

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BUDGET WORK SESSION

Administration Building
August 19, 2024
5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, August 19, 2024, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Baker, Stacy Morrison, Schlaura Linderwell and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Communications Specialist; Kole Meyer, faculty member; and Sydney Kent, 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 5:32 P.M.

Following the Public Hearing, and prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates presented a budget overview for the 2025 calendar year. The Budget Work Session was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

President Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

President Sheets announced the athletic and marching band seasons are underway and that after a summer of hard work by our band students, led by Mr. Berlin, our band program will be hosting the *Banks of the Wabash* event on September 7. President Sheets also noted that Mrs. Peggy Brooks was interviewed by 21Alive news to celebrate her 50 years of teaching.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on July 22, 2024, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of July 23, 2024, through August 19, 2024, 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.

Kole Meyer reported on summer school and summer camps.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district ILEARN scores and the summer food program.

Dr. Yates reported on the fund analysis report, the district's upcoming Forever Tigers Night on September 20, the IDOE Secretary Advisory Committee, a potential new program for student telehealth services and a letter from school attorney Colin Andrews regarding the Creative Arts proposal.

Dr. Yates reported on the Teacher Evaluation Results from the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers with a current ADM of 1754.07 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported on the Middle School Roof Replacement and Improvements Project. The project is nearly completed with minor punch-list items to be addressed in the science classrooms and the completion of the roof access door modifications.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project. FCI continues to make progress and the framing for the metal panels will continue in the next few weeks.

Dr. Yates reported on the Athletic Facility Needs. Track installation has begun and the installers have made arrangements to ensure we have access to the facility for the upcoming *Banks of the Wabash* band competition on September 7. The installers will build passover bridges to allow for access to the field.

Dr. Yates reported on the Our Town Safety Village Project, which has had significant progress since our last meeting. The district is planning for a late September/early October ribbon cutting event.

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

Heather Kyriss	Grade 5 Science Teacher
Peggy Diffendarfer	Bus Driver
Samantha White	Special Purpose Bus Driver

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

Allison Norman	Grade 5 Teacher
Betsy Needler	Grade 5 Mild Disabilities Teacher
Cruz Rinkenberger	EL Instructional Assistant
Colin Sackett	Long Term Substitute Teacher for Grace Sommerfeld
Sebastian Baxter	Additional Contracted Work Days as HS Counselor
Neely Bultemeier	ES Yearbook Advisor
Jake Amstutz	ES CLT PAT Leader for 1 st Semester 2024-25
Holden Berlin	HS Band Director
Erica Bluhm	HS Cheerleading Sponsor
Sara Runyon	HS Assistant Cheerleading Sponsor
Cheyenne Penrod	MS Assistant Cheerleading Sponsor
Hannah Gerig	HS Vocal Music Director
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Yearbook Advisor
Tara Cocanower	HS Teacher Technology Specialist (1/2 FTE)

Andrew Cook	HS Teacher Technology Specialist (1/2 FTE)
Steve Linderwell	HS Business Professionals of America Sponsor
Adam King	MS Teacher Mentor (Elliott Jimenez)
Justin Uptgraft	MS Teacher Mentor (Allyson Schwartz)
Erin Schantz	National Honor Society Sponsor
John Price	National Honor Society Sponsor
Stacy Morrison	HS Student Council Sponsor
Jill Buskirk	HS Student Council Sponsor
Sydney Jeffers	Head HS Junior Class Sponsor
Alyssa Hatfield	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Kyle Linton	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Nick Miller	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Karen Reed	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Carla Rizer	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Brent Kunkel	Head HS Senior Class Sponsor
Kevin Powell	HS Vocational Team Leader
Vicki Van Matre	HS Melting Pot Team Leader
Jackie Chaney	HS Language Arts Team Leader
Andrew Cook	HS Math/Special Education Team Leader
John Price	HS Science/HOE Team Leader
Tara Cocanower	HS Social Studies Team Leader
Meredythe Fritz	HS Book Review Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Sydney Jeffers	HS Broken & Blessed Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Nick Miller	HS German Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Tara Cocanower	HS History Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Nancy Fisher	HS Spanish Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Amy Ribich	HS Students Making a Difference (SMAD) Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Steve Linderwell	HS W.B.L. Sponsor (Volunteer)
Jonathan Morgan	HS eSports Head Coach
Andrew Cook	HS eSports Assistant Coach
Kurt Smith	HS eSports Assistant Coach
Amy Rusu	MS eSports Head Coach
Madison Siders	MS eSports Assistant Coach
Bailey Engle	PreK Childcare Adult Supervisor
Hallie Gallion	PreK Childcare Adult Supervisor
Laken Etzler	HS Volleyball Assistant Coach
Felicia McElveen	Preschool Parent Liaison
Laurie Baumgartner	HS Cross Country Assistant Coach (Volunteer)
Intent to Employ	ES Instructional Assistant
Intent to Employ	Bus Driver
Intent to Employ	Special Purpose Bus Driver
Daily Sub Rate	Increase from \$90 per day to \$95 per day
Cary McClure	Substitute Teacher
Brandy Beer	Substitute Teacher

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

Diana Ebbinghouse	8/5/24 – 9/27/24
Grace Sommerfeld	9/5/24 – 12/19/24

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

Bargain Hut	\$3,390 for 3 Vape Sensors
Six Mile Church	\$200 to HS, \$200 to MS for students in need
TI Fluid Systems	School supplies for ES & MS students & staff
Susan Flueckiger	Book donated to MS library, "What's Your Callsign?", written by her daughter, Michelle Curran
Anonymous	School supplies & hygiene products for HS students in need; \$2,000 to HS Athletic Department
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Friedheim	School supplies for ES students in need
Firefly	School supplies for ES students in need
ProFed Credit Union	School supplies for ES students in need

The Board approved the retirement request from Mr. Steve Baker, Bluffton High School Principal, as presented. The motion by Mike Murray, with much gratitude for all his hard work, and second by Julie Thompson, also with gratitude, passed unanimously. Mr. Baker will complete 40 years with BHMSD at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Baker's career includes 11 years as a Mathematics Teacher, 3 years as Assistant Principal and 26 years as Principal. Mr. Baker has led our high school to many highlights, successes, and achievements, all in the pursuit of excellence, but his greatest accomplishment has been the legacy he leaves our students, faculty and staff. Following the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2025, BHMSD will wish Mr. Baker the very best as he transitions to retirement.

The Board approved the following policies on first reading, as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Preston Kaehr passed unanimously.

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
A275-R	School Wellness (Administrative Guidelines)	
C100, C100-R	Entrance & Age Requirements	JEB
C600, C600-E	Withdrawal From School	JECE; JECE-R
D275	Drug-Free Workplace	GBCBA; GBCBA-E
D525	No Distracted Driving	
E175, E175-R & H225-R	Student Records	JO
G150, G150-R	Registered Sex or Violent Offenders	
G275, G275-E	Animals on Corporation Property	EDB-2; EDB-3
G325	Free and Reduced Price Meals	EF-R; EFB
G425	Pledge of Allegiance and Moments of Silence	ECF

The Board approved the following policies on second reading as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
A275	School Wellness	EFF
C425	Student Suicide Prevention and Awareness	EBB
C450, C450-E & C450-R	Drug Prevention and Drug Testing	JFCIA; JFCIA-R; JFCIA-E1
C550, C550-R & C550-E (Existing Student Parking Agreement)	Student Search and Seizure	
D100	District Organization	
D125	Evaluation of the Superintendent	
D150	Board-Superintendent Relationship	BCD; CB; CHA
D175	Board-Staff Communications	GEB
G225	Vehicle Idling	EE
H175, H175-E & H175-R	Questioning of Students	

The Board approved the following policies as required for annual review, on first reading only, as presented. No changes were made to the policies. The motion by Preston Kaehr and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Policy AFB	Superintendent Effectiveness Rubric
Policy AFCA	Principal Effectiveness Rubric
Policy AFCC	Athletic Director Effectiveness Rubric
Policy AFCD	Assistant Principal Effectiveness Rubric
Policy AFE	Assistant Superintendent Effectiveness Rubric
Policy GCB	Teacher Appreciation Grants & Compensation

The Board granted permission for Dr. Yates to advertise the 2025 budget tax levy, budget, and notice to taxpayers of a public hearing – Budget Form 3 (Correlated File #2425-02) as outlined in the district’s budget calendar (Correlated File #2425-03). The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates provided a draft version of the 2025-2026 school calendar to Board members. The draft calendar will be made available for stakeholder review on our district website and shared with BHMSD faculty, staff, and families for feedback. In September, after receiving feedback from stakeholders, the district will bring the 2025-2026 calendar to the Board for approval.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Preston Kaehr. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie Thompson
Arzel Preece

Preston Kaehr
Mike Murray