

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
October 14, 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, October 14, 2024, with all members present except Trent White. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Baker and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Ashley Kilgore, faculty member; Mark Cobb, Joe Holloway and Travis Brown, interested patrons; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

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

President Sheets reported on our district's Forever Tigers night, which was a great event to connect with retirees, current employees and their families at a recent football game. Mrs. Sheets also congratulated the following groups on their successes this Fall: Bengal Brigade marching band for their latest performance earning them the opportunity to compete at State, our girls' golf team and boys' tennis team for their sectional championships, and our boys' cross country team for winning the ACAC championship and the girls and boys who will compete at sectionals.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Hearing and Budget Hearing held on September 16, 2024 were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of September 17, 2024 through October 14, 2024, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for September was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for September was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Dr. Yates reported on district financial information, SEBT health insurance rates, the middle school pool repairs, our upcoming professional development and parent/teacher conference day and then invited Board Attorney, Colin Andrews, to speak about the GO Bonds and a recent convocation he provided to our high school students about the dangers of electronic communication.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on Our Town Safety Village, the great things our faculty and staff do for kids in our school buildings each week, district grants, and shared a video of the high school art students painting murals in the Grace & Mercy home.

Mrs. Kilgore reported on the Indiana Bronze Star School Counseling Award received by the elementary school.

Dr. Yates reported on our official Count Day enrollment numbers as of October 1. BHMSD's official count day enrollment is as follows:

<u>Elementary School</u>		<u>Middle School</u>		<u>High School</u>	
Kdg	125	5 th	133	9 th	128.46
1 st	134	6 th	126	10 th	160.69
2 nd	137	7 th	152	11 th	116.92
3 rd	135	8 th	145	12 th	101
4 th	148				
Total	679	Total	556	Total	507.07

District ADM 1,742.07 (+43.42 compared to 2023-2024 Fall Count)

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project. Over fall break, interior items will be addressed (window trim, painting, etc.) and window treatments/blinds will be arriving in four to six weeks. The contractor notified the district of a potential delay with the metal paneling due to a manufacturing defect observed by the installers. The defect is a surface indentation that is difficult to identify; however, the installer and contractor are committed to high quality materials and will be replacing any impacted panels. Following an onsite review and evaluation of the existing masonry work at the building sign on Wayne Street, it has been determined the best course of action is to remove the sign from the scope of the project.

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

Laura Gerber	Payroll Specialist
Alyshah Dunlap	HS Intense Intervention Instructional Assistant

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

Tanner Lesh	HS Health/PE Teacher/HS & MS Diving Coach
Alyssa Keipper	Area 18 Career Coach
Keri Baker	Accounts Manager/Deputy Treasurer
Tammy Mechling	Special Education Clerical Support
Shannon Krider	Payroll Specialist
Mark Owen	Maintenance Department
Alyssa Moser	Indiana Learns Tutor
Staci Hunt	Indiana Learns Tutor
Hunter Cunningham	Indiana Learns Tutor
Sarah Moser	Indiana Learns Tutor
Malinah Roush	Indiana Learns Tutor
Jenny Tudor	Indiana Learns Tutor
Kristi Searles	Indiana Learns Tutor
Tara Longenberger	Indiana Learns Tutor
Lisa Sheets	Indiana Learns Tutor
Amy Rusu	Indiana Learns Tutor
Elizabeth Claghorn	Indiana Learns Tutor
Kemper Amstutz	Indiana Learns Tutor

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

Lori Wilson	10/11/24 – 11/15/24
Tristan Dick	11/7/24 – 1/13/25

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

Ossian Smoked Meats	\$220 for Football Pork Chop Dinner
Anonymous	\$503 for Football Helmet
Wayne Metals, LLC	\$200 to Wrestling program
Burman Insurance	\$250 to Football fan bus sponsorship
First Bank of Berne	\$200 to Wrestling program
Pretty Paws Grooming Salon	\$100 to Wrestling program
Family Ford of Bluffton	\$100 to Wrestling program
Hershey's Salty Snacks (Jennifer Snead, on behalf of employees who do a school supply collection.)	MS School Supplies
Daniel & Alyssa Osborn	Refrigerator for ES Kindergarten Kitchen
Bargain Hut	School supplies & clothing for ES students in need
MCS Cards – Gregory Mayne	\$785 for Cross Country program

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

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
C125-E	IDOE Residency Requirements	
C125-R	Student Admission/Enrollment	
C275, C275-R	Test Security Provisions for Statewide Assessments IL, ILE, ILB	
C275-E1, C275-E2, C275-E3, C275-E4		
C475	School Sponsored Publications and Productions	IGDB
D250	Teacher Appreciation Grant	GCB
E125, E125-R & E125-E	Promotion, Placement, and Retention of Students	IKE-1, 2, 3
F125	Purchasing Procedures and Capital Assets	
G250, G250-R	Pest Control	EBAA, EBAA-R
G475	Prohibition of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)	
H125	Corporation Support Organizations	
H200, H200-R	Relations with Special Interest Groups	

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

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
A175, A175-R & A175-E	Whistleblower Protection	
C400, C400-R	Use of Restraint and Seclusion with Students	JHFE
C500, C500-E1 & C500-E2	School Trips and Privately Sponsored Activities Involving Corporation Employees and Students	
C500-R	School Trips Administrative Guidelines	
C525, C525-R	Medical Needs at School	JHCD
E150, E150-R	Programs for High Ability Students	
E225	College and University Programs	
F176	Unpaid Meals	
F275	Gifts and Donations	
G350	Audio, Video, and Digital Recording of Meetings	

The Board approved the substitute teacher rates as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Substitute Teacher License Credential	\$95.00
Teacher License Credential	\$95.00
Retired Teacher Status	Minimum Daily Rate for Certified Teacher

The Board reviewed the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement that has been reached between the district and the Bluffton-Harrison Teachers Association. A copy of the tentative agreement has been posted on the district's website and notice of the meeting was published in accordance with Open Door Law. The tentative collective bargaining agreement includes:

- ❖ Increase of base salary levels for all eligible teachers by 2%
Results in the minimum base salary increasing from \$45,000 to \$45,900
- ❖ Increase to the Board's contribution to health insurance by 2%
- ❖ Increase to the Board's contribution to 401a by 0.25% (1.75% to 2.00%)
- ❖ One-time \$750 conditional stipend for all eligible teachers
[If Education Fund revenue excluding curricular materials exceeds expenditures by \$250,000 for the fiscal year]
- ❖ Other minor contract language adjustments as mutually agreed upon

BHTA and BHMSD will have the opportunity to ratify the agreement at a future date prior to the November 15 deadline. The current plan is for ratification to be considered by the Board of School Trustees on Monday, October 28.

The Board approved changes to the 2024-2025 Classified Handbook as presented, which includes an update to the board contribution for health insurance. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Preston Kaehr passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2025 Budget, Capital Projects Plan, Bus Replacement Plan, Resolution to Adopt Capital Projects Plan, and Resolution to Adopt Bus Replacement Plan as presented (Correlated File #2425-11). The motion by Preston Kaehr and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

