



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100  
Fax (810) 626-2101

February 11, 2026

## **District Administrative Retirements Announced**



### **Mr. David Minsker, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction**

Mr. David Minsker has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, after 25 years of service to the students, staff, and community of Hartland. Mr. Minsker was hired in 2001 as an assistant principal at Hartland High School. He was influential in building a collaborative team focused on developing a culture of consistency and structure around academics, attendance, and behavior. This was built on the notion of trust and a common vision in creating an environment to encourage learning and achievement. Mr. Minsker was promoted to the principalship at Round Elementary in 2007 and was quickly embraced by staff and parents for his positive outlook and support for all students. While at Round Elementary, Mr. Minsker collaborated with staff to create an intervention system within the building to ensure that all students received double and triple learning intervention in areas of academic need. This required the staff to create a vision that everyone worked to support. This program received the 2013 Educational Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards and SET SEG for the academic results achieved from this initiative. Dave is extremely proud of what that staff achieved.

In 2015 Mr. Minsker returned to Hartland High School as the building principal but was quickly promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in 2017. While in this role, Mr. Minsker helped to create a highly functioning and collaborative instructional leadership team who work to support teachers in becoming the best they can be for students. This selfless work, putting the students and teachers first is something he and the district are extremely proud of. The curriculum department supported an expanded intervention and support system for students and staff in buildings across the district to ensure educators had what they needed to be successful. His work to find ways of empowering future leaders (current staff) to lead within their buildings, with a focus on improving their cultures and increasing student achievement, is a legacy characteristic that Mr. Minsker will leave behind upon his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Minsker, for your commitment to setting the building blocks for this work.

Mr. Minsker would like everyone to embrace the understanding that *“It is about, and always will be about, people.”* He is extremely proud to leave behind a legacy of helping those he interacts with embrace the idea that *“working for something bigger than yourself continues to be part of the culture, which makes this district special and must remain prevalent!”*



### **Mrs. Carol Hayes, Director of Community Education**

In 2003, the district was blessed to be able to hire Mrs. Carol Hayes as Recreation Coordinator for the Community Education Department. She worked tirelessly to provide the essential services and opportunities for this growing community. Without a dedicated recreational milage, the community depends on the district and Community Education to provide enrichment activities. In 2013, Carol was promoted to the Assistant Director of Community Education and then the Director of Community Education in 2020 where she successfully managed the childcare center, latchkey, the community pool at Hartland High School, gymnastics, the Senior Center, The Community Life newspaper, and all community education programs. She has built positive partnerships with district and township entities and has done this with a smile on her face every day. During her time in Community Education, Mrs. Hayes is proud to have helped develop such programs as AAU travel sports, tennis clinics, SAT Test Prep, theatre programs such as Prelude, Ski Club, Winterguard, GSRP Universal preschool, Hartland United Soccer, etc. She humbly reminds everyone that no program would be successful without amazing people.

Mrs. Hayes has dedicated 23 years to the betterment of the community and should be commended for the work she has done to hold true to the Hartland Area Project values set up in the 1920's. Her organization, thoughtfulness, dedication, work ethic, open door policy, and listening skills will be missed as she moves into retirement. She would like to leave Hartland with the thought that "community education is successful when we put customers first and work hard to put the "heart" in Hartland!"

### **Reminder: School of Choice Now Open**

This past weekend, 53 families registered for kindergarten for the 2026-27school year. Please share with family, friends, work acquaintances, etc. that Hartland Schools is open for enrollment for school of choice students for the fall of 2026. It is understood that transportation to and from school is the responsibility of all school of choice parents. The district will try to provide bus transportation at the closest active in-district bus stop to the residence of school of choice students, and where seats are available on the bus. This will require school of choice parents to work with transportation personnel, as district bus transportation is not automatically assigned. The phone number is 810-626-2175. Please visit the links below for enrollment information:

Enrollment website:

<https://www.hartlandschools.us/Parents--Students/Enrollment/index.html>

School of Choice Application Process:

<https://d16k74nzx9emoe.cloudfront.net/10f3df68-b241-42b9-8f84-f5b026922326/School%20of%20Choice%202026-27%20Guidelines.pdf>

HCS Enrollment Form:

<https://www.hartlandschools.us/Parents--Students/Enrollment/index.html>



Use this QR code to learn more.

### Reminder: 2025-26 Youth Appreciation Nominations Due on February 13, 2026

The Hartland Optimist Club is happy to announce that once again we will recognize youth in our community at the annual Youth Appreciation Awards Ceremony on March 18, 2026. Please use the following Google Form to make nominations - [bit.ly/YouthAppreciation2026](https://bit.ly/YouthAppreciation2026)

You may select up to **TWO nominees** who go above and beyond to demonstrate outstanding qualities. Please submit a SEPARATE FORM for each nominee, do not include multiple names/groups of students on one form. **Please submit your nomination form(s) no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026.** We apologize ahead of time as we cannot accept late submissions. Nominations are open to youth in the Hartland community in kindergarten through 12th grade. Please consider a young person that you know through your church, business, school, club, or team that is deserving of recognition and the appreciation of our community. Areas to consider when selecting your nominee may include: outstanding community service, good judgement and choices, perseverance and overcoming hardships, support and encouragement of others, loyalty or teamwork, and special achievement beyond grades.

### Upcoming Parent Engagement Sessions

I am excited to share the work that will help build momentum toward our second annual Parent Summit on Saturday, March 21, 2026. I wanted to share **three upcoming Parent Engagement Sessions** that we are hosting in partnership with *FlexTech Brighton*, *Community Bible Church*, and *LESA*. These sessions are open to all families who have school-aged children.

Meals will be provided at all three events. Daycare will be provided if families register ahead of time.

Please click on the links below to learn more information:

[Thursday 2/12/26, Anxious Generation](#) at Community Bible Church in Brighton

[Thursday 3/12/26, Childhood 2.0](#) at FlexTech HS in Brighton

[Saturday 3/21/26](#), Parent Summit. Confirmed Keynote Speakers: [Horacio Sanchez](#), [Katey McPherson](#), [Leslie Fisher](#), and featured speakers to be announced soon.

## Cell Phone and Communication Device Ban

At the end of this Weekly Update, you will find information regarding what the district's communication device use during the school day must look like starting in the 2026-27 school year. I believe that our current policy found in the Parent/Student Handbook meets these expectations. The district administrative staff will review and recommend adjustments to the Board of Education during the handbook review process.

Eagles Soar,



Chuck Hughes

“Self-discipline begins with mastering your own thoughts.  
If you don’t control what you think, you can’t control what you do.”  
Anonymous

**Notice of Web Accessibility:** *In order to remain compliant with web accessibility when sharing this Weekly Update, any public service announcement shared with me must be forwarded with a link that I can include in the text for people to view information if they choose to do so.*

## **New Law Prohibits Students from Using Wireless Communication Devices – Effective 2026-2027**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed [House Bill 4141](#) and [Senate Bill 495](#) on February 10, 2026. Collectively, this amends the Revised School Code, specifically MCL 380.1303a, to require a school district's board of education to adopt a policy prohibiting students from using a wireless communications device during instructional time effective for the 2026-2027 school year. While some school districts have already implemented bans or stringent restrictions on such devices, the law will likely require updates to district policies to comply with the new statutory requirements.

### **Defining a Wireless Communications Device**

The law defines a “wireless communications device” as “an electronic device capable of, but not limited to, text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending and receiving photos and videos, or producing email.” This definition includes cell phones, but is also applicable to other devices such as laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and smart glasses if these devices are capable of the functions listed in the definition – which many are.

However, the law excludes a “basic telephone” from the ban, which is defined as “a device primarily used for voice calling that cannot support third-party applications, except those preinstalled, and does not support access to internet platforms via applications or web browser.” While most modern cell phones constitute a “wireless communications device” as defined by the law, school districts may, but are not required to, exclude a “basic telephone” from the ban.

### **Adoption of a Policy for the 2026-2027 School Year**

To comply with the new law for the 2026-2027 school year, school districts must adopt a policy and post that policy on the district's website that includes the following:

- Prohibits students from using wireless communications device on school grounds during instructional time. “School grounds” is defined as “a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school.”
- Enforcement mechanisms. The statute leaves enforcement mechanisms to the discretion of school districts. Mechanisms may include staff monitoring and/or instructing students to keep wireless communications devices in lockers or cubbies.
- Statutorily required exemptions to the ban:
  - Medically necessary devices,
  - School district owned/issued devices (e.g. tablets, laptops),
  - Devices used for instructional purposes,
  - Devices used for special education programming and/or as an accommodation (Section 504 Plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Individualized Education Program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act),
  - Devices used for lesson-specific academic assignments in teachers' discretion, and
  - Devices used in emergency situations as described in the district's emergency operations plan under Section 1308b.

To note, the statute explains that school districts may impose additional restrictions regarding student use of wireless communications devices beyond the statutory requirements. The law provides a minimum, not a maximum, for school districts.

### **Adjusting Emergency Operations Plans**

The statutory amendment to MCL 380.1308b requires school districts to tweak their emergency operations plans (“EOPs”) to address when and how students are permitted to use wireless communications devices during emergencies covered by the district's EOP. This does not require that students be able to use such devices during an emergency, but the EOP must be adjusted to address student expectations of whether they can use wireless communications devices during emergencies and any limitations. In other words, student wireless communications device use is not statutorily required during an emergency, but the EOP must be amended to address wireless communications devices.