

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Administration Building  
March 13, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, March 13, 2023, with all members present. Also in attendance were Dr. Brad Yates, Superintendent; Tammy Mechling, Corporation Administrative Assistant; Jessica Bricker, Corporation Communications Specialist; Steve Baker, Rick Mettler and Schlaura Linderwell, Administrators; Jim Bueter, faculty member; Steve Frettinger, interested patron; and Holly Gaskill, News-Banner representative.

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

President Holland congratulated high school band student, Kelin Cobb, who auditioned and was selected to be part of the Three Rivers Honors Band. President Holland also commended our student-athlete bowlers for their undefeated regular season (10-0), and Avery Hunt and Miken Habegger were recognized for advancing to regionals and being selected as members of the all-state team.

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

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on February 13, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures affixed thereon.

Vouchers for the period of February 14, 2023, through March 13, 2023, were approved by consensus and appropriate signatures were affixed on the voucher register.

The Fund Report for February was approved by consensus.

The Bank Statement for February was approved by consensus.

The Fund Transfer Report was approved by consensus.

Mrs. Meitzler reported on district communication statistics, faculty professional development, and grant updates.

Dr. Yates reported on district projects, debt management, district marketing, property tax bill education and initial planning for withdrawal of one school district from the Adams-Wells Special Services Cooperative.

President Holland reported that Mr. Baker has scheduled Friday, May 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. as the graduation date for the Class of 2023. The ceremony will be held in the BHS gymnasium.

Mr. Murray, in his role as legislative liaison, provided an update on the work of the Indiana General Assembly.

Dr. Yates asked permission from President Holland to alter the order of the Agenda and allow Mr. Jim Bueter, Band Director, to present information and seek approval for his proposed band

trip to the 2024 Smoky Mountain Music Festival in April of 2024. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Bruce Holland passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates reported that materials will soon be arriving for the Middle School Roof Replacement Project and work will resume to complete the roof replacement.

Dr. Yates updated the Board on the High School HVAC Guaranteed Energy Savings Project by reporting that our contractor will accommodate student-athlete programming during the summer months with a schedule that provides the best outcomes for both our student-athletes and the district's HVAC upgrade completion.

Dr. Yates reported on School Safety Opportunities. In February, the Board directed Dr. Yates to reach out to legal counsel to obtain a schedule of action steps to consider if the district wished to pursue a safety referendum. Attorneys with IceMiller provided the district with legal reference for a safety referendum and a timeline for the Board to consider. Based upon the proposed timetable from IceMiller, the district would need to take formal action in our upcoming May meeting in order to have a school safety security referendum be considered on the November ballot. The Board approved for the district to establish a proposed budget outlining the district's needs in regards to a school safety security referendum to be presented at the upcoming April meeting and be posted on our website following the April meeting. The motion by Bruce Holland and second by Trent White passed unanimously.

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

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Eric Mounsey       | HS Girls' Basketball Head Coach                                 |
| Sharlene Addington | HS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst                                  |
| Peggy Diffendarfer | HS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst                                  |
| Haylee Stewart     | HS Spec. Ed Instructional Asst                                  |
| Madison Brinneman  | HS Custodian  |
| Damaris Pacheco    | MS Art Teacher (End of the 2022-23 school year)                 |
| Alexandria Craig   | HS Alternative Program Teacher (End of the 2022-23 school year) |

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

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Joey Villanueva   | Summer School Teacher  |
| Hunter Cunningham | Summer School Teacher  |
| Taylor Reed       | Summer School Teacher  |
| Jenny Tudor       | Summer School Teacher  |
| Liz Prible        | Summer School Teacher (7/5/23 – 7/14/23)   |
| Marah Hill        | Summer School Teacher (7/17/23 – 7/28/23)  |
| Erin Roush        | Grade 3 Teacher (Start of the 2023-24 school year)   |
| Kaylee Patterson  | Internal Transfer from Grade 2 Teacher to Grade 4 Teacher (Start of the 2023-24 school year) |
| Jessica Clark     | ES Special Ed. Instructional Asst  |
| Janelle Frauhiger | ES Part-Time General Instructional Asst  |
| Adrianne Reinhard | ES Part-Time General Instructional Asst  |
| Stacey Kenyon     | HS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst   |



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Amaris Moser     | HS Intense Intervention Instructional Asst |
| Nicolle Beer     | Indiana Learns Tutoring Bus Driver         |
| Erin McKinley    | Boys' MS Track Asst Coach                  |
| Bob Dahl         | Boys' HS Track Asst Coach (Volunteer)      |
| Danielle Kunkel  | Girls' MS Track Asst Coach                 |
| Bethany Clem     | Girls' MS Track Asst Coach                 |
| Tara Cocanower   | Girls' HS Track Asst Coach (Volunteer)     |
| Bryce Bonewit    | Girls' HS Track Asst Coach (1/2 Stipend)   |
| Nicholas Deathe  | Substitute Nurse                           |
| Kris King        | Substitute Teacher                         |
| Sidney King      | Substitute Teacher                         |
| Mandy Newton     | MS Custodian                               |
| Intent to Employ | HS Custodian                               |

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

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Megan Yates    | 2/24/23 – 4/1/23 (Extension of current leave.)  |
| Lillian Weberg | 2/23/23 – 5/26/23 (Extension of current leave.) |
| Kayla Graber   | 8/7/23 – 9/15/23                                |

The Board approved a request from Javon Steffen for an extended leave from 4/17/23 – 5/24/23. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved the following donations as presented. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bluffton Lions Club   | \$125 to Elementary School and \$125 to Middle School for unpaid lunch accounts   |
| BAE Systems           | \$49.50 for Middle School Community Fund  |
| Anonymous Donor       | \$1,000 to Elementary School Community Fund   |
|                       | Various Baseball Field Improvements   |
| Bluffton Elks         | \$1,000 to the High School's Riley Children's Hospital Fundraising Drive  |
| Park Community Church | \$900 for unpaid lunch accounts   |
| Baseball Coach Staff  | Donation of time and effort to enhance baseball field   |
| Anonymous             | Undisclosed dollar amount donated to make enhancements to baseball field, along with excavation and lawn services expertise |
| Vinnie Vasquez        | \$10 to Elementary School Community Fund  |

Policy JFCIA-R was approved on second reading as presented. The motion by Trent White and second by Angie Sheets passed unanimously.

The Board approved changes to the following policies on first reading as presented, as part of an ongoing review of existing board policies. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

|     |                        |
|-----|------------------------|
| JFK | Criminal Gang Activity |
| JG  | Student Discipline     |

JG-R

Student Discipline Guidelines (Bluffton High School  
Discipline Regulation)

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

JFCK

Prevention of Crime and Violence

JFCK-R

Prevention of Crime and Violence Guidelines

JFJ

Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

The Board approved the Transfer Request Deadline Reporting Process for Out-of-District Students as June 30, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion by Angie Sheets and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

The Board approved a global settlement in the ongoing JUUL litigation with BHMSD being offered \$28,052.00 for the district's claim with the potential for an additional 8% to be paid pending further negotiations. The motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson passed unanimously.

The board approved the lease rental agreement through First American for middle and high school student devices. The motion by Julie Thompson and second by Mike Murray passed unanimously.

Dr. Yates reminded the Board of the upcoming Board Member school building tours on March 30.

With there being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M. on a motion by Trent White and second by Julie Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

Bruce E Holland  
Trent White

Julie A. Langston  
Mike Murray  
Angie Sheets