

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
March 18, 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, March 18, 2024, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler, Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Chad Grieser, Faculty member; Amy Grieser and Preston Kaehr, interested patrons; and Sydney Kent, News-Banner representative.

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

President Holland congratulated BHS students Miken Habegger and Avery Hunt for their recent success in bowling, as both qualified for the bowling semi-state round in Ft. Wayne. Miken finished in 12th place at the single's state bowling tournament and was selected to the all-region team for high school bowling. President Holland also mentioned the band students were performing tonight under the direction of Mr. Jim Bueter and he wished safe travels to our families who will be travelling over spring break.

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

Minutes for the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting held on February 12, 2024, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of February 13, 2024, through March 18, 2024, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for February was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for February was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mike Murray provided an update on the work of the Indiana General Assembly.

Dr. Yates reported on financial information, district projects, kindergarten registration, the district's debt obligations, our IDOE enrollment estimate for the 2024-2025 school year, and he announced the district is planning to host the city's 4th of July fireworks event again this year.

Mr. Baker reported on Bluffton High School's Indiana College Core program.

Dr. Yates reported that Mr. Baker has scheduled Friday, May 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. as the graduation date for the Class of 2024. The ceremony will be held in the BHS gymnasium.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project, sharing information about the open bids the district received on March 7 (Correlated File #2324-37). The recommended bids by trade are as follows:

• Package #4 General Trades	FCI	\$756,400
• Package #5 Masonry	FCI	\$680,000
• Package #10 & #11 Combination	FW Roofing	\$3,770,000
• Package #12 Glass & Glazing	AGA	\$218,000
• Package #13 MSD & CF Trusses	Rosema	<u>\$288,000</u>
		\$5,712,400

The Board approved the bid packages as presented. On a motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets, the motion passed unanimously. With the approved bid packages, the district project finances are as follows:

Hard Construction Costs

• Bid Packages	\$5,712,400
• Contingency (3%)	\$259,651
• Construction Mgt Fee^	\$331,133
• General Conditions^	\$175,200
• Payment & Performance Bond^	\$75,000
• Garland Materials^	<u>\$2,942,606</u>
Subtotal	\$9,495,990

Soft Construction Costs

• Cost of Issuance^	\$103,485
• Architectural Fees^	<u>\$352,500</u>
Subtotal	\$455,985

Total Project Cost \$9,951,975

(^ Indicates item has been previously approved)

The next phase of the project will be a pre-construction meeting followed by improvement work to begin in April. The district will engage in regular construction meetings and summary reports will be provided on a monthly basis.

Dr. Yates reported on Athletic Facility Needs, sharing layout and design plans for the new track and turf projects.

The Board approved a retirement request from Mr. Jim Bueter, Band Director (26 years), as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

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

Joanne Ehrman	Special Education Bus Driver
John Jackson	Special Education Bus Driver
Kim Moore	HS Kitchen Manager
Doug Miller	MS Custodian
Lydia McConnell	ES Mild Intervention Teacher (end of the 2024-2025 school year)
Olivia Binegar	Speech Language Pathologist (end of the 2024-2025 school year)

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

Alyssa Moser	Internal transfer from ES Assistant Principal to ES Literacy Instructional Coach, effective with the 2024-2025 school year
Erin Roush	Internal transfer from Grade 3 Teacher to ES Assistant Principal, effective with the 2024-2025 school year
Chad Grieser	Internal transfer from MS Student Support Specialist to MS Assistant Principal, effective with the 2024-2025 school year
Nikki Phillippe	Summer School Secretary
Jim Bueter	Instrumental Music Summer School Teacher
Kyle Linton	E2020 Credit Recovery Summer School Teacher
Grace Sommerfeld	ES Vocal/Music Production
Tiffani Tonner	STEM/Robotics Head Coach
April Dunwiddie	STEM/Robotics Head Coach
Rebecca Brown	STEM/Robotics Asst Coach
Ariana Turner	Special Education Bus Aide
Lori Wilson	MS Food Service
Megan Yates	Part-Time HS Food Service
Candas DeHoff	Internal transfer from ES Treasurer to HS Kitchen Manager
Nicolle Beer	Internal transfer from Special Purpose Bus Driver to Special Education Bus Driver
Branda McFarren	Part-Time Special Purpose Bus Driver
Amanda Nusbaumer	ES Treasurer
Jeff Olson	Softball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Hannah Gerig	MS Tennis Coach
Logan Reifsteck	MS Tennis Coach (Volunteer)
Krista Baxter	MS Golf Coach
Hunter Cunningham	MS Diving Coach
Karsen Greenway	Substitute Teacher
Ashley Junk	Substitute Teacher
Intent to Employ	Bus Driver (City Route)
Intent to Employ	MS Custodian

In addition, the Board approved the following employment recommendations as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Julie Thompson passed 4-0, with Trent White abstaining.

Stephanie White	Internal transfer from MS Counselor to HS Counselor, effective with the 2024-2025 school year
Stephanie White	Summer Textbook Coordinator

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

Sarah Jewell	2/12/24 – 3/12/24 (Extension)
Shayna Dudley	3/11/24 – 3/19/24
Jim Suhrer	4/8/24 – 4/22/24

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

Elks Lodge 796	\$250 to support cost of 3 rd graders attending the Shrine Circus
Moose Lodge Bluffton 242	\$250 to Wrestling program
Liechty Farms Trucking, LLC	\$300 to Girls' Basketball program
AAM	\$1,000 to Boys' MS Basketball Shootout
Kendall Group	\$250 Boys' MS Basketball Shootout
Anonymous Employee of BAE Systems, Inc.	\$48.52 for MS Community Fund
Peyton's Northern	\$500 for unpaid lunch accounts
Nicole Nash	Alcohol prep pads for ES
OPS (Lutheran Health Network The Orthopaedic Hospital)	\$5,000 for athletic training supplies
Anonymous	Winter coats to elementary students
Walmart (Erica Yoder-Feinberg & Maria Dunn)	6 Dr. Seuss books for the ES library

Dr. Yates explained that in a previous meeting, the Board approved a service contract with Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim (CCHA) to provide a thorough legal review of our existing policies as well as provide recommendations for an updated policy management system. CCHA will be providing policy reviews on a monthly basis with each "batch" consisting of 8-10 policies for consideration, and each policy will be listed using a new policy reference code as well as the existing policy codes to be consolidated. The Board approved the following policies on first reading, as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
A200	Firearms, Weapons and Destructive Devices	GBN
A225	Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect	JH
B100	Board Authority & Philosophy	BBAA
B125	Duties	BCG; BJ
B150	Organizational Meeting, Board of Finances, and Committees	BCA; BCB
B175	Functions	BF; BFC; BFCA; BFD; BFE; CHA; CHD; BF-E1; BF-E2
B200	Membership	BBB; BBBB; BBC;

B225 Board Meetings

B250 School Board Member Ethics
H225 Public Comments and Concerns

BBE; BHD; BBAA;
BDD; BDDC;
BDDD; BDDE;
BDDF; BDA
BBF-E
BDDC

The Board approved adoption of the science curriculum as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates presented the district's intent to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education to reduce our instructional day calendar by four (4) days to allow for additional professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff, in accordance with House Enrolled Act 1003-2020. Dr. Yates recommended the district pass a resolution, which will then be presented to the State Board of Education for consideration, reducing the number of instructional days to 176 due to the fact that each existing instructional day surpasses the required minimum number of instructional minutes for a school day. As a result, our academic calendar would be adjusted for IDOE Waiver Days as follows:

- Tuesday, October 15, 2024
- Friday, December 20, 2024
- Monday, January 20, 2025
- Thursday, March 13, 2025

The Board approved the Resolution to Waive IC 20-30-2-3 and modified district academic calendar (pending State Board of Education approval) as presented (Correlated File #2324-38). 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 7:05 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Bruce E Holland
Angie Sheets

Mike Murray
Angie Sheets
Trent White