

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
BUDGET HEARING

Administration Building  
September 18, 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, September 18, 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 and Rick Mettler, Administrators; Jinny Broderick, interested patron; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

Prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates led the Board members through the Budget Hearing process. With no discussion forthcoming, President Holland asked for any public comment. Hearing no comments from the public, the Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

President Holland called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

President Holland expressed appreciation Mr. Jim Bueter and the Band Boosters for providing a great event for twenty two (22) area bands to compete at the *Banks of the Wabash* and congratulated the BHS Girls' Golf Team for finishing 5<sup>th</sup> place at Sectional, with Emma Schwartz advancing to Regionals with a personal best score of 84. President Holland also thanked those in the community who assisted in bringing Cody Knuckles and John Humphries to speak to middle and high school students about addiction.

President Holland called for public comment from Jinny Broderick, who registered to speak prior to the meeting. Mrs. Broderick expressed her gratitude for the district's partnership with Park Center to hold the upcoming Mental Health/Suicide Awareness Walk at our stadium on September 30, 2023.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on August 14, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of August 15, 2023, through September 19, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were 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 the BHES Preschool Paths to Quality Appreciation Award. The BHES Preschool was recognized with a \$500 one-time cash award for maintaining a Paths to Quality Level 3 status for at least five years.

Mr. Baker reported on the US News and World Report ratings for Bluffton High School, which ranks Bluffton High School among the best high schools in the State of Indiana and in the nation.

Dr. Yates presented information about the IDOE Excellence in Leading & Learning Award that was awarded to Bluffton-Harrison MSD.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communication, curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects, collective bargaining, Federal Accountability Report Cards, and the School Employees' Benefit Trust.

Dr. Yates thanked our school nurses Javon Steffen, Bethany Clem and Darcy Isch for preparing their annual nursing reports for the Board and for their service to our students and staff.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers as of Friday, September 15, 2023. Our current ADM is 1,702 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported that the Middle School Roof Replacement and Improvements Project continues and the contractor has indicated substantial completion to be on September 30, 2023.

Dr. Yates reported the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project is complete with the only remaining phase involving the technical controls of the new system.

Dr. Yates reported there are no new updates on the School Safety Security Referendum.

Dr. Yates noted the Middle School Parking Lot and Tennis Court Improvements Project is nearly complete and the site improvements have dramatically improved the safety of student, bus, and parent traffic at our middle school during commute times.

The Board approved three resolutions to move forward with the High School Building Envelope – Roof, Walls, Windows, Canopies Project. On a motion by Mike Murray and second by Julie Thompson, the Board approved the Resolution Approving Form of Third Amendment to Lease as presented. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets, the Board approved the Resolution Re-Approving Building Corporation as presented. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson, the Board approved the Resolution Determining Need for Project. The motion passed unanimously. The three resolutions approved are contained in Excerpts of Minutes from the Board Meeting in Correlated File #2324-08. The items approved tonight will be filed appropriately to continue the legal proceedings for the district. In addition to the legal process, the district has begun the design and planning phases for the project. Dr. Yates presented early graphic renderings of the high school generated by Elevatus Architecture. The proposed copy of the Third Amendment to Lease is enclosed in Correlated File #2324-09.

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

Sally Fornwalt

MS Food Service

Kaleigh Massman

ES Instructional Assistant

The Board approved the following employment recommendation as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Angie Sheets passed with a vote of 4-0 with Trent White abstaining from the vote.



Spencer Harris

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

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

Angie Edwards

MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst

Jessica Clark

Transfer from ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst to

MS Food Service

Ron Heck

Bus Driver Stipend

Leah Tullis

ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst &amp; Childcare

Supervisor

Intent to Employ

ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst

Intent to Employ

MS Instructional Assistant

Natalya Nuttle

Childcare Supervisor

Alexandria Craig

Substitute Teacher

Amy Hipsher

Substitute Teacher

Tyler Sonnigsen

Substitute Teacher

Griselda Martinez

Substitute Teacher

Craig Teagle

Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach

Mark Prible

Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant Coach

Marcus Morgan

Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant Coach

Chad Grieser

Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant Coach

Intent to Employ

MS Boys Basketball Coach

Scott Ribich

MS Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach

Matthew Sturgeon

MS Boys Basketball Coach

Brett Bothast

MS Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach

Aaron Sturgeon

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Matthew Sturgeon

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Jackson Lambert

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Marcus Morgan

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Matt Beste

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Adam Atkins

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Denny Squires

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Phillip Heer

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Clint Renner

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Vic Reinhard

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Eric Kiefer

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Preston Kaehr

Boys Future Tigers Basketball Coach

Eric Mounsey

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Brett Bothast

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Clint Renner

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Vic Reinhard

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Justin Uptgraft

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Phillip Heer

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Matt Beste

Boys Travel Basketball Volunteer Coach

Justin Uptgraft

HS Boys Swimming Head Coach

Steve Linderwell

HS Boys Swimming Assistant Coach

Caleb Geimer

HS Boys Swimming Volunteer Coach

Alyssa Cyrus

HS Boys Swimming Volunteer Coach

Ben Sprunger	HS Boys Wrestling Head Coach
Tim Zeis	HS Boys Wrestling Assistant Coach
Hunter Cunningham	HS Girls Swimming Head Coach
Kristi Searles	HS Girls Swimming Assistant Coach
Schlaurea Linderwell	HS Girls Swimming Volunteer Coach
Doug Curtis	Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach
Bryan Bowman	Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach
Jaci Moser	Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach
Abby Ault	Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach
Jeff Blair	MS Girls Basketball Coach
Lauren Brinneman	MS Girls Basketball Coach
Kelli Kistler	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Felicia McElveen	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Tristan Dick	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Marah Hill	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Zoey Smith	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Chrissy Craig	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Andrea Herrold	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Tim Garrett	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Lauren Brinneman	Girls Future Tigers Basketball Coach
Hunter Cunningham	HS Diving Coach (Boys & Girls)

The Board approved FMLA for the following personnel as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

Jennifer Cobbum	9/7/23 – 10/19/23
Adrienne Fullenkamp	10/9/23 – 12/21/23
Jaci Moser	11/8/23 – 1/19/23

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church	\$500 to HS Life Skills ECA Fund
Park Community Church	\$900 for unpaid lunch accounts
Gay Saunders	\$1,951.92 to purchase a book for every kindergarten student ( <i>Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up</i> ) & a \$300 donation to the ES Library
Paths to Quality	\$500 to Preschool for our Level 3 Milestone 5 Year Award
Farmers & Merchants State Bank	\$500 to HS Football program for supplies for pork chop dinner fundraiser
Shelton Financial Group	\$100 to HS Football program for expenses for pork chop dinner fundraiser
Indiana Farm Bureau Ag	Donated a Book for every 1 <sup>st</sup> grade student and bags stuffed with activities

Amber Arnold	5 umbrellas for staff to use at ES car rider line
Anonymous	\$1,500 to HS football program for students in need
Anonymous	\$750 to HS football program for expenses for pork chop dinner fundraiser

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

JQ-E	Application For Use of School Facilities for the Purpose of Operating a School Age Child Care Program
JQ-E1	School Age Childcare Program Survey
JQ-E2	School Age Childcare Program Waiver Form

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

JQ	School Age Childcare Program
JR	Non-Discrimination (Title IX)
KBA	Public's Right to Know

The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board approved an update to the Childcare Handbook as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

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

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

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Bruce E Holland  
Mike Murray

Julie A. Langston  
Trent White  
Angie Sheets