

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
February 12, 2024
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 12, 2024, with all members present except Mike Murray. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler, Schlaura Linderwell and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Andrea Herrold, Faculty member; Finlay and Hayden Herrold, students; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

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

President Holland congratulated the following student athletes for their recent success throughout the winter season: all four middle school basketball teams played in the conference championship with two earning the championship; freshman Gabriella Coyne was a sectional champion in the 100 yard breaststroke and competed at State; the high school boys' swimmers won the ACAC conference for the 10th season in a row and will compete at sectionals this week; high school wrestlers had six individuals named to Academic All-State and junior Levi Johns won the ACAC and sectional championship; senior Johnny Cruz won the ACAC, sectional, regional and semi-state championship and will compete at State.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting and Board of Finance Meeting held on January 15, 2024, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of January 16, 2024, through February 12, 2024, 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 provided an update on the work of the Indiana General Assembly.

Mrs. Meitzler showed a video from Mr. Kole Meyer and Mrs. Ashley Kilgore, BHES Counselors, about the elementary school attendance policy and reported on student attendance initiatives and the upcoming WIDA testing.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects, an enrollment report for the second Count Day, an annual district insurance review, a community Attendance Task Force, policy review procedures, and local housing study.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope project, stating the vendor held a pre-construction meeting and will soon welcome interested contractors to a pre-bid meeting at Bluffton High School, which will allow bidders to walk the building and roof to gain a better perspective of the scope of the work involved. Construction is on schedule to begin in April 2024.

Dr. Yates reported on Athletic Facility Needs, sharing the following timeline for the turf and track project:

- Lighting replacement February to March (weather permitting)
- Removal of turf May 15 to May 30
- Mill/Surface track May 31 to June 5
- Install turf June 6 to July 4
- Track installation July 5 to August 5 (maybe August 10)

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

Brittany Kloer	Area 18 CTE Director
Tim McKnight	Bus Driver
Roger Hodle	Special Education Bus Aide

The Board approved the Contracted Service Agreement for Tiffaney Drummond to serve as Interim Area 18 CTE Director as presented. On a motion by Julie Thompson and second by Angie Sheets, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved Mr. Stacy Herrold as the Bluffton-Harrison Middle School Principal, effective with the 2024-2025 school year. On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved the elementary school's participation in the Indiana Literacy Cadre and the addition of a certified position, Elementary School Instructional Coach, for the 2024-2025 school year as presented (Correlated File #2324-36). On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Rachel Kinsey	Transfer from County Bus Route Driver to City Bus Route Driver
Ashlie Campbell	Transfer from City Bus Route Driver to County Bus Route Driver
Erin Trexler	Increase Work Hours as ELL Instructional Asst
Kole Meyer	Summer School Administrator
Paris Davis	Childcare Supervisor
Hunter Cunningham	Summer School Teacher
Jennifer Tudor	Summer School Teacher
Taylor Reed	Summer School Teacher
Joseph Villanueva	Summer School Teacher
Marah Hill	Summer School Teacher

Elizabeth Prible	Summer School Teacher
Courtney Graham	Substitute Teacher
Gina Holsinger	Substitute Teacher
Brooke Tonner	Substitute Teacher
Kaylee Triplett	Substitute Teacher
Mindy Yates	Substitute Teacher
Lilly Broderick	Childcare Worker

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

Sarah Jewell	1/8/24 – 2/12/24
Jill Goodspeed	1/17/24 – 1/31/24
Candas DeHoff	1/17/24 – 2/7/24
Lydia McConnell	2/5/24 – 5/24/24

The Board approved suspension without pay for John Houlihan on January 17th and 18th, as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

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

Bluffton Volunteer Fire Department	\$200 to Wrestling program
Living Water United Church	\$317.34 to unpaid lunch accounts
Bluffton Elks Lodge 796	\$250 to Football program
Alpha Beta Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority	\$630 for Grade 4 student recorders for music class
Family Centered Services	288 boxes of crayons to elementary school
Four Star Services c/o Tad & Stephanie Baumgartner	\$250 to Boys' Basketball Shootout
Indiana Physical Therapy	\$1,000 to Boys' Basketball Shootout
Stoller Dental Laboratory, Inc.	\$250 to Boys' Basketball Shootout
First Bank of Berne	\$500 to Boys' Basketball Shootout
Park Community Church	\$4,000 for unpaid lunch accounts
BAE Systems, Inc.	\$2,000 for MS Robotics Club

The Board approved the transfer of \$40,000 from the Athletic Investment fund (currently earning 1.5% interest) into a 4-month Certificate of Deposit (currently earning 5.25% interest). The funds will be rolled into new CD's at the end of the term(s). The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent white passed unanimously.

The Board approved the district to opt into PNC Bank's managed investment program as presented, which will yield greater returns for the district's funds as permitted by Indiana Code and in regulation with the State Board of Accounts (with a depository no greater than \$3,000,000 between all available district funds). The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The Board approved an update to Policy IIBGA on first reading only, as presented. The update includes a decrease to device damage and repair costs due to changes in material costs. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

On a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets, the Board approved voiding seven (7) outstanding checks totaling \$630.60 as presented according to state statute (IC 5-11-10-5.2). The motion passed unanimously.

Per the Indiana School Boards Association, local school boards have the option to adjust the per diem rates for regular and special meetings as outlined by Indiana Code. The Board approved the adjustment to their per diem rates as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M. on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Bruce E Holland

Angie Sheets
Julie Thompson
Trent White