

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET HEARING

Administration Building
September 21, 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, September 21, 2026, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Stacy Morrison, Stacy Herrold and Paige Walker, Administrators; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Communications Specialist; Arash Habibi-Soureh of Veregy; Mark Cobb and Ryan Schisler, interested patrons; and Jenna Schweikert, News-Banner representative.

Prior to the regular meeting, Dr. Yates announced the budget for the 2027 calendar year is available on the state and district websites. President Thompson asked for any public comment. Hearing no comments from the public, the Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

President Thompson thanked community members and BHMSD students who assisted those affected with the recent flooding. President Thompson also recognized BHMSD as being the only school corporation in the state designated as a Riley Children's Hospital Red Wagon Corporation since 2007, as our district and school community have donated a total of \$333,812.29 over the years. And President Thompson shared a special thank you to the Ronald Whitesell Memorial for a donation to the Bluffton Athletic Boosters organization.

President Thompson noted there was one (1) registered public commenter to speak at the meeting. The public commenter was not present at the meeting.

Minutes for the Public Hearing, Budget Work Session and Regular Board Meeting held on August 17, 2026 were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of August 18, 2026, through September 21, 2026, 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. Meitzler reported on district communications, Indiana Learns tutoring and district grants.

Dr. Yates reported on district financial information, campus signage, teacher negotiations, an upcoming SBOA audit and his involvement with the Wells County MUST task force.

Dr. Yates reported enrollment numbers with our average ADM count of 1,755.89 K-12 students.

Dr. Yates reported on the High School Lighting, High School/Middle School HVAC Project. Testing, balance and commissioning of the updated system is planned for Fall Break, to allow technicians access to all areas of the building without interrupting the academic day.

Dr. Yates provided a recap of the research and scope of the Alternative Energy project to date. Arash Habibi-Soureh of Veregy presented information about the final costs of the project, the guaranteed and expected savings, and answered questions from the Board. The Board approved the guaranteed energy savings contract as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the Education Foundation as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved a retirement request from Karen Reed, HS Culinary Arts Teacher (18 years), as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

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

Krista Baxter	MS PCC Teacher
Sidney Nash	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Kendra Stutzman	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Hailey Griner	ES Nurse
Kristi Searles	HS Girls' Swim Asst Coach

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

Christina Felger	ES Secretary & ES Yearbook Advisor
Kristina Quinn	Kindergarten Teacher
Caleb Geimer	MS PCC Teacher
Chris Kruckow	HS CTE Electrical Trades Teacher
Holly Jefferson	ES Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Alyssa Moser	ES Indiana Learns Program Manager
Allison Harter	MS Indiana Learns Program Manager
Sue Elzey	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Natalie Ray	HS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst
Elliott Apps	MS Mild Intervention Instructional Asst
Kevin Leising	Long Term Substitute Teacher for Robert Vanderkolk
Angie Ifer	Adjunct Teacher Wage Adjustment
Alyssa Moser	ES Robotics Club Sponsor
Cassandra Schoonbeck	ES Robotics Club Sponsor
Steve Linderwell	HS Girls' Swimming & Diving Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Jenny Boyd	HS Girls' Swimming & Diving Asst Coach
Intent to Employ	MS 8 th Gr Girls' Basketball Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Intent to Employ	MS 8 th Gr Girls' Basketball Coach
Allison Harter	MS Girls' Track Head Coach
Bethany Clem	MS Boys' Track Head Coach

Abby Steffen	MS Boys' Track Asst Coach
Joe Taylor	MS Boys' Track Asst Coach
Tiffani Tonner	MS Girls' Track Asst Coach
Danielle Kunkel	MS Girls' Track Asst Coach
Griselda Martinez	MS Girls' Track Asst Coach
Aaron Sturgeon	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Clint Renner	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Matthew Sturgeon	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Jackson Lambert	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Travis Roush	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Ben Burman	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Matt Beste	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Luke Reust	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Chad Grieser	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
Brett Bothast	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Phillip Heer	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Travis Roush	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Clint Renner	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Ben Burman	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Brent Kunkel	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Eric Mounsey	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Matt Beste	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Travel Coach
Elliott Apps	MS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Will Frettinger	MS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Tim Zeis	HS Wrestling Asst Coach (Volunteer)
Ian Heath	HS Wrestling Asst Coach
Karissa Carpenter	Childcare Adult Supervisor
Summer Wilson	Substitute Nurse
Mackenzie Dudley	Childcare Worker
Maddy Narvaez	Childcare Worker
Intent to Employ	ES Nurse

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

Stephanie White	MS Boys' Track Asst Coach
Trent White	Boys' Future Tigers Basketball Coach (Volunteer)

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

Amber Park	9/8/26 – 12/23/26
Caleb Lloyd	9/10/26 – 9/25/26
Kole Meyer	Intermittent Leave as Needed
Robert Vanderkolk	10/15/26 – 11/16/26
Allison Norman	1/29/27 – 3/29/27

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

Gerber Management Kyle & Alyssa Gerber	\$2,058.33 to Boys' Baseball Team
National Oil	\$1,000 to Boys' Baseball Team & \$100 to Girls' Volleyball Senior Night
Convention of States Carla Borrer	Pocket Constitutions for all Gr 8 Students
Maleny Lance	Items for Tiger Tots Childcare
Andy & Ginny Vogel	\$500 to support Bluffton Athletics

The Board approved additional district memorandum of understanding agreements for 2026-2027 as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved the 2027-2028 school calendar as presented. The motion by Tim Drayer and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates reminded board members of the upcoming ISBA Conference.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 P.M. on a motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Julie Langston
Angie Sheets

Mike Murray
for HLT