

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION

Administration Building  
August 18, 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, August 18, 2025, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Stacy Morrison, Schlaura Linderwell and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Communications Specialist; Elliott Jimenez and Justin Uptgraft, faculty members; Mark Cobb, interested patron; and Samantha Saad, 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 6:02 P.M.

Following the Public Hearing, and prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates presented a budget overview for the 2026 calendar year. The Budget Work Session was adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

President Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:18 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. Callow, our band program will be hosting the *Banks of the Wabash* event on September 6. The district also welcomed 17 community and business partners to provide faculty and staff with resources, benefits and connections at the district opening meeting.

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

Minutes for the Public Hearing, Regular Board Meeting & Executive Session held on July 21, 2025, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of July 22, 2025, through August 18, 2025, 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.

Mrs. Meitzler shared a video of back to school clips from various staff members, reported on IREAD scores, professional development and grants.

Dr. Yates reported on financial information, Forever Tigers Night for staff and retirees, the IAPSS Advisory Council, for which he will serve his second year and will be a mentor to a new superintendent, and a potential social media influencer student position.

Dr. Yates reported on the Teacher Evaluation Results from the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers with a current ADM of 1774.43 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Building Envelope Project. Punchlist items for the project are being addressed, and the district is working with our HVAC contractor to resolve condensation leaks over the gym floor. Once all leaks are addressed, the district will review options for flooring to be dried out and resealed appropriately.

Dr. Yates reported on the District Capital Improvements Project. Various items are complete or substantially complete except for the baseball/softball renovations which are planned to be completed by November 1.

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

Kimberly Gerber	PreK Childcare Supervisor
Jolleen Turner	HS Library Instructional Asst/ISS Supervisor

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

Stacy Morrison	Mentor to Brent Kunkel
Ben Burman	Alternative School Director
Rebecca Miner	Alternative School Teacher
Grayson Christal	Long Term Substitute for Grade 5 Teacher
Khadeja Jamil	ES Title I Instructional Asst
Hailey Henschen	ES Title I Instructional Asst
April Studabaker	HS Library Instructional Asst/ISS Supervisor
Mitchel Bertsch	CDL Certification Pay Rate
Karen Newton	CDL Certification Pay Rate
Breanna Miller	Special Education Bus Aide
Samantha Smith	ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Brianna Smallman	Preschool Childcare Supervisor
Tiffany Corey	Transfer from ES Intense Intervention Instructional Asst to Preschool Instructional Asst
Jake Amstutz	ES Teacher Technology Specialist
Jaci Moser	ES Childcare Director
Steve Linderwell	HS BPA Co-Sponsor (1/2 FTE)
Tiffani Tonner	HS BPA Co-Sponsor (1/2 FTE)
Jonathan Morgan	HS eSports Head Coach
Kurt Smith	HS eSports Asst Coach
Justin Uptgraft	Assistant Athletic Director

Spencer Schwartz	HS Boys' Tennis Head Coach
Dharma Dynes	HS Boys' Tennis Asst Coach
Kelli Kistler	HS Boys' Tennis Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Travis Roush	MS Football Coach
Jaci Moser	Lady Future Tigers Coordinator
Doug Curtis	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Abby Ault	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Bryan Bowman	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Allen Frees	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Tristan Dick	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Emme Boots	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Isabella Stout	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Nathan Campbell	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Zoey Smith	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Keri Stahly	Lady Future Tigers Coach
Bethany Clem	MS Cross Country Asst Coach
Danielle Kunkel	MS Cross Country Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Emily Schwartz	ES Student Teacher
Isabelle Owens	ES Student Teacher
Mackenzie Sturwold	ES Student Teacher
Brittany Price	ES Student Teacher
Elizabeth Landis	Substitute Teacher
Christa Pearson	Substitute Teacher
Madison Ringger	Substitute Teacher
Steve Baker	HS Math Tutor (Volunteer)

The Board approved the following additional employment recommendation as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed with a vote of 3-0, with Trent White abstaining from the vote.

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

Breanna Miller	8/21/25 – 10/3/25
Madison Brown	Intermittent Leave Between 8/18/25 – 5/28/26

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

Kurt Smith	Various Supplies for eSports Program
Lowe's	\$399 for unpaid lunch accounts
Six Mile Church	\$200 to HS students in need & \$200 to MS students in need
Anonymous	\$500 to Football program
Anonymous	School supplies for teachers & students

The Board granted permission for Dr. Yates to advertise the 2026 budget tax levy, budget, and notice to taxpayers of a public hearing – Budget Form 3 (Correlated File #2526-01) as outlined in the district’s budget calendar (Correlated File #2526-02). The motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

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

- B100 Board Authority and Philosophy
- D200 Standard of Care and Supervision of Students
- F125 Purchasing Procedures and Capital Assets
- G360 Data Breach and Protection

Dr. Yates provided a draft version of the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 calendar to the Board for approval. The Board approved for the district to share the draft calendar for feedback. The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The Board approved the resignation of Preston Kaehr, Board Member. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously. Dr. Yates expressed appreciation for Mr. Kaehr’s service. Potential dates were discussed for an upcoming Special Board meeting to appoint a new Board Member.

Dr. Yates reminded the Board of the upcoming Forever Tigers Night on August 29, School Board Tour on September 4 and the ISBA Fall Conference on September 15 & 16.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

*Angela Preece*  
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*Mike Murray*  
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*Julie Thompson*  
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