

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BUDGET WORK SESSION

Administration Building
August 14, 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, August 14, 2023, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Kimberly Mayer, Faculty Member & BHTA Co-President; Jinny Broderick, interested patron; and Dave Schultz, News-Banner representative.

The first order of business was to hold a public hearing to receive testimony in regard to teacher compensation and collective bargaining according to IC 20-29-6-1(b) which states, "*before a school employer and school employees may privately negotiate the matters described in subsection (a)(1) [collective bargaining] during the time period for formal collective bargaining established in section 12 of this chapter, the parties must hold at least one (1) public hearing and take public testimony to discuss the items described in subsection (a).*" Dr. Yates opened the floor for public comment and with no dialogue forthcoming, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Following the Public Hearing, and prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates presented a budget overview for the 2024 calendar year. The Board expressed appreciation to Dr. Yates for explanation of the budget overview and the Budget Work Session was adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

President Holland called the meeting to order at 6:24 P.M.

President Holland expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts for a strong start to the school year and announced our upcoming *Banks of the Wabash* band event to be held on Saturday, September 9.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on June 17, 2023 and Minutes for the Public Hearing held on July 31, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of June 18, 2023, through August 14, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for July was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for July was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communication, summer camp, summer school and the summer food service program.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects, the beginning of the new school year, our upcoming Forever Tigers Night on September 22, and the collective bargaining season.

Dr. Yates reported on the Teacher Evaluation Results from the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers as of Friday, August 11, 2023. Our current ADM is 1,733 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported that the Middle School Roof Replacement and Improvements Project continues and the completion date has been delayed to October 1.

Dr. Yates reported the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project is nearly complete.

Dr. Yates reported on the School Safety Security Referendum. The upcoming November election will have one (1) contested election for the Town of Poneto; therefore, our district will share a portion of the election costs. As a result, BHMSD will be responsible for an estimated cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000, which will be paid out of the district's Operations Fund.

Dr. Yates noted the Middle School Parking Lot and Tennis Court Improvements Project is on schedule. The parking lot improvements are substantially completed with control gates and the southern end of asphalt yet to be completed. The final surface of the tennis courts is scheduled to be completed in mid-September.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project, explaining the district is currently in the 30 day petition/remonstrance period for this project.

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

Jill Bollenbacher	HS Math Teacher
Mindy Yates	HS Special Ed. Instructional Asst
Myah Lough	MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Diana Arzola	MS Custodian

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

Jim Bueter	Mentor to Hannah Gerig
Andrew Cook	HS Math Team Leader
Todd Morgan	Teach During Prep Time
Jodie Leyse	1/3 FTE to 2/3 FTE for 1 st Semester of 2023-2024 school year
Estefania Rangel	Internal Transfer from ES Title I Reach Room Instructional Asst to ES Special Ed. Instructional Asst
Lexi Murray	ES Title I Reach Room Instructional Asst
Ariel Mitchey	HS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Carsan Cunningham	ES Special Ed. Instructional Asst / Childcare Supervisor
Linda Penrod	HS Special Ed. Instructional Asst (Part Time)

Mark Bendes	HS Special Ed. Instructional Asst (Part Time)
Lara Hanen	MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Gay Schoeff	MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Doug Miller	MS Custodian
Ron Heck	Bus Driver (City Route)
Kevin Withers	Boys & Girls Club Bus Route
Tricia Baker	Long Term Substitute for Jaci Moser (Preschool)
Angie Lough	Long Term Substitute for Tricia Baker
Felicia McElveen	Long Term Substitute for Jaci Moser (Childcare)
Brad Woodward	HS Football Asst Coach (4/5 FTE)
Doug Curtis	Lady Future Tigers Coordinator
Jaci Moser	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Bryan Bowman	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Abby Ault	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Tristan Dick	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Marah Hill	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Zoey Smith	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Danielle Kunkel	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Kelli Kistler	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Chrissy Craig	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Andrea Herrold	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Tim Garrett	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Lauren Brinneman	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Alyssa Burchett	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Todd Bebout	Co-Ed Weight Training Coach
Tyler Sonnigsen	Head Softball Coach
Racheal Hunter	Substitute Teacher
Susannah Jane	Substitute Teacher
Emme Boots	Substitute Teacher
Laura Wilder	Substitute Nurse
Intent to Employ	Part Time Special Purpose Bus Driver
Intent to Employ	MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst

The Board approved the following donations as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson, with much gratitude, and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Lowe's	\$517.33 for lunch account assistance
Six Mile Church	\$100 to High School Community Fund
	\$100 to Middle School Community Fund
	\$200 to Elementary School Community Fund
Zion Lutheran Church	20 Backpacks and School Supplies for students in need

The Board approved a performance stipend for the Superintendent in the amount equal to 5% of the Superintendent's base salary for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The Board approved changes to the following policy on first reading as presented, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies.

EDB-1	Chemical Management Policy
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The Board approved changes to the following policies on second reading as presented, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies.

- GCD Adjunct Teachers
- GEB School Personnel Communication
- JGD Student Discipline and Due Process
- JHFE Use of Seclusion and Restraints
- JM Staff-Student Relations
- KLB Public Complaints About Instructional Materials
- KLB-E Reconsideration of a Book or Other Instructional Materials

The following policies were reviewed, with no changes necessary, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies.

- JO Education Records
- JO-E1 Notice to Parents and Students
- JO-E2 Denial of Permission to Release Certain Directory Information Without Written Consent
- JO-E3 Notice of Restriction to Release Student Directory Information to Military Representatives
- JP-R Section 504 Notice of Rights

The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates presented a draft version of the 2024-2025 school calendar. The draft calendar will be made available on the district website, shared with the Bluffton-Harrison Teachers' Association for feedback, and distributed to all students and parent/guardians via a ParentSquare survey. In September, after receiving feedback from stakeholders, the district will bring the 2024-2025 calendar to the Board for final approval.

The Board granted permission for Dr. Yates to advertise the 2024 budget tax levy, budget, and notice to taxpayers of a public hearing – Budget Form 3 (Correlated File #2324-05) as outlined in the district's budget calendar (Correlated File #2324-06) as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies as presented (Correlated File #2323-07). The motion by Mike Murray and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 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