

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET HEARING

Administration Building
September 22, 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, September 22, 2025, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Stacy Morrison, Schlauro Linderwell and Stacy Herrold, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Communications Specialist; Nick Miller and Ashlee Xayyachack, faculty members; Mark Cobb and Ryan Schisler, interested patrons; and Samantha Saad, News-Banner representative.

Prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates presented a budget overview for the 2026 calendar year. President Sheets asked for any public comment. Hearing no comments from the public, the Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

President Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Mrs. Mechling administered the *Oath of Office* to new Board Member Tim Drayer (Correlated File #2526-06).

President Sheets congratulated the Bengal Brigade for earning first place at Dekalb High School and placing second at Carroll High School. President Sheets also celebrated our student athletes on a great start to the season, with the varsity football team being 5-0 heading into Homecoming Week and the girls' golf team winning the ACAC conference championship. President Sheets also expressed appreciation for Mr. Murray and Mrs. Thompson, who recently attended the Indiana School Boards Association Fall Conference, along with Dr. Yates.

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

Minutes for the Public Hearing, Budget Work Session and Regular Board Meeting held on August 18, 2025 and the September 8, 2025 Special Meeting were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of August 19, 2025, through September 22, 2025, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for August was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for August was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Morrison reported on the US News and World Report ratings for Bluffton High School, which ranks Bluffton High School among the best high schools in the State of Indiana and in the nation. Bluffton High School ranks in the top 20% of high schools in the nation, in the top 17% of high schools in Indiana and was ranked #1 in Wells County.

Dr. Yates reported on district financial information, district projects, the collective bargaining process, his new initiative to work in each school building once per month and the upcoming meeting for the School Employees' Benefit Trust regarding the district's health insurance plan pricing.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers with our average ADM count of 1772.17 K-12 students.

Mr. Nick Miller presented preliminary plans and requested the Board's approval to pursue a 13-day European study trip to Switzerland, Italy and France during the summer of 2027. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The Board approved a retirement request from Jerry Murray, Head High School Custodian (39.5 years) as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed with a vote of 4-0 with much gratitude for his many years of service. Mike Murray abstained from the vote.

The Board approved the following employment recommendation as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Tim Drayer passed with a vote of 4-0. Trent White abstained from the vote.

Trent White	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
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The Board approved the following employment recommendations as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Lisa Leising	Long Term Substitute Teacher for Malinah Roush & Kayla Graber
Nate Reinhard	HS eSports Asst Coach
Caleb Geimer	MS Boys' Swim Asst Coach
Tanner Lesh	HS Boys' Swim Head Coach
Steve Linderwell	HS Boys' Swim Asst Coach
Eric Mounsey	Boys' Future Tigers Coordinator
Aaron Sturgeon	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Nolan Lambert	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Travis Roush	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Clint Renner	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Matthew Sturgeon	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Stacy Herrold	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Jackson Lambert	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Ben Burman	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Vic Reinhard	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Brett Bothast	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Luke Reust	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Matt Beste	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Josh Smith	Boys' Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Lauren Brinneman	MS Girls' Basketball Coach
Jeff Blair	MS Girls' Basketball Coach
Erin Roush	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Nathan Campbell	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Allen Frees	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach

Tristan Dick	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Zoey Smith	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Keri Stahly	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Isabella Stout	Lady Future Tigers Travel Basketball Coach
Erin Roush	Lady Future Tigers Coach (Volunteer)
Megan Heer	Lady Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Katy Renner	Lady Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Marah Hill	Lady Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Felicia McElveen	Lady Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Kennedy Johnson	Lady Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Tanner Lesh	HS Co-Ed Diving Coach
Caleb Geimer	MS Student Teacher
Elliott Apps	MS Student Teacher
Rose Love	Substitute Teacher

The Board approved the following FMLA request as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Tim Drayer passed with a vote of 4-0, with Julie Thompson abstaining from the vote.

Alyssa Osborn	1/5/26 – 4/13/26
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The Board approved the following FMLA request as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Malinah Roush	1/5/26 – 3/30/26
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The Board approved the following donations as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

Anonymous	\$800 to Football program
Anonymous	\$1,000 to Football program
Anonymous	\$300 for MS Robotics Club apparel
Friedheim Lutheran Church	School supplies for ES students in need
Six Mile Church	\$300 to ES students in need
Anytime Fitness	School supplies for ES students in need
Apostolic Christian Church	School supplies for ES students in need
Anonymous	\$1,000 to Football program
Park Community Church	\$1,500 to Lunch IOU's and \$3,600 to TBRI Healthy Snacks Fund
Bargain Hut	Swimsuits to MS Swim Class for students to use as needed

The Board approved the 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

Mrs. Thompson thanked Dr. Yates for allowing Board members to attend the ISBA Fall Conference.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M. on a motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Angel Pineda
Julie Thompson

Trent White
Mike Murray
Tim Drayer