

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION

Administration Building  
August 16, 2021  
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, August 16, 2021, with all members present. Angie Sheets attended virtually. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler, and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Pamela Beckford, Executive Director of the United Way; Nik Vilamaa and Adam Weesner, from Barton-Coe-Vilamaa; Vicki Van Matre and Kim Mayer, BHTA representatives; Chris Koiner and Steve Frettinger, interested patrons; and Dave Schultz and Conner Tighe, News Banner representatives.

The first order of business was to hold a public hearing (Correlated File #2122-02) to receive testimony in regard to teacher compensation and collective bargaining according to IC 20-29-6-1(b) which states, *"before a school employer and school employees may privately negotiate the matters described in subsection (a)(1) [collective bargaining] during the time period for formal collective bargaining established in section 12 of this chapter, the parties must hold at least one (1) public hearing and take public testimony to discuss the items described in subsection (a)."* Dr. Yates opened the floor for public comment and with no dialogue forthcoming, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

Following the Public Hearing, and prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates presented a budget overview for the 2022 calendar year. With no questions from the Board, the Budget Work Session was adjourned at 6:18 P.M.

President Thompson called the regular meeting to order at 6:18 P.M.

President Thompson opened the meeting by recognizing Audrey McMillan for being chosen as an Indiana District Employee Association poster winner for 2021, reported that iTown Church will be providing free groceries to families on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the elementary school and recognized Mr. Bueter's hard work over the summer with the band program which will host the Banks of the Wabash event on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

President Thompson asked for any public comment and Chris Koiner asked how curriculum is approved. Mr. Koiner was referred to speak with Mrs. Meitzler or Dr. Yates after the meeting regarding the curriculum development process.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on July 19, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of July 20, 2021, through August 16, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for July was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for July was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Pamela Beckford, from the United Way of Wells County, and Mrs. Linderwell reported on a scholarship donation to the Pre-K program and funds donated for homeless students. The Board accepted the donation of \$25,000 to the Pre-K program and \$8,000 for homeless students on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray. The motion passed unanimously with great appreciation.

Mr. Baker presented testing results from Mrs. Tara Cocanower's AP World History Class.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on transportation updates, a school safety report, professional development opportunities, and a settlement of a pending insurance claim case.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on district projects and an employee/retiree appreciation night on August 27, 2021.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers as of Friday, August 13, 2021. The district is up 91 students with an ADM count of 1,739.

In regards to the improvements component of the Middle School Project, the committee of Mrs. Thompson, Mr. White, Mr. Mettler, and Dr. Yates interviewed qualified architecture firms to seek the best provider for the district's goals. After discussions with three (3) different firms, the committee recommended Barton-Coe-Vilamaa as the architecture firm and the professional services provider for a Construction Manager At-Risk (CMc) project delivery. The recommendation was approved on a motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action regarding the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, but in regards to both separate projects the funding for these Projects is through a lease financing. Dr. Yates recommended amending the lease (Correlated File #2122-03) to extend the term and increase the lease rental due from the School Corporation. In exchange for the extension and increased lease rental, the Building Corporation will use the bond proceeds to make the needed improvements to the building. The increased lease rental (as shown as a maximum amount in the Amendment to Lease) will be sufficient to pay the principal and interest due to the bond holders. See separate "Excerpts from Minutes of a Meeting" dated August 16, 2021, for lease amendments.

The Board approved the following resignations as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Kaley Barnes	MS Tiger Club Math Teacher
Hannah Ehle	MS/HS Choral Director
Todd Gibson	8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Teresa King	ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Brittany Nern	ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Jacob Geisman	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Kurston Haines	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Tyson Brooks	MS Academic Bowl Coach



Marie Masterson  
Trent Miller

Bus Driver  
Groundskeeper

The Board approved the following employment recommendations as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Joseph Villanueva	Title 1 Reach Room Teacher
Liz Prible	Grade 5 Teacher
Kami Salway	MS Mild Intervention Teacher (.50 contract)
Kane Stellar	8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Marah Hill	Transfer from Grade 5 to Tiger Club Math
Kemper Amstutz	MS Team Leader
Brenda Sagstetter	MS Team Leader
Kate Farlee	Mentor to Abby Steffen
Cindy Brooks	Mentor to Laken Etzler
Bev Balash	Mentor to Kane Stellar
Clarissia Tijerina	Mentor to Liz Prible
Amy Gerber	Mentor to Heather Kyriss
Tyson Brooks	MS Tech Support
Amy Gerber	MS Academic Bowl Coach
Zella Walborn	District Dyslexia Specialist
Jacob Amstutz	District Marketing Producer
Kole Meyer	Corporation Testing Coordinator & Student Information Specialist
Loni Baker	ES Math Interventionist
Joyce Evans	ES Math Interventionist
Kevin Leising	ES Math Interventionist
Lisa Leising	ES Math Interventionist
Lori Williamson	ES Math Interventionist
Tonya Isch	HS Eng/LA Interventionist
Cynthia Church	ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Scharna Bendes	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Chelsea Woosley	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Sarah Bueter	Student Childcare Worker
Tyson Brooks	eSports Head Coach (volunteer)
Jonathan Morgan	eSports Asst. Coach (volunteer)
Kurt Smith	eSports Coach (volunteer)
Andrew Cook	eSports Coach (volunteer)
Spencer Schwartz	Asst. Boys Tennis Coach (volunteer)
Jenny Lambert	MS Volleyball Coach
Vicki Van Matre	Asst. HS Girls Track Coach (1/2 stipend) (retro to 2020-2021 year)
Mark Bendes	Substitute Teacher
Angela DeHoff	Substitute Teacher
Melody Moyer	Substitute Teacher
Ashton Trout	Substitute Teacher
Ashlee Xayyachack	Substitute Teacher
Intent-to-Employ	ES Spec. Ed Instr. Assistant

The Board approved FMLA for Lorie Baumgartner from September 14th through December 7th as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the following donations as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Angel Corp.	Supplies to Mrs. Makowski's Health Science Education classes
Almco Steel Products	Two (2) robotic arms to the Area 18 CTE (value of \$52,700)
Friedheim Lutheran Church	12 backpacks of school supplies to Elem
Gay Saunders	Book to each Kdg. student
Six Mile Church	\$100 each to Elem, MS and HS for student needs
Riley Children's Hospital	Celebratory Red Wagon license plate to Elem
Prudential Billing & Consulting	\$1,000 to MS Spec. Education Dept.

The Board approved policy GCB (Teacher Appreciation Grants & Compensation) on second reading as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

The following policies were reviewed, with no changes necessary, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies. The motion to approve the following policies by Mike Murray and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

CD	Administrative Team
CD-E	Management Team
CHA	Development of Administrative Rules
CHD	Administration in Policy Absence
DFAA	Rainy Day Fund

Dr. Yates presented an updated *BHMSD Healthy Operations Plan* (Correlated File #2122-06). In order to provide clarification to students, families, faculty, staff, and community the following recommended changes were proposed. The recommended changes outline in more detail the quarantine process and virtual learning options for individuals with a positive COVID-19 test result.

“Quarantined students with a positive COVID-19 test result may be provided the opportunity to continue learning remotely when applicable and appropriate. Building administrators will evaluate quarantine/virtual learning placements on a case by case basis. Factors influencing the virtual learning may include, but are not limited to, duration of quarantine, grade-level, and enrolled courses.”

In addition, the recommended changes outline potential changes to our mitigation strategies if local health circumstances trend toward increased positive cases/viral spread.

“Mitigation strategies from the “Keeping BHMSD Open” plan that may be implemented include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Requirement to wear face covering/mask
- Increased spacing within the classroom environment
- Assigned seating at lunch
- Limited use of lockers

- Limited visitor access to the buildings
- Limited spectators at athletic and co-curricular events.”

With no discussion from the Board, the BHMSD Healthy Operations Plan was approved on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board granted Dr. Yates permission to advertise the 2022 budget tax levy, budget, and notice to taxpayers of a public meeting - Budget Form 3 (Correlated file #2122-07) as outlined in the district's budget calendar (Correlated file #2122-08) as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2022-2023 school calendar (Correlated File #2122-09) on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved increases to adult lunch and breakfast prices based on a recommendation from Mrs. McCorkle and School and Community Nutrition Services as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

New prices will be as follows:

Adult lunch	\$3.60
Adult breakfast	\$2.30

With there being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Bruce Holland. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Mike Murray

Cyril A. ...  
Bruce E. Holland  
Julie Longm...