



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent

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Dear HCS Education Community:

Meet Michelle Hemeyer, Board of Education Secretary



Mrs. Hemeyer has lived in the Hartland School District since June 2004. Her husband Mark has lived here all but a few years of his life and is a Hartland High School graduate. The Hemeyer's have been married for 18 years and have a son in the district. She was first appointed to the Board of Education in September of 2015, and was elected in the 2016 general election.

Mrs. Hemeyer is a small business owner (restaurant) & property manager of a few rental properties. She spent 13+ years as a stay at home parent, which led to her desire to begin volunteering in the community as an active participant in her son's education and extracurricular activities. She became involved with the PTO at Round elementary, chairing many events the first year before becoming the PTO president for 4 years. She has been a mentor for Ore Creek Challenge Day and Reaching Higher in the Hartland Schools.

As a Board of Education member, she has attended Michigan Association of School Board classes with fellow board members, as well as conferences to learn more about how districts utilize Reading Recovery intervention for students. She has served on the Post-secondary Advisory Committee at Hartland High School to celebrate post-secondary steps for graduates. She shares that the district has taken great steps to ensure that we are preparing all students for their future, while supporting their decisions (whether it is university, trade school, military, apprenticeship, or career) once they graduate.

When asked why she wanted to get involved with representing the community on the Board of Education, Mrs. Hemeyer stated that she wanted to be involved in the district at a deeper level. After volunteering in the classroom, in sports, and on the PTO, the School Board was the next logical step. After attending board meetings for a few years, the opportunity to apply for a vacated seat presented itself. As a Board of Education Trustee and now Secretary, she is most proud of how the district devotes itself to serving the needs of all students, so they can achieve their greatest potential in every aspect. The dedication of our administration, teachers, and staff keeps her motivated to support the work being done. Mrs. Hemeyer is hopeful that the Hartland Consolidated School District continues to be a premier school district focusing on recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff, as well as focusing on every aspect of our children's well-being and their individual potential.

Spring 2022 PSAT and SAT Scores Well Above County and State Average: Below you will find information regarding how students in HCS performed on the PSAT and SAT in the Spring of 2022. We are excited to see that our students continue to outperform the county and state mean scores.

PSAT/SAT Spring 2022			
+	R & W	Math	Both
Hartland PSAT 8	76%	67%	60%
County PSAT 8	73%	50%	46%
State PSAT 8	60%	36%	33%
Hartland PSAT 9	73%	61%	55%
County PSAT 9	72%	54%	50%
State PSAT 9	59%	40%	36%
Hartland PSAT 10	73%	49%	47%
County PSAT 10	70%	43%	41%
State PSAT 10	57%	32%	30%
Hartland SAT 11	66%	46%	41%
County SAT 11	61%	35%	32%
State SAT 11	52%	30%	28%
R & W = Proficient in Reading and Writing			
Math = Proficient in Math			
Both = Proficient in Both R & W and Math			

School Safety Remains a Priority: Staff at each building are engaging in online school safety training modules and working with HCS, Hartland Fire Authority, Michigan State Police, and the Livingston County Sheriff Office staff to complete tabletop exercises. Situational awareness and quick thinking seemed to come out of the Round Elementary (picture below) discussion. The more we talk about situations that could occur, the better we will be if we ever need to respond.



Questions Asked by a Member of the Community:

Community Questions

The Board of Education members and Superintendent have been asked by a community member seeking a seat on the Board of Education to answer the following questions individually with “Yes” or “No” responses. It was thought pertinent to answer these questions for the community as a Board and Superintendent combined because each question must be answered within the context of the situation.

Dear _____. Thank you for your inquiry. The questions you have posed will be answered by administration, since the Board of Education can act only as a full body through its minutes. Board members will be given an opportunity to review this document, however.

Your questions cannot be fairly answered with a simple “yes” or “no.” At times the questions assume facts and circumstances which do not exist. At other times they make inaccurate legal assumptions, including but not limited to presuming that the District can opt out of binding legal obligations. Although the answers provided may be longer than desired, you deserve accurate answers.

1. Has Hartland adopted the PROPOSED Title XI amendments that allow boys who identify as girls to play on Hartland’s girls’ sports teams?

First, there are no Title XI (Title 11) rules that govern this question. If the question is asking about Title IX (Title 9) the answer is that the District follows all Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) guidelines and rules regarding eligibility. The Board annually renews membership to MHSAA to ensure that student athletes can participate in a competitive arena and post athletic season competition. All Michigan public school districts are bound by Title IX. MHSAA guidelines and rules applicable to school districts are also compliant with that law. An example can be found in the eligibility for females to compete on the football and wrestling teams at Hartland High School.

2. Will you fight for our children’s rights and opt out of the Title IX proposed policies?

Title IX is a legal requirement for all public bodies. Discrimination is against the law. The District cannot opt out of statutes like Title IX. Policies assist the District in applying complex legal requirements.

3. Do boys that identify as girls use the girls’s bathrooms and or locker rooms in any of the Hartland schools?

This is a legal question that has been argued in the State Supreme Court, Appellate Court, and U.S. Supreme Court over the past few years. In every case publicly accessible businesses and institutions may not discriminate regarding gender identity. Most recently the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations is illegal under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and strongly indicated it does not see gender identity discrimination any differently. The district will continue to meet its legal obligations by working with families on a case-by-case basis when it is made aware of situations in which student needs meet this criterion. Discrimination is against the law.

4. Do you agree to allow boys who identify as girls to use the girl’s bathroom and or locker rooms in any of the Hartland schools?

See the answer to question 3. Discrimination is against the law. The District will comply with legal requirements and cannot change them. The personal opinions of individual administrators and Board members are irrelevant.

- 5. Are any of the Hartland staff or counselors promoting the use of pronouns by asking students how they identify, do you agree the staff should ask these questions of the students?**

The district has addressed this issue when it has come up and has asked that staff not request this information. We were made aware that our enrollment form had an optional question on this concern and removed the question. There will be cases in which a student presents a pronoun that they wish staff to use. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with legal requirements.

- 6. If there are any Hartland staff or counselors promoting the use of pronouns by asking student how they identify, do you agree the staff should ask these questions to students?**

The district has taken the stance that it is not our place to ask for this information.

- 7. Are the schools following the dress code and not allowing costumes?**

The schools expect all students to follow the established dress code. Certain holidays and spirit week activities have been allowed (on “designated days” per the Secondary Parent/Student Handbook, p. 2 and Board Policy 5511 “designate the principal as the arbiter of student dress and grooming in his/her building” which is applicable for special days or events).

- 8. Did the actions you took during COVID i.e. masking, testing contact tracing and quarantine support the Constitution of the United States of America?**

The District was required to follow a variety of local, state, and federal laws and directives during the pandemic. Those directives were authorized by law. The District is required to follow the law. Only a court can find those directives and the laws authorizing them unconstitutional. The district is not a court and is not empowered to determine constitutionality. In those instances where directives such as Executive Orders were found unconstitutional, the District and other entities were no longer required to, and did not, follow them.

- 9. If you were on the board during the COVID did you vote to mask, contact trace and quarantine the students?**

The Board of Education had discussions at Board of Education meetings regarding how to proceed with COVID protocols. The determination of the Board of Education was to follow health experts from the State of Michigan, national health organizations, and the Livingston County Health Department to ensure that our students and staff were able to continue with in-person learning rather than remote learning. See also the answer to Question 8. Again, the District is required to follow the law.

- 10. If you did not vote for the Covid masking, contract tracing and quarantines was it Chuck that led the effort and you were support?**

The Board of Education relied on Superintendent Hughes to research and understand the dynamics of COVID related issues and to make recommendations based on the information obtained, including but not limited to legally required actions. The Board received the information and had opportunity to dialog with Superintendent Hughes regarding this information. All final decisions to adopt any recommendation, or determine how to move forward, were made by the Board of Education. Superintendent Hughes shared the protocols in regular updates to parents in his communications and on the district website.

- 11. Horacio Sanchez was brought to Hartland and we can clearly see in pictures of his presentation that bullet points “in roads” to controlling students behaviors through the targeted manipulation of the Amygdala and the Basal Ganglia, so we ask you, are you supporting the implementation of the Social Emotional Learning process developed by Horacio Sanchez?**

Mr. Sanchez was a guest speaker for the high school and middle school staff in August. His presentation was geared toward brain research and to enlighten teachers on how the brain works, not on a social emotional learning process. All teachers receive some training in child development, as

this understanding is necessary for good teaching. Mr. Sanchez is an expert in understanding brain development and functioning in children to counter the impact of poverty. The presentation was designed to help teachers promote resiliency (GRIT, bounce back from difficulty, be successful when things are tough, and stick-to-itiveness). It was not an exercise in controlling behavior through brain manipulation.

12. You are all aware that Rainbows are on some of the teacher's doors in the HS and the bi-laws prohibit the promotion of special interest groups.

The Safe Space sticker does not represent any special interest group. It is a guidepost that can be used by students to identify staff who feel comfortable helping students with any and all situations or concerns that they find themselves dealing with, including illegal discrimination or harassment. The District Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team has had conversations about this approach to availability.

13. If a student has Christian safe space stickers to put up on the walls will you allow them?

Harassment based upon religious belief is against the law. The District follows the law. It has not, however, received complaints from students who have claimed they were harassed based upon Christian beliefs. Any such complaints will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with necessary interventions as are all forms of unlawful harassment. Generic safe space stickers currently found in some spaces are intended to cover all students for any reason.

14. Do you stand behind your decision to pay millions of tax dollars and prioritize the building of an auxiliary sports field when the children's schools need repair and are still using portables?

Prior to the bond proposal going to the public for a vote, many focus group meetings took place where the district shared needs and asked for input on what the community wanted in the proposal. The district created the bond proposal based on this information, and put the proposal on the August 2020 ballot where it passed. As for the "schools need repair and are still using portables," the district has been engaged in taking care of our facilities and has a long list of needs that have been met through the bond (<https://www.hartlandschools.us/2020-Bond/index.html>) and sinking fund (<https://www.hartlandschools.us/Sinking-Fund/index.html>). The portables at Round Elementary are the only portable classrooms currently in use for classroom instruction and are wonderful learning spaces as shown below. Further, the Auxiliary Stadium facility cost of \$3,800,000 is 8.4% of the total \$45,000,000 bond package. If there are specific building issues that "need repair" please bring these to the attention of the building administration who will work with our maintenance department to have them addressed.



GaGa Pits are the Rage: If you are my age you never heard of a Gaga Pit. The students love them, and they are being added to playgrounds all over the place. Here the Farms Intermediate students are enjoying a game.



“Holding a grudge does not make you strong; it makes you bitter. Forgiving doesn’t make you weak; it sets you free.”

Author Unknown

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Hughes".

Chuck Hughes