

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bluffton High School
August 24, 2021
6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Tuesday, August 24, 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; attached list of interested patrons (Correlated File #2122-10); and Dave Schultz, News Banner representative.

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

The first order of business was to amend the agenda to add an additional item due to recent changes in the public health data for the district. The motion to amend the agenda by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates thanked all in attendance and shared information in the policy creation process. Dr. Yates then opened the floor for public comment on the agenda item and asked for respect and civility towards one another throughout the meeting. Given the number of individuals signed up for public comment, President Thompson made a motion to establish the following guidelines for public comment:

1. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
2. Participants may not yield or cede remaining time to other participants.
3. Public participation shall be limited to thirty (30) total minutes, unless extended by a vote of a majority of the Board members present.

Bruce Holland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Attendees that were signed in to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting were called to the microphone in the order that they had signed in. See attached listing of names that were signed in to speak and those who were in attendance only (Correlated file #2122-10).

After thirty minutes of public comment, President Thompson called for a motion to extend the public comment portion of the meeting. On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets the motion to extend was approved unanimously.

When all public comment was heard, President Thompson made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding Respect and Inclusion of All Students (Correlated File #2122-11). Mike Murray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In regards to developing new policy, on recommendation of legal counsel, the Board began the policy creation process. Past practice is to review a new draft policy on 'first reading' which provides the board members the opportunity to review the language, allow discussion, and reach common agreements on interpretation. Following any approval on first reading, the policy is not in effect until a second and final reading is approved at a future meeting date.

The first policy for consideration was Policy INB (Teaching Controversial Issues) which outlines criteria teachers must use in dealing with controversial issues. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously on first reading as presented.

The second policy for consideration was Policy INC (Classroom Postings) which outlines criteria teachers must use in regards to all postings in the classroom. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed on first reading by a vote of 3-2 with Julie Thompson and Bruce Holland casting the opposing votes. Angie Sheets stated that the Board will work with the Teachers' Association to make revisions to this policy and Bruce Holland was in agreement.

The Board approved the recommendation from Dr. Yates to update the BHMSD Healthy Operations Plan (Correlated file #2122-12) in keeping with increased mitigation measures. The motion by Bruce Holland and second Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie A. Thompson
Bruce Holland

Angie Sheets
Mike Murray
Bruce E. Holland