

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
April 18, 2024**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on April 18, 2024, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL:** President Terry Butler asked Board Members to log in. The following Board Members and Administrators were present or absent as noted:

Board Members Present:

Terry D. Butler  
Rikki A. Guthrie  
Sandra J. Hillan  
Frank Porras  
Karen J. Robbins  
Donald H. Rogers  
Stuart B. Schultz  
Madelyn Burton, HHS student representative

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington  
Christopher N. King  
William J. Longer  
Michael Black

Administrators Absent:

Bob Glover  
Jonathan Mock  
Tim Krieg

Board Member Absent:

Angelina Zepeda, HHS student representative

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Butler indicated that the Board met in executive session prior to the regular session. As published, the meeting was held in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1) where authorized by federal or state statute; (6) with respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction: (B) to discuss, before a determination, that individual's status as an employee, a student, or an independent contractor who is: (i) a physician or (ii) a school bus driver; and (7) for discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Butler led everyone present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE:** The following were present in the audience:

Bradley Keehn, Joan Martin and Hobart Middle School parent  
Aaron Butcher, high school teacher and varsity boys basketball coach  
Three high school varsity boys basketball athletes  
Alaina Richter, teacher at Liberty School and varsity girls basketball coach  
Three high school varsity girls basketball athletes  
One high school varsity gymnastics manager  
One high school varsity girls swimming manager  
Four high school boys and girls varsity swimmers  
One boys varsity diver  
Two high school varsity girls wrestling athletes  
Many unidentified parents and families of the student athletes being recognized

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Stuart Schultz moved and Donald Rogers seconded that the Board approve the regular session minutes of April 4, 2024. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** In the absence of Bob Glover, Business Manager, Superintendent Peggy Buffington asked Madelyn Burton, HHS student representative, to read the vouchers.

➤ Vouchers for April 18, 2024 – Madelyn Burton read the accounts payable voucher summary, as follows:

School Education \$1,047,212.38  
Exempt Operating – Post 2009 \$91,549.19  
School Operations \$769,944.88  
Construction 0700 \$152,389.71  
School Lunch \$93,031.82  
Curricular Materials \$3,456.38  
Self-Insurance Fund \$483,758.85  
Building Brickies \$624.63  
SCOH Educational Foundation \$1,516.24

SCOH Educational Legacy Grants \$325.00  
Pope Family Donation Fund \$810.00  
Secured School Safety Grant \$100,000.00  
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal \$521.80  
Title II Part A FY 2024 \$5,732.91  
Explore, Engage, Experience \$7,820.32  
ESSER III \$70,605.21  
Clearing Accounts \$496,511.38  
Self-Insurance Clearing \$110,249.61  
Clearing/Flexible Benefits AF \$58,824.12  
Clearing/Ins. Account \$5,259.68

for vouchers totaling \$3,500,144.11 with no transfers. The March payroll distribution by Dawn Powers, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$1,012,248.71.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for April 18, 2024. Rikki Guthrie seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated March 31, 2024, in their electronic Board packet: Estimated Revenue by Account, Analysis by Object, Summary of Balances by Account-Object, and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

**COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** President Terry Butler asked for comments on the listed agenda items. There were none.

**PERSONNEL:** In the absence of Jonathan Mock, Director of Human Resources and Compliance, Dr. Peggy Buffington indicated the Personnel Report and Personnel Report Addendum were included in the electronic meeting packet for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Buffington recommended approval and requested Board action.

Sandi Hillan moved that the Board approve the Personnel Reports as presented. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contracts for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –

Early Learning Center @ George Earle, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024: Aileen Boyle, Green club, \$216.00; and Amy Gruhlke, Green club, \$216.00

Joan Martin School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024: Nicole Leonard, Basketball boys, \$810.00; Nicole Leonard, Basketball girls, \$810.00; Michelle Mecha, Crazy 8 math, ses 3, \$270.00; and Rachel Sieffert, Crazy 8 math, ses 3, \$270.00

Liberty School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024: Amy Adzia, 3rd math ILearn, \$216.00; Nathaniel Lacny, Sport cup stacking, \$405.00; Susan Moore, 3rd math Ilearn, \$216.00; and Brandi Panozzo, 4th math ILearn, \$216.00

Veterans School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024: Hayley Johnson. Drama, \$1,255.50; Hayley Johnson, Girls on the Run. \$1,350.00; Natalie Otero, Book and Craft, \$270.00; Dominique Shirey, Girls basketball, \$486.00; Ellie Welsch, Girls basketball, \$486.00; Michael B. Allen, Boys basketball, \$405.00; Derek Lannon, Boys basketball, \$405.00; Jessica Lauridsen, Book and craft, \$270.00; and Ellie Welsch, Boys basketball, \$405.00

Hobart Middle School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024: Dianna Atrosh-Ciszewski, FACS session 2 and 3, \$823.50; Roland Swafford, Weightlifting, \$756.00; Laura Weller, Math homework, \$972.00; Kenneth Evans, Weightlifting, \$756.00; and Katie Rinas, Diving (extra hours), \$540.00

Retirement Resignations –

Wanda Derringer, Liberty School/custodian, effective June 11, 2024

Eike Fischer, Hobart High School/teacher, effective May 31, 2024

Peggy Orchard, Hobart High School/counselor, effective June 10, 2024

Dawn Powers, Administration Office/treasurer, effective November 1, 2024

Pamela Teer, Joan Martin School/food services, effective April 5, 2024

Custodial Department – Adjustments of position, hours, and/or pay rate –

Melissa Winicky, transferring from a food services position at Joan Martin School to a Class I custodian position at Veterans School @ Mundell, \$16.38 per hour, and 90-day probation waived for use of accrued leave time only, effective April 15, 2024

Food Services Department – Adjustments of position, hours, and/or pay rate –

Jennifer Brum, Hobart Middle School, hours adjusted from 3.5 to 5 per day and pay rate remains the same, \$14.25 per hour, effective March 18, 2024

Caroline Gonzales, Joan Martin School, transferring to cook position at the school, hours increased to 7.5 from 6, and pay rate adjusted to \$14.85 per hour from \$12.67, effective April 15, 2024

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

April 1/May 30, 2024: Carol Fonner, math, ELA & ILEARN, two hours per week and six hours total for ILEARN testing, \$52.69 per hour

March 11/May 29, 2024: Hayley Johnson, ELA, math & ILEARN, two hours per week and eight hours total for ILEARN testing, \$46.20 per hour

April 1/May 30, 2024: Heather Phillips, math, ELA & ILEARN, two hours per week and six hours total for ILEARN testing, \$66.65 per hour

February 9/March 22, 2024: Carol Fonner, math and ELA, two hours per week, \$52.69 per hour

Extracurricular Club Duty Contracts –

2023-2024 School Year

Joan Martin School: Elizabeth Heim, Dodgeball, \$162.00; April Young, Dodgeball, \$162.00; April Young, Girls on the Run; \$1,620.00; April Young, Boys basketball, \$810.00; and April Young, Girls basketball, \$405.00

Veterans School @ Mundell: Lindsay Clawson, iLearn 5th grade, \$216.00; and Nicole Zybak, Girls basketball, \$486.00

ECA Resignation –

Alaina Richter, Hobart High School/varsity girls basketball, effective April 15, 2024

Terminations –

Jennifer Dickerson, Veterans School @ Mundell/food services, effective April 8, 2024

Mackenzie Klimczyk, Early Learning Center/food services, effective April 12, 2024

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School, March 11/June 15, 2024, Baseball:

Trent Howard, varsity; \$5,519.00; Jorge Figueroa, Assistant varsity 50%, \$1,635.00; James Sutherland, Assistant varsity 50%, \$1,635.00; Daniel Gonzalez, Junior Varsity, \$3,200.00; and Bobby Wineland, 9th grade, \$3,164.00

New Employee –

Food Services Department: Martha Bello, Hobart High School/cook, effective April 16, 2024, \$13.85 per hour

**PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION of 2024 Winter Athletes at Hobart High School:** Dr. Peggy Buffington introduced Mike Black, Athletic Director. She welcomed the audience members who were present to recognize this year's winter athletes and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mike Black thanked Dr. Buffington and the Board for inviting them to the meeting so they could brag about the outstanding accomplishments of the winter sports athletes. He noted the teams had great seasons and represented the high school and the Hobart community very well. He took the opportunity to show the "Shining Moments" video for the winter sports season. Videos are prepared at the end of each sport season that show many "shining moments" of our student athletes.

- ▶ Boys Basketball – Coach Aaron Butcher highlighted the team's season and the individual accomplishments of Anthony Hnilo, First Team All-Conference; Caleb Mamushe, Academic All-Conference, and Academic All-State HM; and Felix Lopez, Second Team All-Conference. Addison Swims, Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State Honorable Mention.
- ▶ Girls Basketball – Coach Alaina Richter highlighted the accomplishments of the girls basketball team's season and spoke about each of team members being recognized, as follows: Daisy Johnson, Academic All-Conference; Emma Ortiz, All-Conference Honorable Mention; and Jesse Neace, Academic All-Conference. Cailey Weber was unable to attend the meeting but was recognized for Academic All-Conference, and Second Team All-Conference.
- ▶ Boys Diving – Mr. Black read comments from Ethan Robles' coach, Katie Rinas. He noted that Ethan had earned the following accomplishments: Academic All-Conference, Second Team All-Conference, and State Qualifier

Mike Black highlighted the accomplishments of each team's season and the individuals being recognized. He interspersed tidbits of information about many of those present and mentioned quite a few GPA's. He noted that the athletes were also successful in the classroom and that was why GPA's were mentioned.

▶ Gymnastics –

Sofija Tepavceвич, manager for four years and was recognized for being Academic All-Conference.

▶ Boys and Girls Swimming –

Addison Black, manager for girls swimming this school year and was recognized for being Academic All-Conference; Sydney Johnston, Academic All-Conference, Academic All-American, and Academic All-State; and Marie White, Academic All-Conference, Academic All-American, and Academic All-State. The following girls swimmers were unable to attend the meeting: Mia Luczak, Academic All-Conference, Academic All-American, and Academic All-State; and Zoe Johnston, Academic All-Conference, Academic All-State, and Academic All-American.

Evan Harness, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay, All Conference, and Honorable Mention 200 IM; and Anthony Garibay, Academic All-Conference, Academic All-American, and Academic All-State. The following boys swimmers were unable to attend the meeting: Brett Herrin, Academic All-Conference, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay, All Conference Honorable Mention 500 Free, Academic All-American, and Academic All-State; Christian Kertz, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay; Jaden Cano, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay, and All Conference Honorable Mention 100 Back; and Vicente Gutierrez, Academic All-Conference

▶ Girls Wrestling –

Ella Hornak, IHSWCA Sr. Second Team Academic All-State; and Jillian Wilkinson, Academic All-Conference, and IHSWCA Sr. First Team All-Conference. Those unable to attend the meeting are as follows: Alicia Salamanca, IHSWCA Jr Second Team and Academic All-American; Gabriela Moreno, Academic All-Conference, and IHSWCA Sr. First Team All-Conference; and Keirys Click, Academic All-Conference.

▶ Boys Wrestling –

Aleks Tatum, Second Team All-Conference, Regional Champ, State Qualifier, and NWCA Scholar All-American; and Jake Sparks, Academic All-Conference, NWCA Character & Leadership All-American, NWCA Scholar All-American, and IHSWCA Sr. First Team. Team members unable to attend are as follows: Aidan Costello, First Team All-Conference, Regional, Champ, State Finalist, NWCA Scholar All-American, IHSWCA Jr., and Second Team Academic All-State; Blake Doeing, All-Conference Honorable Mention; Cole Weber, First Team All-Conference; Daniel Mata, First Team All-Conference; Dominic Rivera, Second Team All-Conference; Jayden Azcona, All-Conference Honorable Mention; Josh Diaz, All-Conference Honorable Mention; Kaden Miller, Second Team All-Conference; Luke Juris, All-Conference Honorable Mention, NWCA Scholar All-American, and IHSWCA Jr. First Team Academic All-State; and Seth Aubin, First Team All-Conference, Regional Champ, State Qualifier, NWCA Scholar All-American, and IHSWCA Jr. Second Team Academic All-State. Mr. Black told everyone that the wrestling team has a new annual award called the “Jake Sparks MVT”(Most Valuable Teammate), and Jake Sparks was the first recipient because of the impact he has had on the wrestling teams during his time with the wrestling team.

▶ Winter Cheerleading –

None of the winter cheerleaders were able to attend the meeting, but those being recognized were Chloe Richards, Academic All-Conference; Dominique Zepeda, Winter Cheerleading and Academic All-Conference; Mackenzie Eberle, Academic All-Conference; and Melanie Paterson, Academic All-Conference.

On behalf of the Board and Dr. Buffington, certificates of recognition were presented to the student athletes by Dr. Buffington with the assistance of Mr. Black and Madelyn Burton, HHS student representative, after each presentation. Mr. Black noted that many of these athletes are two or three sport athletes, and even though sports are important, being student is their first and foremost job. The Board offered their congratulations to the student athletes and thanked Mr. Black for the wealth of information about them. The Board was proud of their accomplishments, dedication, and efforts at school and in their respective sports. Dr. Buffington noted her appreciation to Mr. Black for the great job he does and the same for the coaches of the sports. She extended her thanks to the parents for their continued support of their student athlete and commented they have “so much to be proud of.” She told the athletes that “you make us proud every day” and thanked them for their representation of the high school and Hobart community.

President Terry Butler invited the audience members to stay for the remainder of the meeting, but he excused anyone who wished to leave. Only Brad Keehn remained in the audience.

**RESOLUTION: Food Services Employees Recognition Day:** Resolution No. 2024-12 was presented for the Board's consideration and recognized the Food Services Employees Appreciation Day on May 3, 2024. Superintendent Peggy Buffington extended her appreciation to them for all that they do for our students.



President Terry Butler confirmed with Attorney William Longer that it would be okay to only read the titles of the resolutions being presented.

Sandra Hillan, Secretary, read the title of Resolution No. 2024-12, aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12

FOOD SERVICES EMPLOYEES APPRECIATION DAY

President Butler requested Board action followed by a roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-12, as presented. Rikki Guthrie seconded.

In the discussion, everyone concurred that they food services employees do a wonderful job.

Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-12, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12

FOOD SERVICES EMPLOYEES APPRECIATION DAY



WHEREAS, nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and

WHEREAS, Hobart's Food Service Department is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the district's students; and

WHEREAS, the staff who prepare and serve school meals helps nurture our students through their daily interaction and support; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that May 3, 2024, be designated School Lunch Hero in recognition of our food services employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School City of Hobart expresses its deepest appreciation to these valuable employees and commends their good work on behalf of our students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of School Trustees urges the entire community to recognize and show their appreciation to the Food Services Employees of the School City of Hobart.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

**RESOLUTION: Teacher Recognition Day:** Resolution No. 2024-13 was presented for the Board's consideration and designated Teacher Recognition Day on May 8, 2024. It was agreed that the same rules would apply to this resolution as it was with the first one. President Butler asked Secretary Hillan to read the title of the resolution.

Sandra Hillan, Secretary, read the title of Resolution No. 2024-13, aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13  
NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

President Butler requested Board action followed by a roll call vote.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-13, as presented. Frank Porras seconded.

In the discussion, the Board expressed their appreciation to the teachers and noted they are valued for their work. Dr. Buffington explained that the actual recognition day is May 7, but that is an E-Learning day due to the primary election. Another option was to celebrate on Monday of that week, but that would have involved having staff working on the weekend so that was why Wednesday, May 8, was selected. It was mentioned that the PTO's usually celebrate the teaching staffs throughout the week. Dr. Peggy Buffington noted that all of our teachers were very much appreciated for all that they do for their students.

Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-13, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13  
NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, great teachers make great public schools; and

WHEREAS, teachers work to open the minds of their students to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

WHEREAS, a strong, effective system of free public school education for all children and youth is essential to our democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, much of this country's progress can be attributed to qualified and dedicated teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value the community places on public education; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for this dedication and commitment to educating their students; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 8, 2024, be designated *National Teacher Appreciation Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to recognize and appreciate the impact of teachers on our lives.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

**RESOLUTION: School Nurse Appreciation Day:** Resolution No. 2024-14 recognized School Nurse Appreciation Day on May 8, 2024. Dr. Peggy Buffington extended her appreciation to all of our school nurses for all that they do for our students. President Butler indicated the same rule would apply like the prior two resolutions, and he asked Secretary Hillan to read the title of Resolution No. 2024-14.

Sandra Hillan, Secretary, read the title of Resolution No. 2024-14, aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14

SCHOOL NURSE APPRECIATION DAY

President Butler requested Board action followed by a roll call vote.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-14, as presented. Seconded by Stuart Schultz.

In the discussion, Karen Robbins commented that earlier this year her husband had surgery, and she now has a greater appreciation for what nurses do.

Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-14, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14  
SCHOOL NURSE APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, school nurses juggle a complex array of medical and social issues;

WHEREAS, for some students, the school nurse may be the only health care professional they see; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse interacts with other professionals such as teachers, doctors, administrators, school counselors, social workers, and coaches, as well as parents of students; and

WHEREAS, school nurses rise to the challenge and are healers, comforters, mentors, trainers, and role models; and

WHEREAS, school nurses focus on students, create healthy schools, are advocates, and are indispensable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 8, 2024, be designated *School Nurse Appreciation Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to recognize and appreciate the impact of school nurses on our students' lives.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra J. Hillan Secretary

**CONSIDERATION: Trademark License Agreement - C&C Custom Shirts, LLC:** Dr. Peggy Buffington presented a trademark license agreement with Courtney Osgood dba C&C Custom Shirts, LLC to use Yohan, our trademarked logo, with a 10% royalty payable to the district on a quarterly basis. The agreement is for two years from April 18, 2024, through April 17, 2026, and a copy of the agreement was attached for the Board's review.

Dr. Buffington asked the Board to approve the agreement and requested Board action.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board approve the trademark agreement with Courtney Osgood dba C&C Custom Shirts, LLC with a 10% royalty and authorize the superintendent to sign the trademark agreement. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

**AUTHORIZATION: Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund:** In the absence of Bob Glover, Business Manager, Superintendent Peggy Buffington indicated that for the budget year

2024, \$5,936,055.00 was approved for transfer from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. To date, zero dollars have been transferred. She said it was Mr. Glover's request that \$1,275,000.00 be transferred from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund and said this would leave a balance of \$4,661,055.00 available for transfer through the end of the calendar year.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Frank Porras moved that the Board approve the transfer as presented and authorize the Treasurer of the School City of Hobart to transfer \$1,275,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Stuart Schultz seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

The Authorization to Transfer \$1,275,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER \$1,275,000 FROM THE  
EDUCATION FUND TO THE OPERATIONS FUND

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees is the governing body of the School City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2023 the Board of School Trustees passed resolution 2023-28 authorizing up to \$5,936,055.00 to be transferred from the Education Fund to the Operations fund during the 2024 budget year, and

WHEREAS to date, \$0.00 has been transferred leaving \$5,936,055.00 available for transfer.

THEREFORE the Board of School Trustees authorizes the Treasurer of the School City of Hobart to transfer up to \$1,275,000.00 (one million two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars) from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund.

This authorization was approved by the Board of School Trustees on April 18, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of School Trustees

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of School Trustees

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:** The Board received the following information:

- ▶ **TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS GRADUATION:** This year's Too Good for Drugs Graduation for fifth graders will be held at 6:00 pm on April 24th the high school gym. Dr. Buffington extended an invitation to Board member to attend the graduation, and if they were coming they should be there by 5:45 pm.
- ▶ **ANNOUNCEMENT: Change in First Meeting Date in July** – Dr. Buffington told the Board, since the first meeting date in July falls on the Fourth of July, the meeting date was being rescheduled to Wednesday, July 3rd.
- ▶ **School Information** – weekly agendas all the schools and the weekly BricksCenter newsletter.
- ▶ **Upcoming Activities/Events** – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington highlighted upcoming activities/events, as follows:

April 15 – May 10 – ILEARN Test Window, 3rd – 8th grades

All students will complete English/LA and math testing. In addition, 4th and 6th grades will have a science assessment, and 5th grades will complete a social studies assessment.

April 20 – Support HHS Choir and Theatre Departments for Bingo Night at the Moose Lodge, Doors Open @ 5:00 pm and Bingo starts at 7:00 pm

April 21 – Hobart Community Band Spring Concert, Hobart Middle School Auditorium, 3:00 pm

April 21-27 – National Volunteer Week

April 22-26 – National Student Leadership Week and Early College Spirit Week

April 24 – Administrative Professionals Day

April 24 – Too Good for Drugs Graduation, Hobart High School Gymnasium, 6:00 pm



April 25 – SCOH and Tri Kappa Art Show, 4-5:00 pm with awards at 5:30 pm, HMS Brickie Café – Dr. Buffington noted this event displays art work of students in the school district.

April 28 – Brickie Bolt 3K Run/Walk Event, Hobart High School Brickyard, Gates open at 11:00 am and Race Time at 1:00 pm, sponsored by Joan Martin School and Liberty School PTO's – Dr. Buffington mentioned this event was “a lot of fun.”

► CITY OF HOBART & SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART ONLINE AUCTION: The School City of Hobart Service Center Departments will be participating in the City of Hobart's online auction through Kraft Auction on May 23, 2024. Some of the surplus items on their school district's list are as follows: Chevy Impala security vehicle, Kubota tractor, Kubota blowers, 8' x 24' cargo trailer, miscellaneous cafe tables, and old buses.

**COMMENTS:** From the administration, Dr. Peggy Buffington told the Board that the Makers Fair was fun and a great time with the students and their projects. She was proud of all of the efforts of all the students, and The PLTW (Project Lead The Way) projects were great. Due to the unseasonably warm weather, students at the high school were requesting that the air conditioning be turned on. She noted the last “Cooking with Friends” Voice and Choice at the high school had extra students stopping by for food. Some students had not been able to get in the class and a few others just knew there was food. Dr. Buffington told Maddy Burton she would miss her greatly when she leaves because she was always willing to help with functions whenever Dr. Buffington asked her to participate or help with a project. She mentioned that the Town Hall with Sal Khan would be happening on April 26, and everyone was working hard to get all of the moving parts in order. Chris King agreed that the Makers Fair was another amazing evening. He extended his thanks and appreciation to Maddy Burton for her assistance with the last minute registrations and helping to setup the spaces for those students. Chris King said the season was ending for the E-sports teams at the high school and middle school, and he indicated that just before the Board meeting, he received notification that two high school E-sports teams, Valorant and Super Smash Brothers Ultimate, would be advancing to state competition. Everyone extended their congratulations to him and the teams. He said that a middle school team made it to semi-finals and told the Board they had “an amazing first year.” Dr. Buffington inquired how many middle school teams there were competing in E-sports in our area, and Mr. King responded not very many with most being more in the center of the state. Dr. Buffington and Mr. King commented on a couple of the students at the Makers Fair who had outstanding technology projects. Bill Longer commented he was sorry that he missed a couple of meetings. Everyone was glad that he was feeling better.

From the audience, Bradley Keehn commented that he enjoys hearing Mike Black speak about the student athletes because you can hear his passion as he mentions their accomplishments/successes in and out of the classroom.

From the Board, Frank Porras enjoyed the recognition of the student athletes and was equally impressed that they were also good students. Don Rogers commented that Mike Black was a great athletic director. He noted he had been an athletic director for one semester and thought it was “worse than working in the mill.” He was impressed with the student athletes' GPA's. Karen Robbins commented that she always enjoys the recognition of the student athletes and hearing about their accomplishments, as well as their GPA's. She mentioned that she was back at the food pantry, and she thanked Dr. Buffington for the cereal drive from the schools. She said they really needed the cereal. Stu Schultz extended his congratulations to Chris King and the E-sports teams going to state competition and for the program's expansion to include middle school students. In addition, he noted that the athletes were impressive in and out of the classroom. Madelyn Burton congratulated the winter athletes and noted she was friends with many of them. In addition, she thanked the Board for recognizing them, and she appreciated having the opportunity to be a part of it. In addition, she offered congratulations to the Innovate WithIN students, as well as the two E-sports teams going to state. Sandi Hillan offered her congratulations to the student athletes and noted they probably do not realize the importance of those GPA's at this time in their life. She extended her appreciation to the food services employees for and for the great job they do, especially preparing two meals a day, during the school year and with the summer feed program. She extended her congratulations and appreciation to the teaching staff and commented that they were “being beat up” by the state legislators. The teachers in the district “do a wonderful job,” and the district does a good job of acknowledging and appreciating what their staff does. In addition, she noted the importance of the school nurses and extended her appreciation and congratulations to them. She told Maddy Burton that she would be missed. Rikki Guthrie thanked Maddy Burton for serving with the Board, her participation at the high school, and said she would miss her and Angelina. She extended her congratulations to the food serves employees and said they were very deserving of the recognition, and she extended her thanks and appreciation for all that the teachers do for their students. Mrs. Guthrie extended her appreciation to the school nurses and commented they were “a whole other breed.” She offered her congratulations to Chris King and the E-sports teams. She told the administration team “to stay strong” because the school year was “almost done.” Terry Butler noted how things have changed. He commented that years ago he coached middle school wrestling, they had a small team, and there were two girls who also wanted to participate. The school administration was surprised that he was willing to let them wrestle. They did do not well, but they were there. Girls wrestling will soon be a sanctioned sport statewide, and he mentioned the increased interest in women's sports, particularly NCAA basketball. He noted Caitlin Clark's contract in WNBA basketball will be for millions of dollars. Dr. Buffington complimented Mike Black for the

videos he does at the end of each sport season. She told the Board that an area superintendent visited our Aquatic Center and another area school's facilities that were designed by the same architect, and he told her our pool was incredible. She was grateful to have the pool, and the support of the taxpayers to be able to build it. Dr. Buffington noted that some area administrators even bring their family members to our pool. Karen Robbins noted that the prime reason for the successful building projects was because Dr. Buffington was "at the helm." Dr. Buffington said it was built to be a community pool and noted that a great amount of time was spent with the designs of all of the projects. Terry Butler and Dr. Buffington explained what happened to the pool that was included in the design of the high school to Mr. Keehn. The school was designed with a 25-meter pool. As part of the school building process, state approval was needed, and the new governor, Mitch Daniels, instituted new rules/guidelines, pertaining to the costs of school projects. That meant that the state wanted \$5,000,000 cut from the building project even though there was not one remonstrance from the community to the project. The state wanted the fieldhouse removed from the project, but because the district had already received a large grant for the field house, it was decided to cut the swimming pool instead. In addition, because of the state delays in approving the project, construction costs had increased. Also, during this time, the state reduced the school district's funding by over a million dollars two years in a row. The swimming community was very upset when the pool was cut so they were willing helpers to seeing the new pool built. The community approved a capital referendum for the Veterans Elementary School @ Mundell and the Aquatic Center at the high school. It was noted that the taxpayers have been very good to the school district, and the district had the support of the senior citizens. Community support will be needed to keep transportation services "alive and going." Dr. Buffington said that there will be an upcoming work session on May 16th where long range planning for the district will be discussed. She noted the high school will be paid off in December of 2028, and it was mentioned the school still looks "brand new." Terry Butler noted that school districts were "getting squeezed more and more" by the state, and the problems that Hammond is now facing "will be spreading to the other school districts." It was noted that state funding would only be increasing by \$250,000 next year, which will not cover the cost of insurance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:33 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular session meeting is May 2, 2024.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: May 2, 2024