

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING

Bluffton High School
September 13, 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, September 13, 2021, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler, and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; and Jessica Bricker, News Banner representative.

Those in attendance and chose to speak: Tammie Imel, Steve Gerber, Steve Surbaugh, Bev Balash and Holly Wittbrodt.

Those in attendance only: Taylor Williams and Karlie Van Cleave, local news coverage; Jonathan Balash, Tim Miller, Donna Hollopeter, Tim Hollopeter, Susan Ealing, Joan Springer, Lorrie Arnold, Dick Arnold, Terry Gilbert, Nick Miller, Jody Saige, DeeAnn Johnloz, Dawn Musselman, Gayla Gerber, Steve Gerber, Kim Mayer, Wendy Troyer, Merlin Troyer, Samantha Balash, Silas Balash, Kristy VanCamp, Clayton Fry, Jodi Leas, Mark Wilson, Susan Campbell, Carla Castro, Amy Foreman-Habegger, Melinda Forman, Max White, and Maddox White.

The first order of business was to hold a Budget Hearing and Dr. Yates led the Board Members through the process. With no discussion forthcoming, President Thompson asked for any public comment. Hearing no comments from the public, the Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously. Copies of the district's plans were available on the district website.

The next order of business was to hold a Public Hearing in regard to the proposed Amendment to Lease (Correlated File #2122-13). Lease financings are used by school corporations across the State of Indiana in order to borrow for renovation and construction. The middle school building is currently subject to a financing lease. Therefore, amending that Lease will 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 will be sufficient to pay the principal and interest due to the bond holders. Notice of the meeting was published in the News Banner on August 12, 2021, and the notice and proof of publication (Correlated File #2122-03) were approved on a motion Trent White and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously. With no discussion from board members or public comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

President Thompson called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

President Thompson opened the meeting by commending Mr. Bueter and the Bengal Brigade for hosting another successful *Banks of the Wabash* competition on September 11th and thanked the Bluffton Athletic Boosters for hosting the staff appreciation night on August 27th at the football game.

President Thompson called for any public comment. Given the number of speakers signed up to speak, there was no need to establish specific guidelines. Five members of the audience chose to speak and their comments were brief and respectful regarding the consideration of Policy INC.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting and Minutes from the Amendment to Lease Meeting held on August 16, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Minutes for the Special Board Meeting held on August 24, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of August 17, 2021, through September 13, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for August was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for August was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on transportation and grant updates and the settlement of an open insurance claim.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on district projects, the certified personnel exchange, collective bargaining, and an update to the SEBT.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers as of Friday, September 10th, were 1,717.42 students. The official Count Day Average Daily Membership numbers will be reported on September 17th.

The district has developed a working group to discuss, consider, and recommend options related to access, equity, diversity, acceptance, and success. The working group is planning to hold its initial meeting the week of September 20th. Members of the community willing to serve on a Community Working Group to provide recommendations to the district regarding core elements of inclusion are as follows:

Beverly Balash, Teacher, Bluffton-Harrison MSD
 Jinny Broderick, Manager, Park Center - Bluffton
 Carla Castro, Regional Manager, Lifeline Youth & Family Services, Inc.
 Abbie Grandlienard, Therapist, Grace & Truth Counseling Services, LLC
 Deane Lee Holderman, Director, Department of Child Services
 Steve Huggins, County Council Member, Wells County
 Jodi Leas, Guidance Director, Bluffton-Harrison MSD
 Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent, Bluffton-Harrison MSD
 Tim Miller, Pastor, Bluffton Church of the Nazarene
 Sherry Pfister, Apostolic Christian Church
 Steve Surbaugh, Pastor, Life Community Church
 Stephanie White, Social Worker, Bluffton-Harrison MSD

Moisture Management completed the roof testing and analysis on the middle school roof and a proposal along with an updated performance timeline was provided. Current market trends are a six to eight-month lead-time for roofing materials, and the updated timeline should provide enough lead-time to secure materials for replacement to occur next summer. On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray the board approved the professional services proposal (Correlated File #2122-22) and request for permission to advertise for the re-roof bid as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project continues to be on schedule and EMCOR provided a rough budget estimate (Correlated File #2122-23) for the scope of work knowing associated costs will continue to be reduced to fit the budget availability along with the specific work to be performed. No action was required on the part of the school board.

The Board approved several resolutions pertaining to the Middle School Building Corporation and the Middle School roof replacement and general improvements project. **See separate Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Education of BHMSD dated September 13, 2021, for resolution specifics.**

The Board approved the Ratification of Termination for Thomas Walker effective August 30, 2021, as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

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

Charlotte Baker	HS Library Aide
Eric Mettler	JV Baseball Coach

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

Brittney Satterfield	ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Cassidy Mittlestedt	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Ashley Wood	Transfer from MS Spec. Ed Instr. Asst. to MS ISS Aide/Secretary
April Corbat	HS Library Instructional Asst.
Lynne Niermeyer	Long Term Substitute (G. Sommerfeld)
Mike Novell	HS Asst. Boys Basketball Coach
Schlaura Linderwell	MS Girls Swim Coach (volunteer)
Tristan Dick	Rate of Pay Correction
Rebecca Brown	Substitute Teacher
Spencer Schwartz	Substitute Teacher

The Board approved FMLA for Trent Miller from September 23rd through October 1st 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.

NE IN Area Health Educ. Center	Medical kits for each HSE student
Hagerman Group	\$150 for BHMSD Wellness Day

The Board approved the 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved Policy INB (Instructional Practices for Controversial Issues) and Policy INC (Classroom Postings) on second reading as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously. Mike Murray commented that the Board reviewed all information given to them and that he believes that emotions should be taken out of the decisions to best suit the students, staff and patrons of the district. Julie Thompson stated that she believes the newly created policies will make the district stronger.

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.

DGA	Authorized Signatures
DHA	Internal Controls
DJF	Purchasing Procedures
DKA	Use of Credit Cards
DKB	Collection and Forgiveness of Debt
DLC	Expense Reimbursements
DLC-E	Expense Reimbursements

Dr. Yates presented an updated BHMSD Healthy Operations Plan (Correlated File #2122-24). Details include:

Following Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-24, the Indiana Department of Health provided further detail in regards to quarantine status and contact tracing procedures.

"School personnel in coordination with the Wells County Health Department will identify and communicate to any close contacts of positive cases within our schools. Individual quarantine status will be determined based on vaccination status, proximity to positive individual, duration of contact to positive individual, etc. Identified close contacts will be communicated with as promptly as possible."

The motion to approve by Angie Sheets and second by Bruce Holland 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 Trent White and second by Bruce Holland. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:







SEE ITEM "C" UNDER UNFINISHED BUSINESS ON ANNOTATED AGENDA

**EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF BLUFFTON-HARRISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

A meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District (the "School Corporation") was held at Bluffton High School, #1 Tiger Trail, Bluffton, Indiana, on September 13, 2021, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

President Thompson presided over the meeting and stated that notice of this meeting (Correlated File #2122-03) had been published in *The News-Banner* on August 12, 2021. The proof of publication was presented to the meeting, and upon examination was found to be in due form of law.

Further stated was that the proposed Amendment to Lease (the "Amendment") (Correlated File #2122-13), plans, specifications and estimates for the school building to be renovated and improved by the Bluffton-Harrison Middle School Building Corporation (the "Building Corporation") had been on file from the date of publication of the notice until today, in the Administration Building of the School Corporation. Copies of the same were presented to this meeting for the inspection of the members of the Board. The Secretary stated that it was not necessary to review in detail all of the procedures to date since the Board was familiar with all steps heretofore taken, including the proposed Amendment, plans, specifications and estimates just submitted, but that if any persons present, other than members of this Board had any questions concerning these documents or the previous actions of this Board, or other steps taken looking towards the renovation of the school building, the Board would be glad to answer the same.

The meeting was then open for questions and for the hearing of all persons interested. After hearing all persons interested, and following discussion by members of the Board, on motion duly made by Angie Sheets and seconded by Bruce Holland the resolution attached as *Resolution Authorizing Execution of Amendment to Lease - Exhibit A* (Correlated File #2122-17) was adopted unanimously.

It was then explained that a portion of the construction bids and contracts would need to be assigned to the Building Corporation, once they are received. The Building Corporation will use bond proceeds to fund such bids and contracts in order to complete the Project. On motion duly made by Trent White and seconded by Mike Murray, the resolution attached as *Resolution Assigning Construction Bids and Contracts, Once Received - Exhibit B* (Correlated File #2122-18) was adopted unanimously.

President Thompson further advised the Board that it needed to approve the form of Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures. The Board adopted the resolutions attached as *Resolution Approving Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking - Exhibit C* (Correlated File #2122-19) and *Resolution Approving Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures - Exhibit D* (Correlated File #2120-20) on a motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray. The motion passed unanimously.






