

HILLSDALE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes

The **Hillsdale County Planning Commission** convened at the Intermediate School District Offices, 310 W. Bacon Street, Hillsdale, Michigan, on Monday, February 27, 2012.

Members present: Gary Reppert, Mike Potts, Ned Bever, Parke Hayes, Shelby Bollwahn, Adam Smith

Members absent: Deb Sikorski, Fred Fowler, Marc Richards

Others present: Nicolas Wheeler

Call to Order: Ned Bever called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: *M. Potts moved to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2012, G. Reppert supported. Motion unanimously carried.*

Approval of Agenda: *A. Smith moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the City of Hudson Master Plan, M. Potts supported. Motion unanimously carried.*

Public Comment: *None*

Public Hearings: *None*

Unfinished Business:

- a. *Hillsdale County Master Plan – The following reports were given:*
 - i. *M. Potts reviewed updates to the Education Section (pages 37-40 & 44). Various information was updated from collected census data as well as information obtained from the Intermediate School District. (see attachment “A”)*
 - ii. *G. Reppert reviewed updates to the Transportation Section (see attachment “B”)*
 - iii. *Handout of updates to the Demographics Section (pages 35 & 36) were reviewed (see attachment “C”). Information on figures to use for projected future population is currently being studied.*
- b. *Review Planning Commission By-Laws – G. Reppert moved to table updating the By-Laws, S. Bollwahn supported. Motion unanimously carried.*

New Business: *None*

Public Comment: *None*

Communications: *A letter from the City of Hudson was received informing the Hillsdale County Planning Commission that the city’s new Master Plan was adopted by the Hudson City Council on February 7, 2012. An electronic copy of the plan was included on compact disc.*

Adjournment: *N. Bever adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

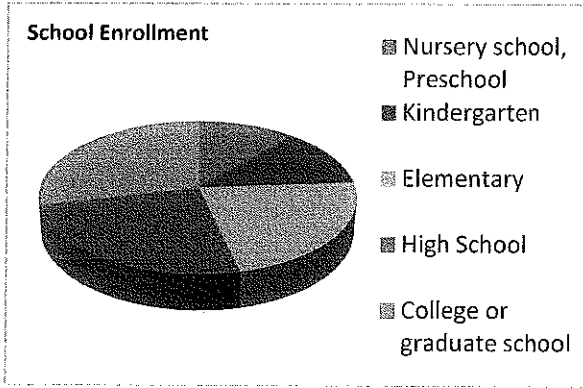
Ned Bever, Chair

Recorded by: Nicolas Wheeler, Equalization Director, County of Hillsdale

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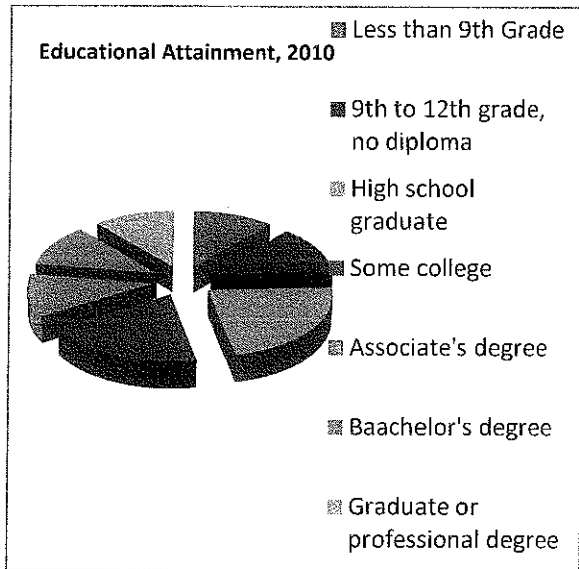
Education

In 2010, there were 12,048 persons 3 years and older that were enrolled in school. The following table summarizes school enrollment in Hillsdale County.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

In 2010, 30,998 persons were 25 years and over. Of those persons, 86.5% were high school graduates or higher, and 14.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher. The following table summarizes the County's educational attainment.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Education is one of the keys to future progress of Hillsdale County. Schools in Hillsdale County provide an outstanding education that will be needed to link future generations with an industrially-based economy. Today, education of our youth often begins before kindergarten. A number of pre-school opportunities are available to Hillsdale County residents.

Head Start and Great Start Readiness programs provide a pre-school service at no cost to those who qualify for these services. To be eligible for Head Start, 90% of the families enrolled must meet the U.S. Health and Human Services Poverty guidelines. Under the Great Start Readiness Program, at least 75% of families must meet income eligibility requirements, which is 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. All families are required to meet two of eight risk factors that contribute to Educational Risk. Head Start and Great Start Readiness Programs are located in Camden, Hillsdale, Jonesville, Litchfield, Pittsford, Reading and Waldron.

Pre-school opportunities are also available from the private sector. Private opportunities on a fee-basis are as follows: Bridges to Learning; Head Start Family Development Center; Karan Jenkins Preschool; Marilyn Reigle Preschool; Mary Randall Preschool; Step by Step Preschool; and the Teaching Learning Center (TLC).

Currently, Hillsdale County has ten public school districts, including two public school academies. The ten public school districts are united through the Hillsdale County Intermediate Schools District, which acts as a liaison between state and local districts as well as a provider of some special education and vocational education services. All of the public school

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districts are governed by elected Boards of Education, with a superintendent of schools hired by each board. The public school districts and their administrative offices are listed on the following page.

- Camden Frontier Schools
K-12
4971 Montgomery
Camden, MI 49232
(517) 368-5255
- Hillsdale Community Schools
K-12 & Alternative Ed
30 Norwood
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-4401
- Hillsdale County Intermediate Schools
310 W. Bacon
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-0990
- Jonesville Community Schools
K-12 & Alternative Ed
202 Wright St.
Jonesville, MI 49250
(517)849-2434
- Litchfield Community Schools
K-12
210 Williams
Litchfield, MI 49252
(517) 542-2388
- North Adams-Jerome Public Schools
K-12
4555 Knowles Road
North Adams, MI 49262
(517) 287-4214
- Pittsford Area Schools
K-12
9304 East Hamilton
Pittsford, MI 49271
(517) 523-3481

- Reading Community Schools
K-12
519 West Elm
Reading, MI 49274
(517) 283-2166
- Waldron Area Schools
K-12
13380 S. Waldron Rd
Waldron, MI 49288
(517) 286-6251

The above school districts participate in a “schools of choice” program that allows any student to attend any school district in the county. The public school academies are:

- Hillsdale Preparatory School
K-8
160 Mechanic
Hillsdale, MI
(517) 437-7990
- Will Carleton Academy
K-12
2001 W. Hallett Rd
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-2000

In addition to the public school districts, several private or denominational schools are available. They are as follows:

- Bird Lake Bible
K-12
7880 South Bird Lake Road
Osseo, MI 49266
(517) 567-8635

Freedom Farm Christian Schools
9400 Beecher Road
Pittsford, MI 49271
(517) 523-3426

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- Hillsdale Academy
K-12
100 Barber
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-0145
- Manor Foundation
K-12
115 East Jonesville
Jonesville, MI 49250
(517) 849-2151
- Prattville Seventh Day
Adventist Church School
K-12
5085 S. Waldron Road
Pittsford, MI 49271
(517) 523-4143

The Hillsdale County Intermediate School District offers special education services as does each public school district and the public school academy. Special education programming includes some of the following:

Learning Impaired - Programs for children who have average intelligence but have some identifiable learning problem that requires adaptations in curriculum or teaching methodology.

Emotionally Impaired - Students who possess the ability to learn, but must learn at a slower pace than usual.

Trainable Mentally Impaired - Students who can be trained to live and work in society, but may never acquire the more complex skills necessary for skilled work.

Multiply Impaired - Students who have more than one educational handicap.

Autistically Impaired - Students who meet the complex criteria for the label autism. These students have difficulty relating to others in real world situations. Individuals with Autism range widely in abilities and achievements.

Physical And Other Health Impaired - Students who have a physical handicap that demands special services or curriculum adaptations.

Severely Mentally Impaired - Students whose mental impairment prohibits them from learning or being trained to perform successfully in society.

The Intermediate School district also offers specialized vocational training programs.

Adult education is available in Hillsdale County for those who have not finished high school or want enrichment courses to improve their skills. Hillsdale Community Schools offer the following opportunities:

1. High school completion
2. Preparation for and taking of the G.E.D.
3. Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Post high school education classes are available through Hillsdale College, Jackson Community College - Hillsdale or Jackson Centers, Spring Arbor College, and Michindoh Conference Center.

The ten public school districts in Hillsdale County are presently using 22 school buildings. Only three of these buildings have been built relatively recently. The remaining buildings are all over twenty years old. Five buildings are over 50 years old. All of the districts have made good

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efforts to keep their facilities in good repair, but modernization is needed. Litchfield, Reading, North Adams, Camden Frontier, Jonesville, and Hillsdale have all been involved in remodeling projects within the past 10 years.

TABLE 8
HILLSDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS
10 YEAR ENROLLMENTS

DISTRICT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-2012
ADULT EDUCATION	49.60	42.40	42.40	36.00	36.80	12.00	12.00	3.96	10.86
CAMDEN FRONTIER	638.00	640.96	637.00	603.46	595.00	552.00	570.00	572.00	597.86
HILLSDALE COMM.	1888.70	1866.80	1856.60	1808.68	1808.78	1822.01	1789.88	1700.55	1569.17
JONESVILLE	1345.00	1385.87	1360.18	1361.82	1406.80	1410.06	1413.53	1473.71	1465.87
LITCHFIELD	536.57	509.00	478.00	476.11	387.43	354.71	340.90	313.38	331.00
NORTH ADAMS	553.66	553.50	538.00	482.79	463.00	463.00	1666.04	459.00	431.31
PITTSFORD	703.00	686.00	725.80	747.68	684.00	666.68	659.49	640.47	675.46
READING	967.50	921.00	944.20	936.90	932.37	900.57	890.29	903.96	843.00
WALDRON	380.00	380.00	381.00	367.88	357.86	342.00	335.00	303.00	299.02
HILLSDALE COUNTY ISD/MANOR	330.32	311.31	315.51	299.85	310.94	300.93	248.89	217.57	203.88
JUVENILE DETENTION	7.00	2.00	3.00	7.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	5.00
HILLSDALE PREPARATORY	98.30	105.30	39.00	43.00	63.00	73.00	71.00	101.00	95.00
WILL CARLTON ACADEMY	211.67	235.00	238.71	225.72	231.62	244.50	259.55	304.00	346.00
Total	7659.72	7596.74	7518.00	7416.10	7261.59	7131.46	7048.52	6989.64	6862.57

Transportation – Roads

The variety of soils and topography that makes Hillsdale County unique, also affect the road network. From the flat lands of the south to the rolling hills in the north create a road system that varies as much as the topography itself.

Historically the road network in Hillsdale County was built to accommodate two-ton trucks. Development should be encouraged in areas where the least amount of damage will be done and where roads can be built or improved with minimal costs. Hillsdale County Road Commission has updated 51 miles of primary roads to handle heavy truck traffic and is exempt from spring frost laws.

Hillsdale County has 110 miles of State Highways. US-12, US-127, M-99, M-49 and M-34 are under the jurisdiction of MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation), with Hillsdale County Road Commission contracted for maintenance and snow removal.

The Hillsdale County Road Commission has almost 1,204 miles of roads under its jurisdiction and responsibility for maintenance. Of this, 50.8% (612 miles) are paved and 49.2% (592 miles) are gravel. The Functional Road Classification Map on the following page shows the road network in Hillsdale County. Of the 612 miles of paved roads, 371 miles are classified as primary roads and 241 miles are local roads.

Paved primary roads are important for planning purposes because they receive a higher priority for maintenance than do local roads. They are also generally designed to handle larger volumes of traffic. Most of the gravel roads are classified as local roads.

Transportation – Public Transit

The City of Hillsdale's Dial-A-Ride has been in operation since 1975. Today, the service provides an average of 300 rides per day from points within the city limits. Buses are available on a call-in basis. Most busses are wheelchair assessable.

Efforts are being made to evaluate the current system with the goal of improving ridership, times of day, and routes.

Transportation - Air Service

The Hillsdale Municipal Airport servicing the greater Hillsdale County area opened in its current location in 1963. It is owned and funded by the City of Hillsdale. The airport is licensed by the State of Michigan as a General Utility Airport with one east/west runway 5,000 feet in length and 100 feet in width. The runway was upgraded in 2011 and the 10 year plan is to enhance the airport by developing a new terminal and adding a taxi runway parallel to the current runway. Enhancing safety and utilization of the airport has been the focus of management.

Transportation – Rail Service

The Indiana Northeastern Railroad serves Hillsdale County and connects to the Norfolk Southern Railway system in Steuben County, Indiana. There are 36 miles of railway in Hillsdale County. The railway connects the communities of Montgomery, Reading, Hillsdale, Jonesville and Litchfield. The railway also extends west into Branch County to connect Quincy Village and the City of Coldwater.

Attachment "C"

TABLE 2
**HILLSDALE COUNTY AND LOCAL
 POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS - POPULATION (1970-2010)
 AND PROJECTIONS TO 2020**

Community	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Hillsdale Co.	37,171	42,071	43,431	46,527	46,688	57,890
Cities						
Hillsdale	7,728	7,432	8,170	8,233	8,305	8,599
Litchfield	1,167	1,353	1,317	1,458	1,369	1,710
Reading	1,125	1,203	1,127	1,134	1,078	1,140
Townships						
Adams	1,275	1,695	1,827	1,984	2,016	2,786
Allen	986	1,235	1,211	1,406	1,466	1,834
Amboy	844	936	978	1,224	1,173	1,619
Cambria	1,880	2,326	2,372	2,546	2,533	3,182
Camden	914	1,020	1,114	1,152	1,193	1,361
Fayette	852	943	907	1,013	1,068	1,145
Hillsdale	1,608	1,873	1,786	1,965	2,033	2,266
Jefferson	2,290	2,920	3,083	3,141	3,063	3,969
Litchfield	2,183	1,027	957	969	1,003	977
Moscow	1,093	1,396	1,353	1,445	1,470	1,771
Pittsford	1,548	1,550	1,595	1,600	1,603	1,636
Ransom	860	949	911	982	932	1,076
Reading	1,194	1,653	1,768	1,781	1,765	2,413
Scipio	1,173	1,352	1,479	1,822	1,884	2,554
Somerset	1,886	3,142	3,416	4,277	4,623	8,660
Wheatland	1,074	1,255	1,225	1,258	1,351	1,406
Woodbridge	1,026	1,115	1,160	1,337	1,325	1,621
Wright	1,219	1,295	1,228	1,198	1,117	1,196
Villages						
Allen	385	266	201	225	191	243
Camden	405	420	482	550	512	689
Jonesville	2,081	2,172	2,283	2,337	2,258	2,533
Montgomery	404	408	388	386	342	384
North Adams	574	565	512	514	477	512
Waldron	564	570	581	590	538	608

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Race

Hillsdale County is a very homogeneous community with 97% of its population white. By comparison, the state's 2010 breakdown by race was 78.9% white, 14.2% black, 2.4% Asian, 0.6% Native American, 2.3% Multiracial, and 1.5% other. The percentage of each race in Hillsdale County has stayed consistent since 2000.

**TABLE 3
RACE
HILLSDALE COUNTY, 2010**

RACE	POPULATION	% OF POPULATION
White	45,304	97.0
Black	220	0.5
Native American	174	0.4
Asian	188	0.4
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	4	0.0
Multiracial	591	1.3
Other	207	0.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Age/Sex

Of the total County population of 46,688 persons in 2010, 23,170 (49.6%) were male and 23,518 (50.4%) were female. The median age of the population increased to 40.5 years in 2010 compared to 36.5 years in 2000. Of the total population in 2010, 27% was age 19 and under while nearly 16% were 65 years and older. Table 4 below illustrates the percentage of the population by age in increments of 5-years.

**TABLE 4
POPULATION BY AGE/SEX
HILLSDALE COUNTY, 2010**

AGE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
0-4	2,807	6.0
5-9	3,030	6.5
10-14	3,179	6.8
15-19	3,593	7.7
20-24	3,060	6.6
25-29	2,276	4.9
30-34	2,461	5.3
35-39	2,624	5.6
40-44	2,865	6.1
45-49	3,440	7.4
50-54	3,690	7.9
55-59	3,408	7.3
60-64	2,911	6.2
65-69	2,361	5.1
70-74	1,796	3.8
75-79	1,344	2.9
80-84	883	1.9
85+	960	2.1
Total	46,688	100
Median Age	40.5	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010