

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Administration Building
October 23, 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, October 23, 2023, with all members present except Julie Thompson. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Preston Kaehr, interested patron; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

The first order of business was to hold a public hearing to provide the public with the opportunity to provide commentary on whether the lease rental agreement is fair and reasonable for the high school construction and improvements. The notice was published by the Bluffton News-Banner and on the district website (Correlated File #2324-16). Dr. Yates opened the floor for public comment and with no dialogue forthcoming, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

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

President Holland congratulated the Bluffton High School Cross Country runners on their performance in the regional tournament and wished senior Tyler Godwin best wishes as he competes at the upcoming state meet.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on October 9, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of October 10, 2023, through October 23, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

Dr. Yates reported on district financial information and district projects.

Dr. Yates explained three (3) separate resolutions/actions the Board is required by law to consider for the High School Building Envelope project. As required by the School Leasing Statute (IC 20-47-3), after a hearing, the Board of Education must approve the Third Amendment to Lease and authorize the officers to execute such Agreement. This Lease is the agreement whereby the School Corporation will levy the required property tax to pay the lease payments. The lease payments will be paid to the Building Corporation and used to pay the bondholders. Without the Lease, bondholders will have no assurance that the Building Corporation will repay the bonds. The Lease is the mechanism by which the property tax collections can get to the bondholders. The Board approved the Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Third Amendment to Lease as presented (Correlated File #2624-17). The motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White passed unanimously. The Building Corporation currently owns the Bluffton High School building. The Building Corporation will also be the issuer of the bonds. The bond proceeds will be held by the trustee bank, and will be used to pay the contractors for the work done on the building. As a result, the construction bids and contracts will need to be

with the Building Corporation because the Building Corporation will hold the money to pay the contractors. The School Corporation receives the bids and/or contracts and awards the bids and/or contracts under State law but then assigns those bids and/or contracts to the Building Corporation. The Board approved the Resolution Assigning Construction Bids/Contracts to Building Corporation as presented (Correlated File #2324-18). The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously. The Securities and Exchange Commission requires that a school corporation enter into a First Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking before it issues bonds. The School Corporation has previously entered into this type of agreement. The agreement requires that the School Corporation agree to timely provide certain financial information to the SEC's EMMA database (www.emma.msrb.org) and provide notice of any material events. The Board approved the Resolution Approving First Supplement to the Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Issuing Bonds as presented (Correlated File #2324-19). The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

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

Ashlie Campbell	Internal Transfer from MS Secretary to MS ISS Advisor & City Bus Driver & Bus Driver Training Stipend
Ashley Wood	Internal Transfer from MS ISS Advisor to MS Secretary
Sidney Nash	ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Taylor Lewis	Substitute Teacher
Amy Rusu	Indiana Learns Tutor
Lisa Sheets	Indiana Learns Tutor
Sarah Moser	Indiana Learns Tutor
Laura Xayyachack	Indiana Learns Tutor
Clarissia Tijerina	Indiana Learns Tutor
Erica Bluhm	Indiana Learns Tutor
Erin Roush	Indiana Learns Tutor
Kemper Amstutz	Indiana Learns Tutor
Elizabeth Claghorn	Indiana Learns Tutor
Olivia Fisher	Indiana Learns Tutor
Staci Hunt	Indiana Learns Tutor
Elizabeth Prible	Indiana Learns Tutor
Marah Hill	Indiana Learns Tutor
Thad Harter	Indiana Learns Tutor
Jason Pierce	Indiana Learns Tutor

The Board approved FMLA for Sarah Jewell from 9/25/23 – 1/4/24 as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

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

Lifewise	800+ water bottles for ES PTO Walk-a-Thon
MCS Comics	\$716.50 to Cross Country Program for the HS Cross Country Invitational Expenses

The Board approved changes to Preschool and Childcare Programming fees for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Trent White passed unanimously. The following fee structure will be effective May 28, 2024:

Preschool Services Flat Fee Per Month

5 day AM Preschool w/ Childcare	\$375 (includes lunch)
5 day AM Preschool w/o Childcare	\$115 (excludes lunch)
3 day Preschool w/ Childcare	
(BHMSD Employee Only)	\$282 (includes lunch)
3 day Preschool w/o Childcare	\$90 (excludes lunch)

Childcare Service Fees

6:00 AM – 7:40 AM	\$5.50
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	\$6.50
6:00 AM – 6:00 PM	\$18

The Board approved the 2023-2024 Master Teacher Contract as presented (Correlated File #2324-20). The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously. The BHTA previously ratified the tentative agreement on October 12, 2023. The Master Contract provides a significant base salary increase for a majority of BHMSD teachers with increases ranging from up to \$8,339. The average base salary increase for teachers is 5%.

IC 20-28-9-1.5 provides school corporations with the opportunity to provide supplemental pay in order to additionally compensate certified teachers in excess of the school's compensation plan. In prior years, BHMSD has utilized supplemental pay to provide a stipend for academic need areas as well as for the attainment of master's degrees. For the 2023-2024 school year, the district has budgeted to not only continue the use of supplemental pay but also increase the scope and amount for certified teachers. In the area of academic need, the supplemental pay is recommended to increase from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for special education teachers. In the area of master's degree attainment, the supplemental pay is recommended to expand in scope to include all teachers with a qualifying master's degree. The Board approved the BHMSD Certified Teacher Supplemental Payments Plan as presented (Correlated File #2324-21). The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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. Larson
Trent White