

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bluffton High School
October 12, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Steve Baker, Administrator; Sebastian Baxter, HS Guidance Counselor; Colin Andrews, Corp. Attorney; Steve and Chere Frettinger, interested patrons; and Jessica Bricker, News Banner representative.

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

President Thompson opened the meeting by congratulating the HS Boys Cross Country team for their ACAC championship and their advancement to the regionals and Leslie Sprankles for her 2nd place sectional win and advancement to regionals. The Bengal Brigade will be advancing to the state competition level and the district hosted successful parent-teacher conferences again. President Thompson shared that the district received the Riley Kids Caring & Sharing award once again at the ISBA Fall Conference.

President Thompson called for any public comment and there were no comments forthcoming.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on September 13, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of September 14, 2021, through October 12, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for September was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for September was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on the Community Working Group that held its first meeting on September 21st and again on October 4th. A successful collaboration was met with good results.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Baxter presented information on two new CTE Programs. The Area 18 CTE is looking into creating classes in plumbing and electrical to be added to their programming and to be located at Bluffton High School. Students successfully completing this coursework will come out of high school with certification to start in the workplace.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on transportation matters, grant updates, one outstanding insurance claim, and professional development activities.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on district projects, SEBT updates, expansion to the Preschool programming and location considerations for the Adams-Wells Special Services Cooperative.

The district advertised a *Request for Proposals for the Construction Manager as Contractor* (Correlated File #2122-25) as well as for roof replacement bids. Bids for the Construction Manager are due by October 18, 2021, and bid packets for the roof replacement (Notice to Bidders) (Correlated File #2122-26) are due by November 4, 2021. Both timelines keep the district on pace for work to be performed in the spring/summer of 2022.

The district met with EMCOR to discuss the scope and services as part of the ongoing High School HVAC project. EMCOR engineers are currently working to review the rooftop units to determine the viability of replacement versus retrofitting. In addition, scope estimation is evaluating the classroom and work room areas to determine equipment unit replacement and quantities to meet budget constraints.

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

Alexis Mittlestedt	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Cassidy Mittlestedt	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Chad Grieser	Fr. Boys Basketball Coach

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

Jeff Blair	MS Mild Interventions Teacher
Katie Downing	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Myah Gephart	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Megan Slater	MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Grant Prible	HS Asst. Boys Basketball Coach
Adam Atkins	Future Tigers Coach
Brett Bothast	Future Tigers Coach
Angie DeHoff	Long Term Substitute (E. Noble)
Myshel Rodenbeck	Substitute Teacher
Greg Mayne	Substitute Teacher
Jalen Farmer	Substitute Teacher
Felicia McElveen	Pre-K Teacher (1/2 time)
Felicia McElveen	Childcare Supervisor (1/2 time)

The Board approved the following requests for FMLA as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Tim McKnight	9/27/21 - 11/1/21
Mary Fogwell	10/12/21 - 11/23/21
Eden Noble	11/12/21 - 2/14/22

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

Chris & Jinny Broderick	\$100 for BHMSD Staff Wellness Day
Matthew & Roxanne Hilton	Backpacks to ES
Elks Club	School supplies to ES

Bargain Hut	Clothes for Nurse & art supplies to ES
Salvation Army	30 School supply kits to ES
Nicole Phillippe/Park Center	Scissors and boxes of crayons to ES
Lou	Coats, sanitizer, school supplies to ES
Anonymous	\$5,000 to Baseball Program for uniforms

The Board approved policy BDDC (Agenda Preparation and Dissemination/Public Participation) on first reading as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously. Notable recommended changes include:

- Additional guidance for the general public to request items on the agenda
- Additional guidance on procedures for public comment

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 Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously as presented.

DM	Cash in School Buildings
DN	School Properties Disposal Procedure
EBAA	Pest Control Policy
EBAA-R	Pest Control Regulations Guidelines
EBB	Suicide Awareness and Prevention
EBB-R	Suicide Awareness and Prevention Adm. Regulations Guidelines

The Board approved the 2022 School Board Meeting Calendar (Correlated File #2122-33) as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. A copy of the tentative agreement for 2021-2023 was posted on the district website and notice of the meeting was published in accordance to the Open Door Law. The terms of the 2021-2023 Teacher Contract include:

For the **2021-2022** school year, teachers will receive...

- Base increases ranging from \$920 to \$10,000 due to Academic Need as part of the district's focus on retention of existing faculty members to align salary levels to a newly established salary schedule,
- An average of 3% increase to ECA (coaching and co-curricular) salaries,
- Addition/removal of ECA positions due to student needs,
- An opportunity for a stipend for attainment of dual credit licensure

For the **2022-2023** school year, teachers will receive...

- Base increases ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 due to Academic Need as part of the district's focus on retention of existing faculty members to align salary levels established in the salary schedule.
- Adjustment of General Purpose Days to Illness and Personal Days

President Thompson publicly thanked Dr. Yates and the teacher bargaining representatives for reaching an amicable agreement and Mr. Murray expressed gratitude to the state for the much needed salary funding increases.

The Board approved the 2021-2022 Classified Handbook as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously. A summary of the recommended changes are as follows:

- 4% increase to classified wages
- 10% increase to central office support staff (3.5 positions) to align wages with Adams and Wells County averages
- 5% rate modifier for intense intervention instructional assistants
- 3% Longevity bonus for school bus drivers (5 or more years of experience)
- Updates to the quarantine leave and paid leave language

The Board approved Classified Work Agreements and Administrator Contracts as presented on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

Highlights include:

- 4% increase for positions serving the district under Work Agreements; and
- 4% to 6% for Administrators to align compensation with area averages and school demographic comparisons.

The Board approved the 2022 Budget (Correlated File #2122-27), Capital Projects Plan (Correlated file #2122-28), Bus Replacement Plan (Correlated File #2122-29), Resolution to Adopt Capital Projects Plan (Correlated File #2122-30), Resolution to Adopt Bus Replacement Plan (Correlated File #2122-31) and Notice of Adoption of the 2022 Budget (Form 4) (Correlated File #2122-32) as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

School Attorney, Colin Andrews, provided a plan to redistrict the voter representation of the district as required regarding board policy BBB (School Board Member Selection). The district may alter the policy to align the voting practices for district constituents or complete the necessary redistricting of existing precincts to be in line with legislative requirements. After hearing discussion from the board members, Bruce Holland made a motion and Mike Murray seconded the motion to amend policy BBB to align voting practices for district constituents to the more commonly found process of allowing all district constituents to vote for all school board member candidates as presented. The motion passed unanimously with a directive to Dr. Yates to collaborate with Colin Andrews on a draft policy BBB to make the required changes. The policy will be presented at a later meeting of the Board.

With there being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M. on a motion by Julie Thompson and second by Bruce Holland. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie A. Thompson
Angie Sheets

Bruce E. Holland
Mike Murray
Trent White