking out a large loan/bond and then collect a debt retirement millage to pay back the loan. Instead, our district has adopted a "pay as you go" approach. This is a more fiscally conservative approach and helps to keep costs lower by not paying any interest or fees on loans. Hillsdale Community Schools District does not have any debt for building and site projects. Citizens are not paying taxes for projects completed in the past. The Building & Site Sinking Fund has been essential for long-range planning and continued use of the existing schools.

The Building and Site Sinking Fund is supported through a local millage. The community of Hillsdale has supported this concept of financial management and planning for the long-term use of the existing buildings. The school district has maintained the millage to specific timeframes with specific amounts. The current millage fund was approved in the amount of 2.25 mills for a period of five years (2019-2023). This renewal request would be at a slightly lower rate of about 2.19 mills, also for a period of five years, 2024-2028. The rate amount is lower because when property values increase the rate may lower. This is a provision defined in the state's Headlee amendment of 1978 and keeps the Building & Site Sinking Fund in balance with changing property values.

How is the Building & Site Sinking Fund used in our district?

This fund may only be used for specific building and site needs allowed by law. Examples include construction or repair of school buildings, parking lots, playgrounds, athletic fields/courts, safety/security improvements, and technology infrastructure needs. The Building & Site Sinking Fund is required to be kept separate from other district accounts. *(This fund may not be used for the regular maintenance/cleaning of the schools or for other normal operational expenditures like staff wages, textbooks, lunch program, athletic teams, or operating school buses. Those day-to-day expenses of operating the schools are handled by the local operating millage and funding from the state.)*

When does the school district intend to request a renewal of this millage?

The election for renewal of the existing millage is planned for Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The renewal would apply beginning in 2024.

Recent Major Projects Completed

Bailey Early Childhood Center

- Front entrance update to create secure vestibule and service window
- Security camera system
- Exterior door replacements
- Heating system boiler units
- Asphalt/pavement repairs

Gier Elementary School

- Front entrance update to create secure vestibule and service window
- School office remodel
- Exterior door replacements
- Security camera system
- Paging & clock system
- Gym construction
- Classroom (4) construction
- Asphalt/pavement repairs
- Front circle driveway/parking
- Sidewalks

Davis Middle School

- Front entrance update to create secure vestibule and service window
- Exterior door replacements
- Asphalt/pavement repairs
- Security camera system
- Paging & clock system

Hillsdale High School

- Front entrance update to create secure vestibule and service window
- Security camera system
- Paging & clock system
- Track resurface
- Tennis court resurface
- Asphalt/pavement repairs
- Roof over library

Who decides which projects to complete with this fund?

The Board of Education determines the use of funds. There is a Building and Site Committee made up of three school board members, the superintendent and the district's maintenance supervisor. The committee analyzes the needs and develops recommendations to the Board of Education for a final decision.

What if I have more questions about the Building & Site Sinking Fund?

Please contact the Superintendent's office by phone at 517-437-4401 or by email at shawn.vondra@hillsdaleschools.org.

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Major Needs for the 2024-28 Building & Site Sinking Fund – The next "Five Year Plan":

Hillsdale High School

- Roof replacement over classrooms, band, choir and main hallways
- Roof replacement over front entrance/school offices
- Roof replacement over the gym
- Roof replacement over computer labs/shop rooms
- Update the locker rooms

Davis Middle School

- Roof replacement over 5th grade classrooms/cafeteria
- Roof replacement over towers (front of building)
- Roof replacement and tuck point repair of the elevator shaft
- Ceiling and wall plaster repair in classrooms, offices and hallways in original section
- Window replacement on west side of original building and south section (5th grade classrooms)
- Tuck point repair of the brick/stone exterior
- Replace bathroom fixtures and wall tiles in student bathrooms
- Address electrical/lighting systems in auditorium
- Heating unit replacements in classrooms of original section

Gier Elementary School

- Parent driveway repairs (student drop/pick up)

Bailey Early Childhood Center

- Plaster repair in the classrooms and hallways
- Tuck point repair of the original brick/stone structure
- Roof sealant over library/north classrooms section

Transportation Center

- Repair a large sinkhole in the parking lot for the school buses



Hillsdale Community Schools

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Winter 2023

See what's happening at the Hive!



Hillsdale Community Schools Board of Education



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KATHY PETERSEN
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Hillsdale High School
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.439.4320

JOSH PERRIN
Principal

DAVID PRATT
Athletic Director
Dean of Students

Horizon Alternative School
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.439.4320

JOSH PERRIN
Principal

Davis Middle School
30 N. West Street
517.439.4326

BARBARA WHEELER
Principal

Gier Elementary School
175 Spring Street
517.437.7347

LAURIE VANORMAN
Principal

Bailey Early Childhood Center
59 S. Manning Street
517.437.7369

ALLISON WIRICK
Director

District Office (Inside HHS)
30 S. Norwood Ave.
517.437.4401

SHAWN VONDRA
Superintendent

Welcome New Board Members!



Hillsdale Community Schools Board of Education seated two new members during its annual organizational meeting on January 16th. Pat Flannery and Dan LaRue were elected in November to fill the positions of previous board members, Jim Bowen and Kelly LoPresto. Welcome new board members and thank you to past board members!

Certified Master Athletic Administrator



The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is pleased to announce that David Pratt, Dean of Students/Athletic Director

at Hillsdale Community Schools, has been recognized by the association as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator. To earn this distinction, David Pratt has demonstrated exemplary knowledge, contributions, and ongoing professional development in interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included thoroughly evaluating the candidate's educational background, experience, NIAAA Leadership Courses, and professional contributions. It culminates with a practical written or oral presentation project. David Pratt is one of a very elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

Mrs. York's first graders celebrate "ORANGE you glad you can READ?" day.



Grants Awarded!

The Hillsdale Community Schools' Education Foundation Fund Selection Committee recently met and chose the recipients for the distribution of the Hillsdale Community Schools Education Foundation Fund. They awarded several \$500 mini-grants to the Hillsdale High School Shooting Club, and Gier was awarded a Listening Station, New Library Books, and Mathematical Literature. Thank you to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, which provides financial guidance and fund management.

Hillsdale High School Feminine Hygiene Station Grant



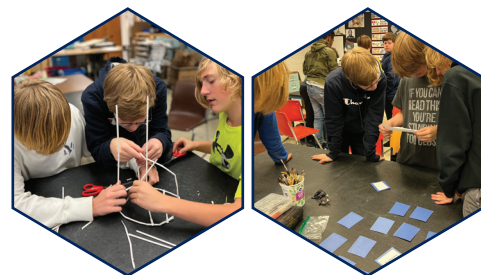
The Hillsdale High School Student Body recognized a need among their female students for feminine hygiene products. Student Body President Hannah Baker addressed the need head-on by writing a YOUTH grant offered through

the Hillsdale County Community Foundation to furnish supplies for two women's restrooms.

Pictured: Student Body President Hannah Baker ('23) and Student Body Secretary Daveena Moyer ('23) proudly pose with the feminine hygiene station.

Well done, Student Council members! It's a great day to be a Hornet!

Eighth Graders Learning About Architect



Eighth graders; Owen Day, Austin Holden, and Blake Roberts (left) are engineering their architectural structure while other classmates are trying to solve an architectural vocab matching game (right).

Hillsdale High School Student Support

Karen Rozelle and Sue Postle are the School Success Workers at Hillsdale High School and Horizon Alternative School. With education, counseling, and social work licensing, Karen and Sue aid students in meeting their academic and non-academic needs. Their primary responsibility is to ensure students have the confidence, tools, and abilities to experience personal and academic success. School Success Workers strive to help students, families, and teachers address barriers to achievement. Having assigned professional staff in the school to help students structure, organize, and process the ebbs and flows of the high school experience has been a wonderful addition to HHS and Horizon over the past six years.

Meet our School Success Workers at HHS



Karen and Sue spend their days working with students individually, offering ways for students to connect with one another, and linking students to community resources. Sue spends part of her time working to build a welcoming environment for all students. From hosting

both the Knitting and Book Club to organizing the Freshman Mentor Program, Sue creates opportunities for students to build positive relationships to improve the climate and culture of HHS. Karen serves as the HHS and Horizon McKinney Vento Coordinator (for homeless students) and connects students and families to resources in the community. She coordinates food donations for families for the holidays and hosts a holiday shopping bazaar to help with gift-giving for those in our Hornet family. Additionally, Karen offers a supply of prom dresses, coats, and other necessary items available throughout the school year. Sue and Karen are present and interact with students during the course of each day. Having classroom offices integrates our Success Workers into the hallways of the school, which makes them readily accessible to students' needs. Our students have benefited greatly from having Karen and Sue serving as advocates as well as being a vital link between a student's school, home, and community.

Annual Sub Sale Resumes!



Save the Dates!



Why Hillsdale Community Schools?

- ✓ Highly Qualified and Caring Staff
- ✓ Multiple Fine Arts Opportunities
- ✓ Technology Resources for Students and Staff
- ✓ Caring, Nurturing Environment with High Expectations
- ✓ Unprecedented Sports Success
- ✓ After-school Academic Enrichment

Bailey Early Childhood Center Preschool Round Up!

Do you have a child who will turn four (4) by December 1, 2023? We provide a high-quality kindergarten readiness program through hands-on interactions, stories, songs, games, and play.

WE OFFER:

- Full Day GSRP and tuition-based preschool classes
- ½ Day GSRP and tuition-based preschool class
- Transportation provided
- Meals provided
- Field trips and special events

WHO: The Early Childhood Special Education program (ECSE) offered at Bailey Early Childhood Center services children who reside in the Hillsdale Community School district. Young children, ages 3-5, who qualify for special

education, receive individualized instruction that may include related services such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, or physical therapy. Our ECSE program ensures the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all eligible children and encourages interaction with same-aged peers within the building.

WHEN: Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 pm (by appointment)

WHERE: Registration is at Bailey Early Childhood Center, 59 S Manning St, Hillsdale, MI 49242. To schedule your appointment, or if you have questions about getting your child signed up for Preschool, please call the office at 517-437-7369.

Gier Elementary School Kindergarten Round Up!

WHO: Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2023 (waivers are available for children born between September 2nd and December 1st)

WHEN: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, and Wednesday, March 15, 2023, from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm (by appointment)

WHERE: Registration is held at Gier Elementary School, 175 Spring St, Hillsdale, MI 49242. To schedule your appointment, or if you have questions about getting your child signed up for Kindergarten, please call the office at 517-437-7347 Monday - Friday between 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Davis Receives Writing Tablets!



Mrs. Vincent's class received 12 Boogie Board Reusable Writing and Drawing Tablets during the October 2022 Popin2Win grant from the Meemic Foundation.

Thanksgiving Dinner Donations



For the sixth year, Angels Helping Hands of Hillsdale recently donated 25 turkeys, and High School staff donated the side dishes for 25 district-wide families for the Thanksgiving season.

Pictured: Jazmin and Skye Krueger receiving their thanksgiving goodies.

Donations to the Hillsdale High School Robotics Team



Steel Dynamics: \$5,000

Spratt Family: \$3,300

Hillsdale Terminal: In Kind (terminals, wire, zip ties)

Richard Eckert Family: \$1,000

Kiwanis: \$500

★ Thank you! ★

Students sold \$11,797 worth of sub sandwiches this year! This record-breaking sale of 12,775 subs made, resulted in several staff members getting pied in the face at the Sub Sale Awards Assembly.



It's a great day to be a Hornet!