

HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



Dear Hinckley-Big Rock Community,

The purpose of our fourth annual report is to provide an overview of the 2017-2018 school year by focusing on each school. This brief introduction will provide insight into the direction of our district both this past year and moving forward. At the end of this annual report, we will provide a summary of our finances. Our collective efforts would not be possible without the financial planning that supports the important work of preparing our students to be ready to go each and every day.

HBR's vision is that all Hinckley-Big Rock students will be prepared to take hold of their tomorrow. This past year's efforts have aligned with and supported our vision. The 2017-2018 district goals focused on technology integration and personalized learning.

-Technology Integration

- •Goal The integration of technology into our learning environments will increase with a focus on measuring the impact of the integration on learning and career readiness.
- •Rationale With our students living a technologyinfused life and preparing for a technologyinfused workplace, we must provide students with appropriate technology-infused learning environments. We must increase the appropriate integration of technology into the learning environment and trust our students with more progressive technology use.

-Personalized Learning

- •Goal HBR CUSD #429 will research personalized learning in an effort to better understand what changes in our current practices would need to occur to meet the ever demanding learning needs of our students.
- •Rationale The learning needs of our students continues to progress causing the need for us to reflect on our current structures and educational practices. Through this goal, we will research new ways to meet the personal learning needs of our students at all levels of understanding.



These same topics will be our focus in the 2018-2019 school year as they are both pivotal to meet our vision. The goal language for personalized learning will change with more of a focus on the integration of personalized learning that maximizes the learning and motivation of students through the utilization of student choice, collaborative design, connections of learning to student pursuits, and student autonomy. This is directly implemented using clearly created goals and outcomes, student self-reflection, and valuable teacher feedback while utilizing flexible learning environments and pacing. If you would like specific information on our goal work, please visit https://www.hbr429.org/domain/12 to learn more.

As we closed out the 2017-2018 school year, we were able to take advantage of two financial wins for HBR.

- The first was an insurance claim that provided for the replacement of 7 hail damaged roof top HVAC units at HBRES and HBRHS. The replacement of these units will help us to see future savings in electrical costs due to their increased efficiency. The increased efficiency, as well as a new 42 month all-in fixed cost contract for our electricity will help us save more than \$20,000 annually.
- The second was additional revenue from the state as a result of the final appropriations for the new Evidence Based Funding and FY17 revenue

received in FY18. As a result of the additional revenue and fiscally conservative FY18 budgeted revenue from the state, we amended our budget. We were able to purchase 470 Chromebooks, 23 Chromebook carts, and 8 wall cabinets as a result of the additional revenue. We are poised well for final planning in 2018-2019 for how we will provide technology devices to be used as a tool in the learning process which is driven by the curriculum, enhances student learning, engages students, and improves communication, feedback, and/or collaboration between all stakeholders.

We hope you enjoy reading our fourth annual report to find out what is happening in our District, look at the snapshot of our District finances, and review our plans for the future. If you have any questions about any of the contained information, do not hesitate to reach out to the appropriate contact:

HBRES Principal - Julie Melnyk 815.286.3400 or jmelnyk@hbr429.org

HBRMS Principal - Jeff Strouss 630.556.4180 or jstrouss@hbr429.org

HBRHS Principal - Jay Brickman 815.286.7501 or jbrickman@hbr429.org

HBR Special Education Director - Dr. Jessica Sonntag 815.286.7576 or jsonntag@hbr429.org





We encourage you to visit https://www.hbr429.org/ to see our calendar and highlighted communication pieces. We could not continue to progress with meeting our students' educational needs without the support of our community. Thank you for your continued support of Hinckley-Big Rock!



Personal change starts here..... Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary School

In 2017-2018, Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary School continued to focus on ensuring that all students are ready for their next educational step and equipped with the skills to continue moving forward. We take pride in providing learning opportunities for our students to develop their academics, their character, their social and leadership skills. So buckle up and take a ride with us as we highlight the 2017-2018 school year in the elementary building as a blend of the tried and true with the excitingly new.

Our Existing Lens of Proven Results

Academics

Having a solid foundation of core skills and concept knowledge is pivotal for elementary students to be prepared for the next level of academic learning. This school year, HBRES teachers focused on developing and implementing a strong writing program. We will partner again in 2018-2019 with teachers from the Lisle school district who will provide training and professional development in utilizing formative assessments to drive individual and small group instruction. During July, HBRES will host a two-day "Literacy Institute" for teachers to work and learn together.

This past year, the math teams from the elementary school and the middle school came together to discuss successes, areas of improvement and observable trends. These conversations helped to drive changes in our instructional approaches to better meet the mathematical needs of all students.

This approach to teaching and learning continues to provide an outcome of students who produce strong performance results on the state achievement test. In comparison to the 2016 PARCC results, the 3rd-5th grade students increased at or exceeding proficiency by 6% in Reading scores and 7% in Math scores in 2017.

Leadership/Career Readiness Lens

HBRES continues to focus on providing students with opportunities to take ownership of their learning, set goals for improvement, and reflect on the progress they have made. In addition, we have continued to find ways for students to practice leadership and have a partnership in developing the ideas and creations that move our building forward.

The 5th grade Tech Team that began last year continued to grow. Their Good Character videos have evolved and are enjoyed by everyone during Community Fridays which take place at 8:30 a.m. two Fridays a month and are open to community members. Tech Team has been a popular group with the 5th grade students and seeing their involvement and enthusiasm prompted a new group to form in 4th grade: Library Club.

Library Club members are responsible for assisting in the management of our library books utilizing the online library system. Club members provide ideas as we seek to grow our library into a functioning and current media center; they sponsored the first HBRES Book Tasting Event for all classrooms throughout the building.

Other regular pieces of our program also play an important part in developing students who display strong character, have a clear sense of their strengths and areas of improvement, and can connect achievement to commitment and work ethic. These include Morning Meetings that take place in all classrooms as a way for students to set the stage for the day in many ways, Learning Buddies where students connect with others in different grade levels, and the K-5th Royal Celebration. These all continue to provide our students with opportunities to build relationships and display leadership skills.

Discovering a New Lens

When seeking school or district improvement areas, one question we ask ourselves is, "What might the global world look like when our students graduate and how can we best provide experiences for them now so that they have the skills and knowledge to best be successful in that world?" That's often difficult at the elementary level when that world for our youngest learners is thirteen years down the road. But here is what we do know: If

elementary students take ownership in their learning and their school experience, are given opportunities to shape their character and interaction skills with others, and are supported to reflect on their progress and set goals for improvement, these same students will be successful in whatever global world they encounter.

Some areas that we have viewed through a new lens include student-teacher relationships, physical learning environments, and personalized learning. During the 2017-2018 school year, teachers piloted a more student-centered approach to behavior that focused on helping students make good choices in an environment of mutual respect and strong relationships. After a year of action research, multiple classrooms and grade levels have created physical spaces within their classrooms that offer flexible seating choices in addition to traditional desks and chairs. After a year of collaborative effort between teachers and district leadership, we were able to define and understand what personalized learning means to HBR. We are excited to move that district goal forward into implementation next year.

Fostering Community Partnerships

HBRES could not be successful without our many partnerships with parents, families, and community members. We held our 3rd Annual Walk-a-Thon event in September. The students and families raised \$7,200 and walked or ran a school total of 4,403 laps which equated to 1,467 miles. Teachers were able to purchase IPads, books, classroom rugs, and alternative seating pieces among many other wonderful resources from these funds. The teachers and staff also partnered with Dairy Joy again this year in raising \$1,000 for materials and technologies for the classrooms. Other partnerships, like 1st Grade and the Hinckley Fire Department: Fireman in the Classroom, provided great opportunities for our students to learn personal safety and prevention.

In summary, at HBRES we are proud to be a part of a truly special school district. Thank you for continuing to support and partner with us as we build a better tomorrow, one student at a time.

Julie Melnyk HBRES Principal









Investing for students' future..... Hinckley-Big Rock Middle School



At Hinckley-Big Rock Middle School, the teachers, support staff and I work with our students daily to ensure they are "Ready to Go" to the next level of their education. In 2017-2018 one of our school improvement goals was focused on increasing academic vocabulary by incorporating the Word Generation program into all of our middle school core classes. Word Generation sets students on the path to college and career readiness by providing multiple perspectives on complex problems. It builds reading comprehension by incorporating academic vocabulary into engaging texts and providing opportunities for student discussion and debate. It places an emphasis on argumentation, analytic reasoning, reading to find evidence, and argumentative writing. The staff and I are very proud of the learning opportunities these weekly activities are adding to our curricular offerings.

In 2017-2018 our students again had the opportunity to work with Hinckley-Big Rock High School teacher, Mrs. Tracy Sanderson and her FFA students on Agriculture in the classroom. This year our students were engaged with two lessons focused on raising Christmas trees and raising livestock. In December, the students learned about what it takes to grow Christmas trees and were able to create a centerpiece for their parents. In April, the students learned about raising livestock and had the opportunity to meet a rabbit and a goat. Our students enjoy this early exposure to agriculture; we are happy that Mrs. Sanderson and her students have made this a priority.

Our 4th Career Awareness Day was held in April. We had many presenters from both the Hinckley and Big Rock communities, along with former HBR graduates. The day included 22 different speakers with 25 careers represented. Presenters included Jim Teckenbrock from WSPY, K-9 dogs and handlers from the Dekalb County Sherriff's Department, Tim Badal (pastor/caterer), Jared Thorpe (firemen/paramedic), Marci Viland (author), Doug Schlachter (mechanic), and Karla Jebens-Mills (veterinarian). Other careers represented were College It Tech, NIU athletics, real estate, and teacher/sports official. Students attended four different presentations throughout the day and completed the Oklahoma Career Cluster interest survey. This exposure to multiple careers is not only a positive experience for students, it can also help them to identify their interests and plan for their future education. We are always looking for presenters from all walks of life to participate in Career Day. Please consider being a part of this important learning opportunity for our students next year.



In addition to career readiness, we will be adding financial awareness activities during the 2018-19 school year. We will also continue to encourage students to spend a day with their parents at work to learn about what their careers entail. As an addition to our career readiness activities, we would like to invite parents to come in during our lunch periods during the year to meet with small groups of students and discuss their individual careers. Anyone interested in volunteering to speak at the 2018-2019 Career Day or have lunch with our students please contact me at 630-556-4190.

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This year the middle school will be hosting 6th grade orientation on Thursday August 9th. Parents of incoming 6th graders will receive an email in early August outlining the day. Students will be given an opportunity to go through a short version of their schedule and time to become familiar with their lockers. There will also be a Q and A session with staff and current students which is always tremendously informative and popular. We look forward to meeting our new 6th graders and welcoming them to the HBRMS community.

As I start my 15th year in the district, it continues to be an honor to work with all the parents, community members, staff and teachers in the Hinckley and Big Rock communities. With the start of 2018-2019 school year quickly approaching we, as a building, will continue our goal of guiding and developing in our students the necessary skills to be "Ready to Go" not only to the high school, but forward in life.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the office or email me at jstrouss@hbr429.org.

Jeff Strouss
HBRMS Principal

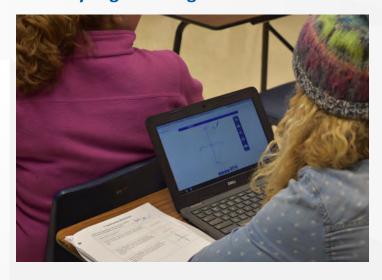








Reaching students' maximum potential..... Hinckley-Big Rock High School



The end of the 2017-18 school year marks another year filled with memories and milestones witnessed by Hinckley-Big Rock High School, our community, and all of the members of what we like to think of as the HBR family. Undeniably, our wonderful sense of community played a tremendous part in our recent recognition by US News and World Report as one of the top 10% of high schools in Illinois and the nation. Our students, parents and community, as well as the entire staff of Hinckley-Big Rock High School should be proud of their school.

Of course, no matter how much we achieve, there is always more to do. The 2018-2019 year will begin again with our annual Freshman Academy, and will end with Final Exams and Graduation. In between, as always, we will be quite busy. On August 9, we will greet our new freshman at Freshman Academy and we will welcome our brand new teachers who will be joining us this year. Three new teachers, and a new school counselor, will be joining the HBRHS staff. Over the course of two days, our new staff will be inserviced on all of the things they need to know to begin their pursuit of excellence in service of the HBR community.

Our focus remains on helping all students achieve to their maximum potential while having an interesting, challenging, and fulfilling high school experience. Our extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are at the heart of that comprehensive high school experience that we want for all of our students. Not only do our students learn about teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, and collaboration, but they get the opportunity to build relationships, with their peers and with their teachers, that can have a profound impact on their success and level of enjoyment. Thank you, in advance, for supporting these activities and working with us to build the kind of relationships that make our community special. These activities, and some very important events, are a great source of pride. They include:

- Our Homecoming Week that always manages to bring the community together for fun, food, and excitement. And, of course, a great way to get our students involved in the spirit side of high school;
- 2) Our athletic program now lead, very successfully, by Mrs. Kim Halverson. We love to win, but understand that the most important part of the program is the teaching that goes on, the fun that is had, and the character that is built;
- 3) Our many clubs and activities, with far ranging interests, that help our students connect, get involved, build relationships, and have fun;
- Our very active FFA chapter that continues to garner regional and statewide accolades;
- 5) Our National Honor Society that gives our students a chance to serve in so many ways, including running our quarterly blood drives that go a long way toward saving lives and teaching our students about compassion and service; and
- 6) Our various celebrations of academic and athletic excellence. From our Sports Awards to our Honors Night, we understand the value of celebrating the efforts and achievements of our students.

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Of course, in our efforts to build the kinds of relationships that benefit our students and community, we pledge to continue to work on the quality and timeliness of our communication. We know that you need, want, and deserve effective and timely communication about issues that affect your student and your school. Please continue to enjoy our Facebook page and look for some updates and improvements in that area. Our district goal to improve and enhance communication is still in place, and we intend to continue our efforts to keep you very well informed.



We will continue our monthly communication themes, and will supplement the themed communication with all of the necessary and, hopefully, interesting information you need as a part of the HBRHS community.

Also this year, we intend to continue our work, through the School Improvement process, to help our students become "career ready" writers. In 2016 we committed to the notion that, in order to help our students find their path after high school, and be successful in whatever their endeavor, we needed to provide them with writing experiences that sharpened their ability to communicate in this very important method of communication. Our team has had a great deal of success in helping many become better writers. As a crucial component of literacy, writing impacts both their personal and professional lives. We pledge to continue that work.

While new and interesting events, innovations, and academic opportunities will be in place for 2018-2019, one I would like to highlight is the dual credit opportunity that some of our juniors and seniors will be taking advantage of this year. Dual credit, in short, gives students the opportunity to take classes on a college campus, in this case, Waubonsee Community College, and simultaneously earn both high school and college credit. It is an amazing opportunity and we look forward to watching these young people as they take that next step on their path to career readiness and life after HBR.

To close, I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support for what we do and who we seek to be. On behalf of myself, and the entire staff of Hinckley-Big Rock High School, you have my heartfelt thanks for providing us the opportunity to do what we do. We are very proud of what we do and what we have accomplished. Mostly, however, we are proud to serve you. Thank you ...and have a wonderful summer!

Jay Brickman HBRHS Principal



Success outside the classroom..... HBR Athletics

The Hinckley-Big Rock School District values our student athletic programs, our student athletes, and the parents/guardians who support them. Our criteria for being a successful athlete or athletic team is not solely based on the win-loss record of the sport, or the trophy at the end of the season, but also on student participation, improvement of student skills, sportsmanship, camaraderie and the enjoyment of those involved. In the 2017-2018 school year, Hinckley-Big Rock High School had 128 students who participated in at least one of our 13 athletic programs throughout the year. These students occupied 195 roster spots on our various teams. Hinckley-Big Rock Middle School had 122 roster spots in the 7 athletic programs throughout the 2017-2018 school year. The breakdown is as follows:

HBRHS

Girls Golf	8
Boys Golf	22
Boys Soccer	18
Volleyball	24
Boys Basketball	28
Girls Basketball	23
Cheerleading	6
Dance	6
Girls Soccer	13
Boys Track	13
Girls Track	6
Baseball	15
Softball	13

195 Roster Spots

122 Roster Spots

HBRMS	
Co-Ed Soccer	27
Volleyball	26
Boys Basketball	25
Girls Basketball	17
Cheer	17
Boys/Girls Track	38

FALL HIGHLIGHTS



Our fall sports season at HBRHS included boys soccer, girls volleyball, and boys and girls golf. Boys soccer had a heavy schedule under the leadership of first year coach Brad Phillips. The team wrapped up the season with a 14-9-1 record.



The volleyball team experienced a season of growth and improvement and had an overall record of 7-23-2. The 2018-2019 Lady Royals will continue under Coach Stefanie Rich and look to improve their skills and record. Matt Olsen will coach the lower level and JV squad beginning this fall. Coaches and team members are looking forward to a great season.

Boys Golf continued to grow with a 22 member roster that earned a record of 10-5 for the season. The Royals were led by coach Larry King for the 2017-2018 season and continually showed their improvement on the greens.

Girls Golf, coached again this year by Greg Jourdan, had a successful season with returning powerhouse, Allison Ryan, leading a young team to a 12-4 record. For the 5th consecutive year, the young Lady Royals brought home the Little 10 Championship trophy and had another undefeated record against Little 10 opponents. With Allison Ryan and Lauren Engel leading, the team posted scores from all eight of the girls on their roster, with seven of those girls earning a varsity letter. Freshmen standout Avery Zabel quickly earned her spot in the varsity rotation, which also included juniors Anais Lawler and Katie O'Dwyer. Allison and Lauren advanced to sectionals as individuals, while All Area honors were extended to Ryan (1st team) and, Engel, Zabel and Lawler.

The Fall sports at HBRMS kicked off with Co-ed soccer and volleyball. The Co-ed soccer team at HBRMS had a regular season record of 17-2 and placed 3rd in the Junior Ten Tournament and 1st in the Conference for the season. 7th grade volleyball finished the season strong with a great show of improvement. 8th grade volleyball had a 2-16 regular season record and did not place in the Junior Ten Tournament.

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Both our boys and girls basketball teams at HBRHS enjoyed some successes during the season. They played competitively and showed progress. Doug Brewington coached the girls team to a record of 5-21 overall with a bench of 16 players (8 Varsity and 8 F/S). Allison Ryan made the Earlville Holiday Shootout All-Tournament Team and unanimous All-Conference team. Tori Prellberg and Allison Ryan were also named as Honorable Mentions to the All-Area team.



The boys basketball team had 14 players on the Varsity squad and represented HBR well in the Little 10 Tournament by bringing home the 3rd place trophy. The boys ended with a 13-15 record and have a promising future in 2018-2019 under returning coach Seth Sanderson, a former rival Indian Creek graduate.



Our Cheer and Dance teams at HBRHS were busy again this year. We are the only Little 10 School to perform in both competitive cheer and dance. The Royalettes, under coach Stephanie Dickerson, were state qualifiers again, which shows the strength of their commitment to the program. The cheer team, with Jill Cotton back at the helm, was smaller in number this year, but did a great job supporting the basketball team and competing in local competitions.

Winter sports at HBRMS included boys basketball, girls basketball, and cheer. The 7th grade boys basketball team finished the season at 10-6 overall record which placed them 4th in the Junior Ten Conference. The 8th grade boys basketball team finished the regular season with a record of 9-8 and placed 5th in the Junior Ten Conference. The cheer team actively supported and grew in their skillset with 17 7th and 8th graders making up the squad. 7th grade girls basketball team finished the season with a record of 4-12, while the 8th grade girls basketball team finished the regular season at 6-12 and placed 4th in the Junior Ten Conference Tournament and 7th in regular season conference play.



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



Boys Baseball and Girls Softball at HBRHS struggled a bit in 2017-2018 ending their seasons with a 1-18 record and 3-13, respectively. Both teams continued to persevere and showed signs of growth, improving their individual skills and team mechanics. Baseball played under the new leadership of Coach Matt Olson who was a great addition as the Varsity Baseball coach. There were 13 members on the Baseball team with no Seniors. The next few years will showcase their growth and experience as they return to the team in the spring. We anticipate having enough Freshman in 2018-2019 to allow us to schedule JV games. Softball coaches Kristy Harrod and Doug Brewington worked hard this year on the basics to help grow the skills of their young team with great hope for the future.

Girls soccer at HBRHS continued their partnership with Somonauk this spring. The 13 member roster included 8 Somonauk and 5 HBR athletes was coached by Kirsten Kubala. This program continues to grow and we hope to be able to field both a JV and Varsity schedule in the 2019 Spring season.

Boys and Girls Track and Field at HBRHS, with coach Greg Burks, competed in the Spring. HBR had the honor of advancing Freshmen Izabella Cleaveland to the IHSA State Meet competing in the 3200 meter run. Izabella placed 24th in the state with a time of 12:47.30.

Boys and girls track and field at HBRMS also both compete in the spring. Both teams competed in several meets this

year. Due to weather related cancellations the 9 meet schedule became an 8 meet schedule. The girls track team placed 4th at the Junior Ten Conference Meet while the boys placed 2nd. An additional award was earned by the 7th grade boys team this year. They placed 2nd at the Sectional meet which earned them a Sectional plaque. And our congratulations to the boys track team who represented HBR at the IESA State track meet with 6 state qualifiers in the events of high jump, long jump and the 4x200 relay.

Dallas Waldschmidt and Charles Hillman Award Winners

Congratulations to Dakota Gum, recipient of the Dallas Waldschmidt Award and, Chloe Laws, recipient of the Charles Hillman Award. Both students were multiple sport athletes. Throughout his high school career, Dakota competed for four years in soccer and basketball, and one year in baseball. Chloe competed for four years in volleyball, soccer and cheerleading and was a member of NHS. We wish both of them the best as they pursue their career endeavors!







Ensuring our resources match our identified needs..... HBR Finances

As of our last audit for the 2016-2017 school year, we had an operating fund balance of \$6,091,412 with 249 days of cash on hand. Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 has been prudent in our financial spending with the provided local, state, and federal resources. The information below is meant to describe the 2017-2018 financial picture since our audit will not be complete until the fall of 2018. Additionally, a brief picture of the 2018-2019 tentative budget is provided.

2017-2018 Financial Summary

The entire document can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/ycd66vgv. The approved Fiscal Year (FY) 18 amended budget can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/y93zly7o.

Purpose of this overview:

Discuss the revenue and expenses to date to portray our current financial standing as we end FY 18.

FY18 Revenue:

We budgeted \$11,951,911 in revenue for FY18. Our actual revenue, as of July 18th, was \$12,405,216.59 (103.79% of our budgeted revenue). Some key factors in the difference are a direct reflection of the increased revenue from the State of Illinois, insurance reimbursements as a result of water damage at HBRMS in May 2017, wind damage at HBRHS in June 2017, and hail damage at HBRES and HBRHS in August 2017. We received two FY17 mandated categorical payments from the state in FY18 and three of the four FY18 mandated categorical payments in FY18.

FY18 Expenditures:

We budgeted \$11,833,067 in expenses for FY18. Our actual expenditures, as of July 18th, totaled \$11,408,089.57 (96.41% of our budgeted expenses). We spent \$424,977.43 less than was initially budgeted through thorough initial planning and spending based on need. We closely monitor our expenses throughout the year with monthly reports to the Board of Education and quarterly reviews with leaders of schools and departments.

FY18 Final Summary Results:

Our FY18 amended budget had a projected surplus of \$118,944. Our unaudited surplus for FY18, as of July 18th, is \$997,127.02. Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 continues to plan with the known information. The revenue changes from the State of Illinois, sometimes sudden and often with a negative impact, continues to influence our finances and is overall concerning.

2018-2019 (FY19) Tentative Budget Summary:

The entire document can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/ybg3yzt5.

The prepared tentative budget, as of July 18, 2018, shows an overall surplus of \$169,354. When comparing FY18 to FY19, there is an overall decrease in budgeted revenue of 1.74% (\$208,255) and an overall decrease in expenditures of 2.19% (\$258,765). The FY19 budget has been created with fiscal responsibility taking current and long term needs into consideration.

This tentative budget was placed on display after our July 18, 2018, Board meeting. A budget hearing will be held on September 19th at 6:15 p.m. in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library. The budget will be formally adopted at the September 19th Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Library.



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