

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building
December 13, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, December 13, 2021, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Julie Meitzler, Assistant Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler, and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Jack Mellen, new faculty member; Jinny Broderick, interested patron; and Jessica Bricker, News Banner representative.

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

President Thompson opened the meeting by reporting that the elementary school is partnering with Parkview Health and Wells County Economic Development to begin the *Harvest of the Month* Program which will provide curriculum, materials, and food samples for elementary students each month and iTOWN Church is sponsoring free groceries for the community on December 14th at the elementary school. President Thompson invited all to the middle and high school band performance on December 20th at Bluffton High School. President Thompson shared that she recently attended a roundtable discussion with other school board officers and found it to be really informative as to how all have navigated the Covid 19 situation.

President Thompson noted that no interested patrons were registered for public comment prior to the meeting.

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on November 15, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Minutes for the Executive Session held on November 15, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of November 16, 2021, through December 13, 2021, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for November was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for November was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Dr. Yates announced that Mrs. Tara Cocanower was selected by her colleagues at Bluffton High School as the *2022 Educator of the Year* and presented a plaque to her for this honor.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on the Community Working Group's progress, wrapping up conversations about the four pillars including: Access, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Student Success. Additionally, the CWG identified "what" to consider, but believes the "how,

when, and to what extent” should be left to the administration and faculty at BHMSD. Initial recommendations are listed below:

BHMSD promotes an environment where all students are safe and accepted. It is our goal to enhance and improve practices emphasizing regard for all races, cultures, abilities, gender, sexual orientation, and religions, while also having respect and tolerance for views that may be different. In order to achieve this goal, the Community Work Group makes the following initial recommendations for consideration:

- ❖ *Consider professional development for all staff related to cultural responsiveness.*
- ❖ *Consider a systematic way to evaluate the implementation of Indiana Academic Standards specifically related to: employability standards, digital citizenship standards, and SEL standards.*
- ❖ *Consider the current method of communication to all stakeholders on a variety of topics and work to improve as needed in today’s technological world.*
- ❖ *Consider updates to our playground both indoor and outdoor spaces so all students can have access and an opportunity to move and play at both the elementary and middle school.*
- ❖ *Consider a thorough review of library resources in each building. This would include materials available to students in their native language as well as for current social issues.*
- ❖ *Consider reviewing the clubs available to determine diversity and provide multiple opportunities for students to know what is available and to participate in these clubs.*
- ❖ *Consider providing multiple formats for staff and students to engage in dialogue related to cultural diversity and inclusion.*
- ❖ *Consider additional proactive measures related to bully prevention.*

The CWG will pause until February 2022 to allow the BHMSD administration and faculty an opportunity to review the recommendations and begin to prioritize for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. The group will reconvene in February and quarterly thereafter to continue the discussion on how to help all children be safe and accepted in the school community.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on transportation services, payment on an insurance claim, and the status of one outstanding workman’s compensation claim. Mrs. Meitzler expressed her appreciation to the transportation department staff and the responsibilities that they have transporting students.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on district projects, district services including future planning, teacher appreciation grant stipends, professional development, inclement weather guidelines, lease payment invoices, ESSER programming, projects and expenditures, and updates to the calendar year 2022 budget process.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on the Middle School Roof Replacement and Improvements Project by informing them that the district held an initial meeting with the CMc team of Shawnee Construction and Barton-Coe-Vilamaa. The scope for services was discussed and preliminary budgets are being drafted in order to consider additional scope of work as funds are available. A secondary component of the Improvements Project involves receiving a quote for the replacement of middle school lockers.

Dr. Yates shared that EMCOR continues to move forward with engineering plans for the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project with replacements changing from horizontal units to vertical units.

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

Ashley Bowling

ES Custodian

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

Jack Mellen	MS/HS Choral Director
Peggy Diffendarfer	Bus Driver & Substitute Teacher
Neo Lewis	ES Custodian
Amber Poole	½ PK Instructional Asst. & ½ Childcare Supervisor
Karen Kelly	Transfer from ½ PK Instructional Asst. & Childcare Supervisor to full-time ES Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Richard Bricker	Transfer from Transportation to Part-Time MS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst.
Cameron Nestleroad	Childcare Worker
Doug Pressler	Asst. Baseball Coach (volunteer)
Marco Betancourt	Asst. Baseball Coach (volunteer)
Dominic McPherson	Asst. Baseball Coach (¾ stipend)
Jerry Baller	Part-Time Spec. Purpose Bus Driver
Tyson Brooks	eSports Fall & Spring Head Coach
Jonathan Morgan	eSports Fall & Spring Asst. Coach (1/2 stipend)
Kurt Smith	eSports Fall & Spring Asst. Coach (1/2 stipend)

The Board approved the following donations as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously with appreciation to Mrs. Kloer for securing the Don Wood Foundation Grant.

Don Wood Foundation Grant	\$1,012,812.78
(CTE Programming Equipment)	
Tri-Kappa	Hygiene supplies to Elementary School
Anonymous Donor	\$500 to MS students in need

At the last board meeting, the Board passed a resolution to restructure the procedure in regard to the Board Candidate voting process and the legal notice (Correlated file #2122-36) was published in the News Banner. The Board approved policy BBB (School Board Member Selection) that will align voting procedures to follow current census populations and allow all BHMSD constituents to vote for all school board candidates on first reading as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved policy EBCD-R (Emergency Closing Guidelines) on second reading as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The following policies were reviewed, with no changes necessary, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies. The motion to approve the following policies by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously as presented.

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| EDB-1 | Chemical Management Policy |
| EDB-2 | Animals in Classrooms |
| EDB-3 | Service Animals on School Property |
| EDB-3-E1 | Service Animal Registration/Agreement |
| EEACC and EEACC-R have highlighted changes as recommended per Mrs. Meitzler: | |
| EEACC | Student Conduct on School Buses |
| EEACC-R | School Bus Rules and Regulations for Students Guidelines |

The Board approved the Year-End Transfer Resolution (Correlated File #2122-37) as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved the Resolution to Transfer Amount from Education Fund to Operations Fund (Correlated File #2122-38) as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the BHMSD Health Operations Plan (Correlated File #2122-39) and approved recommended updates from the Wells County Health Department as presented. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously. The plan will be updated on the district website as required. Bruce Holland expressed appreciation to Dr. Yates for staying on top of all the changes and Mike Murray thanked the building administrators and staff for handling all the changes with district students and patrons.

The Board approved the 2022-2023 Childcare Handbook as presented. The motion by Mike Murray and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M. on a motion by Bruce Holland and second by Angie Sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Bruce E Holland
Mike Murray

Angie Sheets
Julie Thompson