

ChalkTalk

FALL 2025

A Season of Gratitude and Connection

As we settle into November, the light softens across the oaks, the crunch of the leaves becomes more pronounced, the smell of the air has subtly changed, and the days grow shorter; the season invites us to gather a little closer. Drive, or better yet, walk through town and you'll see it—the quiet grace of autumn in Hillsborough: laughter drifting from our schools, neighbors donning a few more layers for daily walks, and the gold and russet colors of leaves collecting along the roads and paths we share. It's a time in our season that invites us to slow down, look around, and give thanks for where we are—and for one another.

This season, I find myself reflecting on what truly makes our Town special. It's not just about topography or the buildings—it's the people who unite to share care and purpose in being in community together. It's parent volunteers serving on committees, crossing guards who keep our children safe, educators nurturing daily curiosity and confidence, Board of Trustees, Town Council, HPD, Central County Fire, HBF, Concours d'Elegance, HREC, HSF, and the hundreds of parents

and neighbors showing up time and again strengthening the ties that hold us together. Our community thrives because of this generous caring spirit that, at the end of the day, knows our most incredible resource is each other and our future is our children.

As a newer member of this community, and as someone deeply moved by a community with unwavering care and commitment to education, I feel immense gratitude: for the privilege of serving, for the trust we share, and for the sense of belonging that grows when we act with both heart and purpose. This time of year reminds us that gratitude is not a single moment; it is a practice. It lives in the laughter around a dinner table, in the kindness of a neighbor reaching out, in a simple wordless nod or smile given on a walk, and in the joy of seeing our children growing to be life long learners who care deeply for their community.

This season, I invite us all to turn that gratitude into action—big or small. Introduce yourself to someone new at a school event or Town gathering. Or, simply pause to appreciate the people who make your day brighter; it is the deep roots of community and the sense of belonging that sustain us all.

So as we move into this season of thanks, may you and your loved ones find warmth, connection, and peace. May we continue to nurture a community where care is our common language, and where gratitude leads to belonging.

With appreciation and hope,
Ana
Ana de Arce, HCSD Superintendent



ChalkTalk Highlights

Measure H: Investing in Our Schools and Community

In 2022, our community came together to invest in the future of our schools and students. To ensure that facilities remain safe, modern, and conducive to learning, the HCSD School Board unanimously voted on February 16, 2022, to place Measure H—a local school improvement bond—on the June ballot. The measure passed with 61% voter approval, securing up to \$140 million to fund essential upgrades and repairs across our schools. Below is a summary of the projects that are ongoing or were recently completed.

Measure H Projects Completed Over the Summer 2025

HCSD has completed several major projects funded by **Measure H** this summer. These improvements continue our commitment to providing safe, modern, and inspiring learning environments for all students and staff.

Crocker Middle School

- New **HVAC systems** were installed within the main building, ensuring comfortable learning environments year-round.
- The main building and gymnasium received brand-new **roofs**.
- Phase 1 of the new **Culinary Arts classroom** was completed, including moving the classroom from the MPR to the main building and converting the space. Phase 2 will occur during the summer of 2026.
- A large **Town of Hillsborough water main** that ran under the existing Crocker MPR was rerouted in preparation for Summer 2026 ground breaking of the new Crocker MPR and administration building.
- Installation of **security cameras, guest management system and ActVNet first responder access** was completed, improving security and response during emergencies.

North Elementary School

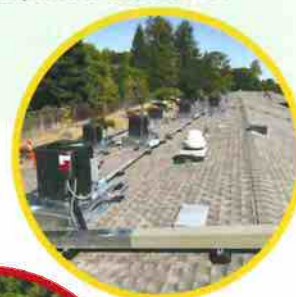
- Installation of **security cameras, guest management system, and ActVNet first responder access** was completed, improving security and response during emergencies.

South Elementary School

- New **shingled roofs** were installed on the main building, MPR and iLab/Music building.
- **HVAC systems** installed within all learning spaces.
- A new **fire alarm system** was installed in all campus buildings.
- Installation of **security cameras, guest management system and ActVNet first responder access** was completed.

West Elementary School

- The **underground water and utility waste lines** within the main building and the **sewer lift station** were replaced.
- **HVAC systems** and new **roofs** were installed within three classrooms that were not done last summer. This completes the installation of HVAC and new roofs for all of the West campus.
- The **two staff restrooms** within the Staff Dining Room were renovated.
- Installation of **security cameras, guest management system and ActVNet first responder access** was completed.



With this summer's work, HCSD has **successfully completed the roofing, sewer, and security camera projects** under the **Measure H "Safe, Cool, Warm, and Dry"** initiative. These efforts ensure our schools remain secure, comfortable, and well-maintained for years to come.

West School: New Multipurpose Room Broke Ground in June 2025

Construction is officially underway! Contractors are nearing the completion of the underground utility tie-ins and leveling the ground to create a stable and even surface for the building while ensuring proper drainage throughout the area. They are currently marking and preparing the building footings, which will serve as the foundation for the new MPR structure.

The completion date of the new MPR is scheduled for Winter 2027. Construction will occur five days a week, with potential weekend work if needed to stay on schedule. Expect increased traffic and typical construction noise around Barbara Way. We are committed to minimizing disruptions and will follow stringent environmental guidelines to mitigate dust and noise. Blach Construction, known for its efficiency and quality in previous school projects, is handling the construction.

For continued updates, please visit our website at: hcsdk8.org/Page/432
If you are interested in receiving regular project updates and would like to be added to our West School Communication Distribution List, please call the HCSD District Office at 650-342-5193 or use the QR Code to access a form to complete online.

SCAN HERE



HCSD Board of Trustees break ground on West MPR
(L to R: Trustees Greg Dannis, An Huang Chen, Don Geddis, Kim Oliff, and Gilbert Wai)

Thank you to HSF for continuing to support our schools. This year the endowment supported instruments for all 5th grade students!



The Spring 2026 ChalkTalk will include updates on projects set to begin Summer of 2026:

- Breaking ground on Crocker MPR and administration building
- Crocker Makerspace Relocation
- Crocker Culinary Arts, Phase 2
- Continued update on West MPR





Board of Trustees

Kim Oliff, *President* | Don Geddis, *Vice President*
Gregory Dannis, *Clerk* | An Huang Chen, *Member*
Gilbert Wai, *Member*

District Leadership

Ana de Arce, *Superintendent* | Leilani Bell, *Director of Human Resources* | Alex Friez, *IT Manager* | Matthew Lindner, *Director of Educational Services* | Regina Piper, *Director of Student Services* | Ron Russo, *Maintenance & Grounds Manager* | Joyce Shen, *Chief Business Officer* | Maureen Sullivan, *Director of Communication, Compliance & Safety*



Calendar Highlights

November 24 - 28	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	New Student Registration for 2026-2027 begins
December 10	Board Meeting • 6:00 PM • North Library
December 22 - January 2	Winter Break, school resumes on January 5th
January 14	Board Meeting • 6:00 PM • North Library



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