

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
April 19, 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, April 19, 2021, with all members present except Mike Murray. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Alex Forte, Taylor Evans, Sara Runyon and Thad Harter, newly hired faculty members; Jane Herndon from Ice Miller; Steve Frettinger, interested patron; and Devan Filchak, News Banner representative.

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

President Thompson opened the meeting by commending the high school faculty, staff and students for raising more than \$4,000 during their annual Riley campaign allowing them to sponsor a Red Wagon at Riley Hospital. President Thompson also extended a special thank you to all staff for the extra work put in throughout the year as Teacher Appreciation week approaches and thanked all the athletic workers for their efforts during the chilly weeks of the spring sports season.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on March 15, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Minutes for the Executive Session held March 15, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of March 16, 2021, through April 19, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for March was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for March was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on COVID-19 updates, a curriculum update, grant updates, and the effectiveness of ridding the turkey vultures from the baseball/softball fields.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on district projects, liability insurance, a debt management plan, SEBT business, a survey to be put out by the Wells County Health Department regarding vaccinating school age students, and Kindergarten registration/enrollment data.

In the absence of Mike Murray, Dr. Yates reported on the work of the general assembly.

Mr. Baker reported on the 2020 Bluffton High School graduation rate. Bluffton High School ranked in the top 25% of all high schools in the entire state with 98.1% of students graduating.

The Board approved the following resignations as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

Megan Johnson	MS Spec. Ed Teacher (end of school year)
Kim Steckbeck	MS ISS Instr. Asst. (end of school year)
Lori Wolfgang	Spec. Purpose Bus Driver

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

Taylor Evans	Grade 1 Teacher
Alexandria Forte	Kdg. Teacher
Thad Harter	Grade 4 Teacher
Sara Runyon	Kdg. Teacher
Lauren Smith	Mentor to Sara Runyon
Erica Bittner	ES iREAD Summer School Teacher
Karley Blankenship	ES iREAD Summer School Teacher
Neely Bultemeier	ES iREAD Summer School Instr. Asst.
Annette Clark	ES iREAD Summer School Instr. Asst.
Hunter Cunningham	ES iREAD Summer School Instr. Asst.
Jodie Leyse	Change of contract from 2/3 to 1/3 (21-22 school year)
Eden Noble	Change of contract from 1.0 to 2/3 (21-22 school year)
Karen Reed	Change of contract from 2/3 to 1.0 (21-22 school year)
Karen Kelly	Transfer from ES Instr. Asst. to Childcare Supervisor (21-22 school year)
Bob Dahl	HS Track (volunteer)
Mara McFarland	HS Track (volunteer)
Lexi Ramseyer	MS Tennis (volunteer)
Robert Vanderkolk	MS Tennis (volunteer)
Hunter Cunningham	MS Tennis (volunteer)
Bryan Bowman	MS Tennis (volunteer)
Nikkole Johnson	Childcare Worker
Sidney Nash	Childcare Worker
Kalynn King	Substitute Teacher
Kyle Linton	Substitute Teacher
Intent-to-Employ	Spec. Purpose Bus Driver
Intent-to-Employ	District Technology Asst.

The Board approved FMLA for the following personnel as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

Mollie Forbes	3/29/21 – 4/23/21
Melody Moyer	4/5/21 – 5/28/21
Sarah Jackson	4/22/21 – 5/14/21

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

Anonymous Donation	\$500 to ES Community Fund
Park Center	Reusable water bottles for ES students in need
BAE Systems	\$51.41 to MS Community Fund

The Board approved policy AFC (Teacher Evaluation and Development Plan) on first reading as presented. The most notable change involves the adjustment of the evaluation metrics to decrease the school-wide grade component to 10% and increasing the rubric component to 90%. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

The Board approved policies AFCA (Principal Effectiveness Rubric), AFCC (Athletic Director Effectiveness Rubric), AFCD (Asst. Principal Effectiveness Rubric) and AFE (Asst. Superintendent Effectiveness Rubric) on first reading as presented. The recommended policy changes will adjust the school-wide letter grade to 10% and the rubric component to 90%. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board approved policy AFB (Superintendent Evaluation Plan) on first reading as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

The recommended changes include:

- Leadership (Rubric) – 70% (increase of 20%)
- Goals – 20% (decrease of 5%)
- Student Learning Data (Grade) – 10% (decrease of 15%)

The Board approved policy EFF (Wellness Policy on Physical Activity and Nutrition) on first reading as presented. The recommended changes reflect practices throughout the district and include an updated section about staff wellness by supporting the social emotional health and physical health staff needs. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

The Board approved policy JFCIA-R (Random Student Drug Testing Policy Guidelines) on second reading as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White 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 and the deletion of policy CHB by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

- BBB – School Board Member Selection
- BBC – Board Member Resignation
- BBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment
- BBFA – Conflict of Interest
- BBG – Complimentary Tickets
- BFCA – Board Review of Administrative Rules
- CHB – Board Review of Administrative Rules – **DELETE**

The Board approved the recommendation by Dr. Yates to amend the 2020-2021 Classified Handbook to include a tiered salary structure for technology personnel as presented. Also included in the recommendation is an increased salary adjustment for Jonathan Morgan to Tier 3 at \$55,000/year beginning July 1, 2021. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously. Board members extended their appreciation to Mr. Ribich for his

efforts in running and maintaining a quality technology department.

The Board approved the following curricular materials for the 2021-2022 textbook adoption as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

McGraw Hill	Social Studies (Grades 5-8)
National Geographic	HS World History
HS Economics & Government	McGraw Hill
HS US History	Pearson/Savvas

The Board approved a \$1,000 stipend to be paid to all personnel for duties performed throughout the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The stipend will be prorated for part-time status employees. The stipends will be paid out of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) federal grant pending approval by the Indiana Department of Education. The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

In final business of the evening, the Board approved the retirement request from Melody Moyer effective May 1, 2021 as presented. Mrs. Moyer served the district for 24 years; most recently as the high school attendance secretary. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M. on a motion by Angie Sheets and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie A. Long
Bruce E. Holland

Angie Sheets
Trent White