

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building  
February 13, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, February 13, 2023, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Laura Xayyachack, faculty member; Alexandra Thomas and Ashlee Xayyachack, new faculty members; R. Scott Elzey, Anthony Nagy, Marci Klopfenstein and Wendy Kaehr, interested patrons; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

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

President Holland made a motion to amend the agenda by adding one FMLA request to the New Business items. Trent White seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

President Holland congratulated three wrestlers who recently competed at semi-state. Levi Johns placed second, advancing to State. Juan Cruz and Levi Kahn's seasons ended at semi-state after hard fought matches. President Holland recognized the elementary school's celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with many students dressing up for the occasion, and commended our Indiana Learns tutoring team for their efforts to provide targeted assistance after school.

President Holland noted there were no registered public commenters to speak at the meeting.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on January 23, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of January 24, 2023, through February 13, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for January was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for January was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Dr. Yates highlighted information from Mrs. Meitzler's Assistant Superintendent report about an upcoming spring Reunification Drill that will impact seventh grade teachers and students at Bluffton Middle School. Dr. Yates also shared that the district has been awarded a Comprehensive School Counseling grant from the IDOE in the amount of \$133,500.00 to support and expand current programming.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects, an enrollment report for the second Count Day, an annual district insurance review and new student devices for 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Murray, in his role as legislative liaison, provided an update on the work of the Indiana General Assembly.

Dr. Yates reported there are no updates on the Middle School Roof Replacement and Improvements Project.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project by reporting that the district will begin scheduling spring break and summer break work to coordinate HVAC upgrades with planned programming and activities within the building.

Dr. Yates reported on School Safety Opportunities and the preliminary report from Policy Analytics. Using data from the report, the district has developed a preliminary budget estimate for additional school safety supports, including:

- ❖ Three (3) School Resource Officers (SRO's)
- ❖ SRO Equipment and Vehicle
- ❖ Mental Health Counselor(s) (MHC)
- ❖ MHC Equipment and Supplies
- ❖ Automated Alert System for each building

In addition to the initial report, Policy Analytics provided scenarios exploring the financial impact a school safety referendum would have on the tax base of the Bluffton-Harrison taxing district. After some discussion by the Board, each Board member expressed interest in engaging with legal consultants to examine the pros and cons of a school safety referendum including the legal requirements, timeline, and finalized tax implications for the taxpayers of Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D. prior to any recommendation or Board action to pursue a safety referendum for the school district.

President Holland presented the new agenda item under New Business, which is a request for FMLA for Lillian Weberg from 2/14/23 – 2/24/23. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The Board approved retirement requests from Becky Stotlar, Grade 1 Teacher (36 years) and Mary Fogwell, High School Special Education Teacher (12 Years) as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously with much appreciation.

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

Kane Stellar	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher (End of the 2022-23 school year)
Jack Mellen	Choir Teacher (End of the 2022-23 school year)
Alexandria Forte	Kindergarten Teacher (End of the 2022-23 school year)



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

Jacob Summers	Internal Transfer from Preparing for College & Careers Teacher to 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher (Beginning of the 2023-24 school year)
Alyssa Burchett	HS Science Teacher (Starting the 2023-24 school year)
Alexandra Thomas	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher (Starting the 2023-24 school year)
Ashlee Xayyachack	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mild Intervention Teacher (Starting the 2023-24 school year)
Jackie Chaney	Mentor to Spencer Schwartz (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2022-23 school year and the entire 2023-24 school year)
Jake Amstutz	ES Yearbook Advisor for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year
Neely Bultemeier	Internal Transfer from ES General Instructional Asst to ES Secretary
Adam Shively	Internal Transfer from ES Custodian to MS Custodian
Melissa Dillman	ES Custodian
Ashley Bowling	Internal Transfer from ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst to ES Title I Instructional Asst
Eric Sowder	Bus Driver
Madisyn Fenstermaker	Part Time PreK Spec. Ed Instructional Asst
Caleb Geimer	MS Boys' Swimming Coach (Volunteer)
Ryan Thomas	MS Boys' Wrestling Coach (Volunteer)
Spencer Schwartz	HS Girls' Tennis Coach
Dharma Dynes	HS Girls' Tennis Assistant Coach
Ashlee Xayyachack	HS Girls' Tennis Assistant Coach
Chad Grieser	MS Diving Coach (1/2 Stipend)
Hunter Cunningham	MS Diving Coach (1/2 Stipend)
Adam Atkins	MS Golf Coach
Robert Vanderkolk	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Hunter Cunningham	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Spencer Schwartz	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Ashlee Xayyachack	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Dharma Dynes	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Caleb Geimer	Substitute Teacher
Robin Hartman	Substitute Teacher
Tanya Bluhm	Substitute Nurse
Intent to Employ	ES General Education Instructional Asst

The Board approved changes to the following policies on second reading as presented. The motion to approve by Angie Sheets and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

JECE	Withdrawal From School / Exit Interview
JECE-R	Student Withdrawal From School Guidelines
JED	Students' Absences and Excuses
JED-R	Students' Absences and Excuses Guidelines
JFCI	Policy on Student Drug and Alcohol Offenses

The Board approved changes to the following policy on first reading as presented, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

JFCIA-R

Random Student Drug Testing Policy Guidelines

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

JFCIA

Random Student Drug Testing Policy

JFCIA-E1

Extra-Curricular Activities & Student Driver Consent Form

JFCIA-E2

Extra-Curricular Activities & Student Driver Non-Consent Form

JFCIA-E3

Extra-Curricular Activities & Student Driver Withdraw Form

The Board approved a Sunday building utilization request for the girls' basketball program as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

On a motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray, the Board approved voiding eleven (11) outstanding checks totaling \$385.53 as presented according to state statute (IC 5-11-10-5.2). The motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Resolution to revise the 1003 Flexibility Waiver (Correlated File #2223-24) to account for the school calendar adjustments made during the 2022-2023 school year. The motion to approve by Angie Sheets and second by Trent White passed unanimously as presented.

The Board approved the Resolution to Waive IC 20-30-2-3 (Correlated File #2223-25) to allow the district flexibility in regards to the instructional day requirements and specific professional development. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously as presented.

Dr. Yates scheduled a date for Board members to tour each school building.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M. on a motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

*Bruce E. Holland*

*Mike Murray*

*Julie A. Thompson*

*Angie Sheets*

*Trent White*