

Pleasant Hill CUSD #3
Regular School Board Meeting
September 16, 2026

The Board of Education of Pleasant Hill CUSD #3 met for a regular meeting in the All-Purpose Room at Pleasant Hill Elementary School on September 16, 2026.

1. Board President Steve Hammitt called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, Aaron Rodhouse. The following members were absent: Sydney Crowder and Tracey Harrison. Also present were Superintendent Kylee Orr and Principal Ryan Lowe.
3. Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded to pull the agenda from the Consent Agenda and add the presentation of the Annual Financial Report by Adam Withee of Zumbahlen, Eyth, Surratt, and Foote to the agenda. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
Member Carpenter motioned and Hammitt seconded to then approve the consent agenda. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".

Adam Withee, accountant from Zumbahlen, Eyth, Surratt, and Foote, presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Financial Report. Withee reported the District's overall financial profile scores improved from a 2.7 to a 3.3 and days cash on hand increased to 83.

4. There was no public participation.
5. Reports
 - a. Mrs. Orr shared Mr. Boren's dean of students report and her own superintendent report. Mr. Lowe shared a high school principal report.
 - b. FOIA Request
 - Mrs. Orr reported there was only one FOIA request this month and that it was for purchasing records.
6. In discussion items, Mrs. Orr reported on the high school renovations and repairs. She is working with insurance to close out the insurance claim on the roof. The roof materials have arrived and work will begin when the Health Life Safety Survey has been amended and approved by ISBE. The geothermal HVAC work has been quoted at approximately \$4.5 million dollars with 32% returning to consumers through rebates. Mrs. Orr requested additional quotes to repair the existing boiler and steam trap system for comparison. The gymnasium HVAC work was quoted at \$588,000. The gymnasium HVAC, the high school bathroom renovation, and the hallway renovations are recommended to be completed first as Phase 1. In Other Renovation and Repair news, several of the elementary HVAC units "froze" up recently presumably due to dust bypassing the filter and entering the unit. MASH will perform a cleaning on all units on a No Attendance day in October.

7. Mrs. Orr reported that the outlook for the FY27 budget is positive with projected surpluses in the big three funds - Education, Operations & Maintenance, and Transportation. The Board will have a special meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 for a budget hearing.
8. Member Carpenter motioned and Rodhouse seconded to remove Ron Edwards and add Spencer Boren as signatory on the District's main checking account at Central State Bank. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
9. Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded on the addition of a \$3.00 course fee for high school art courses. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
10. Member Buchanan motioned and Hammitt seconded the addition of a stipend for a sponsor for Showcase to the activity schedule. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
11. Member Damon motioned and Carpenter seconded to approve the Absenteeism and Truancy Policy as presented. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
12. Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded to amend the 10-year Health/Life Safety Plan for Pleasant Hill Elementary and Pleasant Hill High School. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
13. Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded to enter executive session at 7:38 p.m. for the purpose of: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. This exception shall not apply to the investment of assets or income of funds deposited into the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund.
Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 8:08 p.m. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
14. Actions resulting from executive session are as follows:
 - a. Member Damon motioned and Hammitt seconded to hire Bob Hendy as a bus driver pending successful completion of all requirements. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
 - b. Member Buchanan motioned and Hammitt seconded to hire the following as paraprofessionals: Shantah Gratton, Amanda Smith, Michele Niffen, and Kassye Lemons. Upon roll call, the following members voted "Yes": Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted "No".
 - c. Member Hammitt motioned and Buchanan seconded to hire Beth Arnold as vocal and instrumental solo and ensemble contest sponsor. Upon roll call, the following members

voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.

- d. Member Hammitt motioned and Rodhouse seconded to hire Jenna Peebles and Beth Arnold as co-sponsors of Showcase. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.
 - e. Member Damon motioned and Carpenter seconded to hire Jordan Barnett as Junior High Boys Basketball Coach. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.
 - f. Member Hammitt motioned and Damon seconded to hire Chris Leppert as high school assistant football coach. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.
 - g. Member Hammitt motioned and Damon seconded to accept the resignation of Corby Edwards as high school assistant football coach. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.
 - h. Member Hammitt motioned and Rodhouse seconded to accept the resignation of Stephanie Whitlock as elementary secretary. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.
15. There were no other items.
16. Member Hammitt motioned and Damon seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Upon roll call, the following members voted “Yes”: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, and Aaron Rodhouse (5 yes). No members voted “No”.