

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BUDGET WORK SESSION

Administration Building
August 17, 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, August 17, 2026, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Stacy Herrold and Paige Walker, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Communications Specialist; Betsy Needler, BHTA President and faculty member; Arash Habibi-Soureh attended virtually as a Veregy Solar Energy Consultant; Mark Cobb and Ryan Schisler, interested patrons; and Jenna Schweikert, 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 2027 calendar year. The Budget Work Session was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:21 P.M.

President Thompson expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts for a strong start to the school year and announced the upcoming *Banks of the Wabash* band event on Saturday, September 12.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on July 20, 2026, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of July 21, 2026, through August 17, 2026, 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.

Dr. Yates reported on the Teacher Evaluation Results from the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communications, IREAD scores, math and language arts goals, student attendance goals, and thanked the transportation, maintenance and custodial teams for their efforts in preparing for the first day of school.

Dr. Yates reported on the fund analysis report, the city council annexation of property meeting, collective bargaining information and announced a preschool adjunct teacher opening.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers with a current ADM of 1,784.37 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Paving Project, which was substantially completed prior to the start of the school year. New traffic patterns are in operation and the district is finalizing wayfinding signage for the high school and other campus roadways which will be installed later this fall.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Lighting, High School/Middle School HVAC Project. The district recently met with structural engineers to evaluate the existing pool concrete underdecking and is awaiting a budget estimate associated with the recommended structural improvements. The high school HVAC project installation is substantially completed with the software controls yet to be finalized. In addition, the high school cafetorium flooring has been replaced.

Dr. Yates reported on the Alternative Energy Options Project and had two experts from Veregy join virtually to answer questions from the Board. The Board granted approval for the final scope of the solar project for the middle school and high school. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

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

Adrienne Fullenkamp	Speech Language Pathologist
Kaela Schoeneman	Speech Language Pathologist Assistant
Lexi Kyle	PreK Special Education Instructional Assistant
Jolleen Turner	HS Library Instructional Asst / ISS Supervisor
Neely Bultemeier	ES Secretary

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

Brandy Stronczek	Speech Language Pathologist
Sarah Fairchild	HS English Language Arts Teacher & HS Yearbook Advisor
Chelsea Poindexter	ES Mild Interventions Teacher
Christine Zadyak	HS Academic At-Risk Teacher
Raenah Haynes	HS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Michelle Swann	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Kristen Capps	ES PreK Special Education Instructional Asst
Alisa Ringger	HS Library Instructional Asst / ISS Supervisor
Savannah Bosworth	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Brittany Billman	HS Food Service
Kristi Searles	ES PAT Member

Adam King	Mentor Teacher for Caleb Geimer
Spencer Schwartz	HS Team Leader
Robert Vanderkolk	HS Broadcasting Club Advisor
April Studabaker	Transfer from MS Mild Intervention Instructional
	Asst to MS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Scott Shoup	HS Assistant Band Director
Caleb Lloyd	MS Golf Head Coach Stipend from Spring 2026
Tara Cocanower	MS Golf Asst Coach Stipend from Spring 2026
Sidney Nash	Childcare Adult Supervisor
Amber Hollingsworth	Childcare Adult Supervisor
Laura McBride	Long Term Substitute Teacher for Caylee Pyle
Vincent Quinones	HS & MS Diving Coach
Robert Vanderkolk	MS Tennis Head Coach
Robert Vanderkolk	7 th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Samantha Meyer	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Isabella Stout	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Nathan Campbell	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Katy Renner	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Erin Roush	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Tristan Dick	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Keri Stahly	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Phillip Heer	Girls' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Caleb Lloyd	MS Golf Head Coach
Tara Cocanower	MS Golf Asst Coach
Eric Mounsey	Boys' Basketball Youth Director/Future Tigers
	Director
Katy Renner	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Leah Pursley	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Kyan Harris	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Brittany Shaffer	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Aerika Campbell	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Natalie Todd	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Marah Hill	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Megan Heer	Girls' Future Tigers Volleyball Coach (Volunteer)
Intent to Employ	HS CTE Electrical Teacher
Intent to Employ	ES Secretary
Kiah Craig	Childcare Worker
Karen Kelly	Substitute Teacher
Megan Schantz	Substitute Teacher
Skylar Emenhiser	Substitute Teacher
John-David Longanecker	Substitute Teacher
Anne Rockwell	Substitute Teacher

The Board approved the following additional employment recommendation as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Felicia Graham	Preschool Adjunct Teacher
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The Board approved the following FMLA request as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

Samantha Brickley 8/10/26 – 8/25/26

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

Six Mile Church	\$200 for HS Students in Need, \$200 for MS Students in Need
Hershey's Salty Snacks	1,200 Bags of Pretzels for ES Snacks
Zion Friedhelm Lutheran Church	20 Backpacks w/ School Supplies for ES Students in Need
Tenley Heron	Climbing Toy for ES Tiger Tots Childcare
K & R Gas Services, LLC DBA Apache Propane	\$2,058.33 to Boys' Baseball Team
75 Bourbon, LLC DBA The Hideaway	\$100 for Girls' Volleyball Team - Equipment & Senior Sponsor
High Street LLC	\$100 for Girls' Volleyball Team – Equipment & Senior Sponsor

The Board granted permission for Dr. Yates to advertise the 2027 budget tax levy, budget, and notice to taxpayers of a public hearing – Budget Form 3 (Correlated File #2627-02) as outlined in the district's budget calendar (Correlated File #2627-03). The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

The Board approved the district memorandum of understanding agreements for 2026-2027 as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2026-2027 Supplemental Payment Plan (Correlated File #2627-04) as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Tim Drayer passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Resolution Designating Revenue for Collective Bargaining Purposes (Correlated File #2627-05) as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates explained the 2027-2028 school calendar and review plan as presented.

The Board approved speech language pathology contracted services as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved engagement with legal counsel to establish an education foundation for the district as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

In other business, Dr. Yates informed the Board of the upcoming key dates:

- ❖ Aug 18 | BHES PreK Underwater Exploration & Tiger Tots Childcare Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Aug 18 | BHS Art Mural Installation Ceremony
- ❖ Sep 1 | BHS Volleyball Silent Night Event
- ❖ Sep 11 | Tiger Football Fundraiser Event & Blackhawk Helicopter
- ❖ Sep 12 | Bengal Brigade Banks of the Wabash Event
- ❖ Sep 18 | Forever Tigers Night

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Trent White. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie Longm
for DDB

Mike Murray
Trent White
Angel Drees

