

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
March 17, 2025
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 17, 2025, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Baker, Schlaura Linderwell, and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, District Communications Specialist; Jim Elizondo, Stifel Public Finance; Erik Long, IceMiller; Amy Foreman-Habegger, Faculty Member; and Jonathan Snyder, News-Banner representative.

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

President Sheets congratulated our winter student-athletes, band and choir students, with a special congratulations to Levi Johns for finishing 4th in the IHSAA state wrestling tournament. President Sheets also called forward Amy Foreman-Habegger, Bluffton Elementary Art Teacher, who presented the Board with an art project created by all K-4 elementary school students. The artwork, which is the face of a tiger created by the elementary students, will hang in the board room of the district administration building.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on February 17, 2025 were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of February 18, 2025 through March 17, 2025, 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 Reports were approved by consensus.

President Sheets asked the Board for permission to rearrange the agenda by moving agenda item Unfinished Business "Future District HVAC Needs" ahead of the Reports and Announcements section. Jim Elizondo from Stifel Public Finance and Erik Long from IceMiller presented information to the Board regarding bond issuance for future district HVAC needs. The Board approved to move forward with a preliminary determination hearing on March 31, 2025, and the proposed timeline as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Preston Kaehr passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates provided an update on the district's Grading & Learning Initiative.

Mr. Murray and Dr. Yates provided an update on the work on the Indiana General Assembly.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on curricular material needs, the Indiana Learns Tutoring program and our recent School Safety Assessment.

Dr. Yates reported on the recent Holding Corporation meeting, kindergarten registration, a new district billboard, projected enrollment for 2025-2026 and quotes for upcoming district projects.

Dr. Yates reported that Mr. Baker has scheduled Friday, May 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. as the graduation date for the Class of 2025. The ceremony will be held in the BHS gymnasium.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project. The wall panels continue to be installed and FCI has established a target completion date of March 31 for the walls. The installation of canopies will follow with a target date of April 30. In addition, the Baldus Company will be installing building signage after the completion of the wall panels and canopy installation.

The Board approved proposals as part of the General Obligation Bond issued in 2024 for the District Capital Improvements Project. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Middle School Upper Gym Floor – Jack Laurie Group	\$ 92,050
Elementary Playground Improvements – Snider Recreation	\$299,294
High School Generator – Havel & Felger Electric	\$114,215

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

Lisa Uggen	HS Science Teacher (End of 2024-25 school year)
Holden Berlin	MS/HS Band Director (End of 2024-25 school year)
Megan Yates	HS Food Service

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

Melody Moyer	Long-Term Substitute for Kristan Trout
Kristen Thompson	Long-Term Substitute for Kristan Trout
Kyle Linton	HS Summer School Credit Recovery Teacher
Gwen Craighead	HS Guidance Secretary (Part-time starting with the 2025-26 school year)
Kristen Thompson	HS Guidance Secretary (Part-time starting with the 2025-26 school year)
Thad Harter	Transfer from ES Grade 4 Teacher to MS Grade 5 Teacher (2025-26 school year)
Heather Stinson	Summer Bus Cleaner
Joseph Taylor	MS Boys' Track Asst Coach
Rylie Johnston	Co-Ed MS Golf Asst Coach
Michaela Rinehart	Substitute Teacher
Lauren Mann	Substitute Teacher

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

James Suhrer	4/8/25 – 4/23/25
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Erin McKinley

5/2/25 – 5/16/25

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

Anonymous Employee of BAE Systems, Inc.	\$43.70 to MS Community Fund
BHES PTO	\$100 to PreK Construction Experiential Classroom
American Income Life Ins.	\$122 for ES Student Activity Safety Kits
Bluffton Elk's Lodge #796	\$250 for 3 rd Grade Shrine Circus Transportation
Anonymous	\$500 for 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony Expenses
Beachin LLC	\$300 for BPA State Leadership Conference Expenses
Senior Care & Consulting	\$200 for BPA State Leadership Conference Expenses
Dave Goodwin, Bluffton T-Ball & Minor Leagues	Retractable batting cage, L-screen, and batting mat for baseball and softball student athletes
Lutheran Orthopedic Hospital	\$5,000 to Athletic Dept

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

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
E100-R	Adoption of Curricular Materials	
F175	Collection and Forgiveness of Debt (Bad Debt)	
F325	Debt Management Policy	
G100-R	Metal Detector Wands (AG)	
G300	Latch-Key Programs	
G375-R	Community Use of School Facilities (AG)	

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Name</u>
B200	Membership
B225	Board Meetings
C450, C450-R	Drug Presentation and Drug Testing
C525	Medical Needs at School
D150	Board-Superintendent Relationship
H225	Public Comments and Concerns

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

<u>New Policy #</u>	<u>New Policy Name</u>	<u>Current Policy #'s to Delete</u>
D475-R	Justifiable Decrease in Teaching Positions	GCPA
E200	Credit for Religious Education	
F150, F150-R	Use of Credit Cards	DKA
F200	Investment Income	
F225, F225-E	Fundraising and Crowdfunding	
F250, F250-R	Travel Expenses	DLC, DLC-E
F300, F300-R	Time and Effort	
F300-E1, F300-E2		
F350	Reserve and Liquidity Policy	DFAA

The Board approved deletion of several old policies as presented, after our ongoing policy review process in coordination with the legal counsel of Church, Church, Hittle and Antrim (CCHA) over the past year. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board approved to amend the Board Meeting Schedule for 2025 based on dates of the ISBA annual fall conference. As a result, the September 15 Board meeting has been changed to September 22, 2025. The motion by Preston Kaehr and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Transfer Request Deadline Reporting Process for Out-of-District Students as June 30, 2026 for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion by Trent White and second by Preston Kaehr passed unanimously.

In other items, Dr. Yates announced there will be a special Board Meeting on March 31, 2025 to hold a Preliminary Determination Hearing at 6:00 P.M., and reminded the Board of the upcoming ISBA regional meeting.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M. on a motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie Thompson
Angela Ohees

for NDE
Preston Kaehr
Mike Murray