

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
June 15, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, June 15, 2026, with all members present except Trent White. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Schlaura Linderwell, Administrator; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Mark Cobb and Ryan Schisler, interested patrons; and Jonathan Snyder, News-Banner representative.

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

President Thompson reported that Ms. Van Matre's high school art students will be featured in a Fox 55 news story this week for a mural they painted at Bluffton High School. President Thompson also reported that the Class of 2026 was celebrated at our recent graduation ceremony and she wished our graduates the best in their futures. President Thompson also celebrated the continued success of student athletes Addison Raber and Eli Bertsch for competing in the state track finals, Sophie Eisenhut and Emily Drayer for competing in the tennis regionals, our boys' golf team for placing 2nd at sectionals and our baseball team for winning semi-state and who will play in the state championship game this upcoming Saturday at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

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

Minutes for the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting held on May 18, 2026, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of May 19, 2026, through June 15, 2026, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for May was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for May was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Dr. Yates reported on Bluffton High School being identified as a Performance Qualified High School for the 2025-2026 School year.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communications and grant funding.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects and financial information.

Dr. Yates announced the district's open positions for two preschool adjunct teachers and one library adjunct teacher at the elementary school.

Dr. Yates thanked our school nurses Javon Steffen, Bethany Clem and Hailey Griner for preparing their annual nursing reports for the Board and for their service to our students.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Paving Project, which will begin following the July 4 holiday and be completed prior to August 1.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Lighting & HVAC Project. The parking lot lighting replacement is nearly complete, and the HVAC work continues on the high school chiller system. The middle school pool heating and duct system work has been paused for a safety review as the area below the pool deck (basement ceiling) has concrete spalling concerns. In order to safely remove and install new duct work to the ceiling area, an analysis of the 50+ year old concrete structure will be completed. Progress meetings for both the middle school and high school HVAC work will continue every other week through the completion of the projects.

The Board approved the retirement of Tonya Hoffman, MS Head Custodian (27 years) as presented. The motion by Mike Murray, with gratitude for her many years of service, and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

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

Tonya Isch	HS Academic At-Risk Teacher
Breanna Miller	Special Education Bus Aide
Katlynn Snider	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Brittany Danels	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Rachel Kinsey	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst

The Board approved the following employment recommendations as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

Marcus Haynes	Choir Director
Rachel Kinsey	HS Mild Intervention Teacher
Rhea Yoder	Corporation Head Nurse
Schlaura Linderwell	Administrator Training
Paige Walker	Administrator Training
Jennifer Cook	Athletic Secretary Training
Kelli Kistler	Athletic Secretary Training
Jodie Leyse	Increase from 1/3 FTE to 1/2 FTE Teacher
Sebastian Baxter	Increase Contract Days & Data Submission Stipend
Hallie Gallion	Tiger Tots Childcare Supervisor
Gina Pence	Transfer from MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst to Special Education Bus Aide
Alyssa Moser	ES High Ability Coordinator
Erin McKinley	MS High Ability Coordinator
Tara Cocanower	HS High Ability Coordinator
Zella Walborn	Dyslexia Specialist
Kole Meyer	Student Information Specialist & Corporation Testing Coordinator
Amy Ribich	Mentor to Macie Morehouse
Kyle Linton	Mentor to Robert Vanderkolk
Vicki Van Matre	Mentor to Marcus Haynes
Sebastian Baxter	Mentor to Victoria Goeglein
Ashley Kilgore	CPI Trainer

Justin Uptgraft	CPI Trainer
Holly Mishler	ES EL Teacher of Record
Griselda Martinez	MS & HS EL Teacher of Record
Pam Roush	ES PAT Member
Evan Callow	HS Band Director
Marcus Haynes	HS Vocal Music Director
Erica Swanson	HS Cheerleader Sponsor
Alyssa Hatfield	National Honor Society Sponsor
Emme Johnson	National Honor Society Sponsor
Jill Buskirk	HS Student Council Sponsor
Stacy Morrison	HS Student Council Sponsor
Tara Cocanower	HS Academic Bowl Coach
Tara Cocanower	HS Teacher Technology Specialist (1/2 Stipend)
Alyssa Hatfield	HS Teacher Technology Specialist (1/2 Stipend)
Debra Sackett	HS Major Drama Production Sponsor
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Yearbook Advisor
Tiffani Tonner	HS Business Professionals of America Advisor
Brent Kunkel	HS Head Senior Class Sponsor
Kellie Morgan	HS Head Junior Class Sponsor
Alyssa Hatfield	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Tanner Lesh	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Kyle Linton	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Caleb Lloyd	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Emme Johnson	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Carla Rizer	HS Junior Class Sponsor
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Broadcasting Club Sponsor
Kevin Powell	HS Team Leader
Vicki Van Matre	HS Team Leader
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Team Leader
Kyle Linton	HS Team Leader
Amy Ribich	HS Team Leader
Tara Cocanower	HS Team Leader
Meredythe Fritz	HS Book Review Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Nick Miller	HS German Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Amy Ribich	HS Students Making a Difference Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Steve Linderwell	HS Work Based Learning Club Sponsor (Volunteer)
Connor Okey	Athletic Custodian Pay Rate Adjustment
Brent Kunkel	HS Football Head Coach
Casey Kolkman	HS Football Asst Coach
Bryce Bonewit	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Koty Frauhiger	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Adam King	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Ben Ramseyer	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Alex Schantz	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Joe Taylor	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Scott Ribich	HS Football Asst Coach (1/2 FTE)
Spencer Schwartz	HS Boys' Tennis Head Coach

Keegan Schwartz	HS Boys' Tennis Asst
Hunter Cunningham	HS Boys' Tennis Asst
Robert Vanderkolk	HS Boys' Tennis Asst (Volunteer)
Craig Teagle	HS Boys' Basketball Head Coach
Chad Grieser	HS Boys' Basketball Asst Coach
Luke Reust	HS Boys' Basketball Asst Coach
Ben Burman	HS Boys' Basketball Asst Coach
Mark Prible	HS Boys' Basketball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Kevin Leising	HS Boys' Basketball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Matthew Sturgeon	MS Boys' Basketball Coach
Bret Bothast	MS Boys' Basketball Coach
Ben Sprunger	HS Wrestling Head Coach
Tim Zeis	HS Wrestling Asst Coach
Ian Heath	HS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Elliott Jimenez	HS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Ryan Thomas	HS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Brady Johns	HS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Ben Sprunger	MS Wrestling Head Coach
Elliott Jimenez	MS Wrestling Asst Coach
Adam Atkins	HS Boys' Golf Head Coach
Steve Abbett	HS Boys' Golf Asst Coach
Adam King	HS Baseball Head Coach
Jeff Blair	HS Baseball Asst Coach
Mike Jefferson	HS Baseball Asst Coach
Jacob Summers	HS Baseball Asst Coach
Scott Ribich	HS Baseball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Tanner Lesh	HS Boys' Swimming Head Coach
Steve Linderwell	HS Boys' Swimming Asst Coach
Jenny Boyd	MS Boys' Swimming Head Coach
Caleb Geimer	MS Boys' Swimming Asst Coach
Intent to Employ	MS Boys' Football Coach (4 positions)
Gabrielle Williams	HS Volleyball Head Coach
Erin Kreigh	HS Volleyball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Grace Moser	HS Volleyball Asst Coach
Andrea Herrold	MS Volleyball Coach
Jenny Tudor	MS Volleyball Coach
Doug Curtis	HS Girls' Basketball Head Coach
Erin McKinley	HS Girls' Basketball Asst Coach
Jaci Moser	HS Girls' Basketball Asst Coach
Abby Ault	HS Girls' Basketball Asst Coach
Lauren Brinneman	MS Girls' Basketball Coach
Jeff Blair	MS Girls' Basketball Coach
Tyler Sonnigsen	HS Softball Head Coach
Karley Nash	HS Softball Asst Coach
Jeff Olson	HS Softball Asst Coach
Jeffrey Patterson	HS Softball Asst Coach
Erica Swanson	HS Fall Cheerleading Head Coach
Sara Runyon	HS Fall Cheerleading Asst Coach

Abbie Fillers	HS Fall Cheerleading Asst Coach
Cheyenne Penrod	MS Cheerleading Head Coach
Macie Morehouse	MS Cheerleading Asst Coach
Hunter Cunningham	HS Girls' Swimming Head Coach
Kristi Searles	HS Girls' Swimming Asst Coach
Kristi Searles	MS Girls' Swimming Head Coach
Tara Cocanower	HS Girls' Golf Head Coach
Jodi Ault	HS Girls' Golf Asst Coach
Casey Kolkman	MS Events Manager
Justin Uptgraft	Assistant Athletic Director
Michael Vanderkolk	HS Cross Country Head Coach
Kylee Lesh	HS Cross Country Asst Coach
Bob Dahl	HS Cross Country Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Ayden Teeple	HS Cross Country Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Bethany Clem	MS Cross Country Coach
Lauren Brinneman	MS Cross Country Asst Coach
Caleb Lloyd	MS Golf Head Coach
Tara Cocanower	MS Golf Asst Coach
Robert Vanderkolk	MS Tennis Coach
Brent Kunkel	HS Summer Football Head Coach
Craig Teagle	HS Summer Boys' Basketball Head Coach
Gabrielle Williams	HS Summer Volleyball Head Coach
Doug Curtis	HS Summer Girls' Basketball Head Coach
Derek Miller	ES Student Teacher
Intent to Employ	MS Lead Custodian
Stephanie White	Bus Driver

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

Anonymous	Drone for Football Program
Jeff Lemler – Thoma/Rich Lemler Funeral Home	\$3,963.51 for ES Underwater Preschool Room Interactive Wall
Park Community Church	\$4,500 for Unpaid Lunch Accounts

The Board approved the following policy updates and two new policies on second reading, as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

Updated Policies:

A200	Firearms, Weapons and Destructive Devices
A275	School Wellness
A300	Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy
A301	Wireless Communication Device Policy
C175	Student Attendance, Academic Engagement, and Truancy Prevention Policy
D126	Teacher Evaluation and Development Plan
F125	Purchasing Procedures and Capital Assets
G325	Free and Reduced-Price Meals

H125 Corporation-Support Organizations
H150 Public Records

New Policies:

F101 Budget Adoption and Implementation
F101-R Budget Adoption and Implementation Administrative Guidelines

The Board approved the Area 18 CTE Agreement (Correlated File #2526-22). The motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved Veregy as the vendor to provide a guaranteed energy savings contract to address solar energy options for the district. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously. The district will now move forward with finalizing the scope and guaranteed energy savings for the solar energy project. At the upcoming July Board meeting, the Board will review the contract for the solar energy project.

The Board approved the 2026-2027 Student Handbooks as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2026-2027 Transportation Handbook as presented. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved status quo classified staff employment contracts and work agreements as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

In other items, Dr. Yates reported on a new digital billboard in town recognizing the state bound high school baseball team and thanked the community for donations that will help high school students attend the state baseball game for free.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:






