

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING

Administration Building  
April 21, 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, April 21, 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, Communications Specialist; Zella Walborn, Erin Schantz and Casey Kolkman, Faculty Members; Jim Elizondo of Stifel Public Finance; and Samantha Saad, News-Banner representative.

The first order of business was to hold a preliminary determination hearing regarding the lease agreement and issuance of bonds for construction or renovation of a school building.

Dr. Yates explained the purpose of the hearing, the educational need for the project and how the project meets the educational needs, cost and timing. Specifically the following items to be addressed through this project are:

- 1) HS HVAC Chiller
- 2) HS HVAC Air Handling Unit
- 3) HS Gravity Relief Hoods/Dampers
- 4) MS HVAC Pool Unit
- 5) MS HVAC Fire Alarm Panel
- 6) HS Parking Lot/Drive
- 7) HS HVAC Boiler Plant
- 8) MS HVAC System
- 9) ES HVAC System

Mr. Jim Elizondo of Stifel Public Finance was present to answer any questions regarding the financing of the project but there were no questions posed.

President Sheets invited members of the public to come forward with any comment.

With there being no public commenters present, President Sheets moved forward to entertain a motion for the Project Resolution as presented (Correlated File #2425-34). On a motion by Mike Murray and second by Julie Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates explained the Preliminary Determination Resolution (Correlated File #2425-35). On a motion by Trent White and second by Preston Kaehr, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates explained the Reimbursement Resolution relating to the financing of the project (Correlated File #2425-36). On a motion by Preston Kaehr and second by Julie Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

Excerpts of Minutes from the public hearing are contained in Correlated File #2425-37.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:12 P.M. by consensus.

President Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:13 P.M.

President Sheets congratulated our scholar students who were recognized by the Wells County Foundation and Wells County Rotary at a recent dinner event at the Wells County 4-H building. President Sheets also congratulated two students who participated in the SkillsUSA competition. Wyatt Kephart finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place for SkillsUSA in Auto. He qualified to compete at State and he received a \$1,500 scholarship to Ivy Tech. Grant Reifsteck competed as a Firefighter and was challenged with both knowledge assessments and physical tests including tying four separate randomly selected knots and a timed physical agility course while wearing close to 70 pounds of gear all while breathing air from an SCBA tank. During part of the course, he also had to carry hoses, saws, swing sledgehammers, go over and under obstacles and drag a 165-pound dummy 25 yards.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on March 17, 2025 and the March 31, 2025 Public Hearing were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of March 18, 2025, through April 21, 2025, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for March was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for March was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Walborn, Mrs. Schantz and Mr. Kolkman presented on their roles as Student Support Specialists.

Dr. Yates and Mr. Murray reported on recent legislative updates.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communication, the recent reunification drill, Carry the Torch program, a recent grant from the Don Wood Foundation, textbook adoption and ILEARN testing.

Dr. Yates reported on Quarter 1 financial information, upcoming IASBO sessions and Mrs. Hartman's recent IASBO certification as Chief Business Officer, the SBOA audit, kindergarten registration enrollment and district projects.

Dr. Yates reminded the Board of the Class of 2025 Graduation scheduled for Friday, May 23.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project. Progress continues for the high school building envelope project with the walls nearly completed and the canopy sections to follow. Portions of the signage for the building have been installed and the remaining signs will be installed after the canopies are completed. The contractor assured the district that all site grading, re-seeding, etc., will be addressed at the completion of the project. In addition, the

district has experienced some sidewalk damage as a result of the large equipment used for the project, and the contractor will be replacing affected areas of the sidewalk/concrete.

Dr. Yates reported on the District Capital Improvements/Project. The district has worked directly with awarded vendors to plan and schedule projects for all three (3) schools. For our elementary school, the playground equipment is scheduled to start June 2 with equipment scheduled to arrive on May 30. The contractor estimates a two (2) week installation process. In addition to the playground replacement, the district is awaiting the equipment arrival of a replacement chiller compressor for the building. For the middle school, the upper gym floor replacement is scheduled to start on April 30 with floor removal. In planning the replacement, it was determined that the adhesive under the flooring contains 3% asbestos and requires appropriate removal processes. The district has contracted with Environmental Management Specialists, Inc., to properly remove the tiles and adhesive ahead of the new floor installation. A message to students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff has been prepared informing all stakeholders of the removal process. After discussion with our middle school physical education teacher and our athletic department, the new flooring will be lined for basketball courts and pickleball courts. For the high school, the district has received quotes from two contractors for baseball/softball facility improvements. The district is awaiting a quote from a third contractor prior to bringing forward a recommendation to the Board. The project timeline for improvements is to begin after the current baseball/softball season and be completed prior to the spring 2026 athletic season. In addition, the district is awaiting the equipment arrival of a generator for the building.

The Board approved a retirement request from Susan Swain, Middle School Instructional Assistant (10 years) as presented. The motion by Mike Murray, with gratitude for her years of service and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

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

Sydney Jeffers	HS Math Teacher (End of 2024-25 school year.)
Megan Yates	Bus Driver
Jolleen Turner	HS Library Instructional Asst / ISS Supervisor
Paris Davis	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst (End of 2024-25 school year.)
Susannah Jane	ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst (End of 2024-25 school year.)
Sidney Nash	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst (End of 2024-25 school year.)

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

Trent Miller	Bus Driver
Tammy Funk	ES Summer IREAD Teacher
Tara Longenberger	ES Summer IREAD Teacher
Alyssa Moser	ES Summer IREAD Teacher
Taylor Reed	ES Summer IREAD Teacher
Jenny Tudor	ES Summer IREAD Teacher
Zella Walborn	ES Summer IREAD Teacher

Intent to Employ	Additional ES Summer IREAD Teachers/Aides as Needed
Sara Parks	MS Food Service
Leah Tullis	Transfer from ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst to ES Food Service starting with the 2025-26 school year.
Kevin Leising	HS Boys' Asst Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Madison Smith	HS Girls' Softball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Amy Shane	Co-Ed Unified Track Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Kaela Schoeneman	Co-Ed Unified Track Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Brittany Danels	Childcare Worker
Emmaline Johnson	Childcare Worker
Mindy Yates	Substitute Teacher

The Board approved the following employment recommendation as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Preston Kaehr passed with a vote of 4-0 with Trent White abstaining from the vote.

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

Renee Fredrickson	3/31/25 – 5/2/25
Kristan Trout	3/31/25 – 5/28/25
Erin Trexler	4/8/25 – 5/23/25
Allison Norman	8/11/25 – 10/8/25

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

Park Community Church	\$3,600 for TBRI Healthy Snacks
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Wells County Farm Bureau, Inc.	Indiana Farm Bureau Book of the Year, <b><i>Right This Very Minute</i></b> to every Grade 2 classroom. <b><i>My Family's Corn Farm</i></b> book to every Grade 1 classroom. A copy of each book was also donated to the BHES Library. Plus, a pencil and bookmark for every Grade 1 student. The donations are to promote agricultural literacy.
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Capt. William Wells Chapter of NSDAR	\$500 grant to purchase books and resources to HS, MS & ES Libraries, as well as Mrs. Rizer's high school class. The books are regarding the topics of the Revolutionary War, founding fathers, and the birth of our nation.
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United Way of Wells County	\$1,500 for Preschool Construction Experiential Classroom.
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Anonymous

\$1,000 to Baseball Program

The Board approved the following policies on second reading, as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White 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 contract with Lutheran – Optimal Performance Services (OPS) to provide weight training classes at Bluffton High School as presented. The motion by Preston Kaehr and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates invited the Board members for a building tour and photo opportunity of the completed construction projects at the middle school, following the Board meeting.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 P.M. on a motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

*Carol Pharis*  
*Trent White*

*Julie Thompson*  
*Mike Murray*  
*Preston Kaehr*