

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

August 15, 2024

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on August 15, 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
Frank Porras
Karen J. Robbins
Donald H. Rogers
Stuart B. Schultz
Kayla Davis, HHS student representative
Isis Fleming, HHS student representative

Board Member Absent:

Sandra J. Hillan

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington
Christopher N. King
William J. Longer
Russell Mellon

Administrators Absent:

Bob Glover
Jonathan Mock
Tim Krieg

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; (7) for discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute; and (9) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees.

CALL TO ORDER: Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:04 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 School and Hobart Middle School parent
Jo Bonner, Manager, Hobart Branch, Lake County Public Library
Justina Kaiser, Hobart Branch, Lake County Public Library
Jim Stolarz, Adams-Remco, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stuart Schultz moved and Karen Robbins seconded that the Board approve the regular session minutes of August 1, 2024. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The HHS student representatives were asked to read the vouchers for the Board's consideration:

- Vouchers for August 15, 2024 – Kayla Davis and Isis Fleming, HHS student representatives, shared the reading of the accounts payable voucher summary with Kayla reading the first portion and Isis the last portion, as follows:

School Education \$800,214.87
Exempt Operating – Post 2009 \$27,115.44
School Operations \$429,531.98
Construction 0700 \$611,694.98
Construction Projects \$31,584.42
School Lunch \$23,474.79
Curricular Materials \$174,109.04
Self-Insurance Fund \$732,871.77
Community Gifts and Donations \$1,619.62
Building Brickies \$266.41
SCOH Educational Foundation \$2,000.00
Formative Assessment Grant \$33,202.40
Title IV ICAP Grant \$260.00
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal \$174.65
Title II Part A FY 2024 \$1,178.04
Explore, Engage, Experience \$6,246.05
ESSER III \$22,742.83
Clearing Accounts \$400,216.81

Self-Insurance Clearing \$55,369.33
Clearing/Flexible Benefits AF \$59,748.88
Clearing/Ins. Account \$5,821.11
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$21.62

for vouchers totaling \$3,419,465.04. The July payroll distribution by Tracy Brumley, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$1,635,677.19.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for August 15, 2024. Karen Robbins seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated July 31, 2024, in their electronic Board packet: Analysis by Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, 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, Superintendent 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.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the Personnel Reports, as presented. Seconded by Frank Porras. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Teacher Contract – 2024-2025 –

Morgan Morrow, Hobart High School and Hobart Middle School/teacher, August 12, 2024/June 4, 2025, (184days), \$66,194.00

Temporary Contract – 2024-2025 –

Melinda Sanders, Liberty and Veterans Elementary Schools, August 12, 2024/June 4, 2025 (184 days), \$50,000.00

Resignations –

Swanger Gibson, Service Center/Transportation – school bus driver, effective August 1, 2024

Cynthia James, Service Center/Transportation – bus matron, effective August 8, 2024

Nicole Mundo, Early Learning Center @ George Earle/aide-student supervisor, effective September 4, 2024

Katelynn Wyatt, Hobart High School/custodian, effective August 15, 2024

Nina Serrano, Service Center/Transportation /bus matron, effective August 23, 2024

Edmond Thomas, Hobart High School/custodian, effective August 13, 2024

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School:

Football, August 5/November 30, 2024: Rob Segudovic, assistant varsity, \$5,132.00; Eric Schreiber, Sr., assistant varsity, \$5,132.00; Michael Burton, head 9th grade, \$3,587.00; Peyton Schreiber, 9th grade, \$3,035.00; and Gerald Valenzuela, 9th grade, \$3,035.00

Boys Soccer, August 5/November 2, 2024: Charles Richardson, JV, \$2,084.00

Girls Soccer, August 5/November 2, 2024: Toby Provins, varsity, \$4,593.00; and Gervea Sison, JV, split 50%, \$1,256.00

Boys Tennis, August 5/October 26, 2024: Cade Brumley, varsity, \$4,166.00

Girls Volleyball, August 5/November 9, 2024: Stephanie Teer, JV, \$3,664.00; Kristy Hawkins, 9th grade, \$3,663.00; and Jackie Keefe, 9th grade, \$3,112.00

Cheer, August 5, 2024/March 29, 2025: Angie Vera, varsity, \$3,322.00; and Maya Guernsey, assistant varsity, \$1,893.00

Girls Golf, August 2/October 5, 2024: Gary Roach, varsity, \$3,222.00; and Christina Hairston, JV, \$1,306.00

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

Kathy Ragon, transfer to a Class I custodian position at the Early Learning Center @ George Earle, effective August 19, 2024

Krista Bunch, rehire of a former custodial employee as a Class I custodian at Hobart High School, effective April 12, 2024, probation waived and pay rate of \$16.38 per hour

Lisa Drwal, transferring from Veterans Elementary to Class III custodian at the Early Learning Center, pay rate of \$18.20 per hour, effective August 13, 2024

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

Dahlia Cooper, rehire of a former school bus driver with a pay rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective August 6, 2024

Request for Leave of Absence –

Judith Tallant, Hobart High School/food services, medical leave, effective August 14 through on or about September 2, 2024

New Employees –

Service Center – Food Services Department:

Raychel Bridges, Hobart Middle School/café manager, effective August 9, 2024, \$16.38 per hour

Kelly Ingram, Joan Martin School/server-dishroom, effective August 9, 2024, \$12.67 per hour

Zahira Perez, Early Learning Center @ George Earle/cashier-kitchen prep, effective August 9, 2024, \$13.25 per hour

Kathleen Riley, Joan Martin School/cashier-kitchen prep, effective August 9, 2024, \$13.25 per hour

Rhoda Soto, Joan Martin School/cashier-kitchen prep, effective August 9, 2024, \$13.25 per hour

Contract for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –

Nicole Kelly, Early Learning Center @ George Earle, Jump Start, August 12, 2024/June 4, 2025, \$567.00

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

Katherine Garrett, transferring from Joan Martin School to Hobart Middle School, server-dishroom, with the same pay rate of \$13.25 per hour, effective August 14, 2024

PRESENTATION: Hobart Branch of the Lake County Public Library: Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed Jo Bonner, Branch Manager, and Justina Kaiser, from the Hobart Public Library. She noted that Ms. Bonner was a former elementary student of hers and was very proud of her.

Ms. Bonner and Ms. Kaiser spoke to the Board about their Summer Reading program, as well as other activities going on at the library. They distributed a library bookbag with information pertinent to their activities. It was noted that there were 258 people enrolled in the Summer Reading program. Of those, 116 were children, and 33 were teens. The participants read a total of 435,585 minutes, equivalent to 7,259.75 hours, or 302.5 days. About 55% of enrolled children read 10 hours or more, as did 56% of enrolled teens. Most of the younger participants came from Joan Martin Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Veterans Elementary Schools, homeschoolers, and preschoolers. Most of the teen participants were from Hobart Middle School or were homeschooled. Throughout the Lake County Public Library system, a total of 559 teens participated, and 114 of them read 10 hours or more. It was noted that another initiative the library was instituting for grades 6-12 was the reading of 100 books before graduation from high school. Prizes will be earned for every 25 books the participants read. They also mentioned that September was National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the digital library card allows access to the digital resources they have available to their patrons. They will be visiting the schools in the near future to distribute this year's digital library cards.

Dr. Buffington indicated the school district would be happy to continue sharing the library's monthly calendar and other information in the district's weekly newsletter, *Focus on Education*. She thanked Ms. Bonner and Ms. Kaiser for their summer reading activities "promoting the love of reading." The Board thanked them for their presentation and attending the meeting.

PRESENTATION: Opening of the 2024-2025 School Year: Dr. Peggy Buffington highlighted how the opening of the 2024-2025 school year went and had a video of the Hobart staff's Olympics that was shown on the screens in the Board Room. She narrated the video of the competition between the schools in various different "Olympic categories" and noted the staff enjoyed themselves, and it was a great, team-building way to start of the school year. She commented that kindergarten enrollment numbers were still down, and Veterans School's enrollment was over 600 students.

Dr. Buffington commented that because this was such a busy week for everyone, she decided not to ask the new teachers and their respective principals to attend the Board meeting. Instead, she reviewed a slide show of pictures of the new teachers, including the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative (NIESC) staff members that were assigned to the district. Dr. Buffington commented that several of the NISEC staff had been teaching in Merrillville who withdrew from the special education cooperative. The list included the teachers' names and where they were teaching, and it was included with the electronic meeting information. The list is as follows:

Carrie Kietzman, PE/health at Hobart High School, a former Hobart teacher, and a Hobart graduate

Stephen Markos, EL teacher at Hobart High School and Hobart Middle School, a returning teacher, and a Hobart graduate

Veronique Henry, JAG teacher at Hobart High School (Dr. Buffington explained she works for an outside agency and is assigned to the district. JAG is a program that helps students explore in-demand employability skills and provides a bridge to post-secondary education and career advancement opportunities. She said the students would have many study trips.)

Mindy Sanders, Fourth grade at Liberty School (long-term sub)

Amelia Marshall, Fourth grade at Veterans School, and a Hobart graduate

Kaitlyn Pecoski, Third grade at Veterans School

Sharon Castellanos, Fifth grade at Veterans School, former Brickies from the Start parent educator, and a former Hobart teacher

Taylor Louie, Counselor at the Early Learning Center

Amanda Viator, Second grade at Veterans School, a Hobart graduate, and wife of a former student Board representative

Morgan Morrow, Computer science at Hobart High School and Hobart Middle School

Michelle Mullins, NISEC District Director for the school district

Tiffany Scott, NISEC LRE at Joan Martin School

Madeline Livinghouse, NISEC SEL at Joan Martin School

Jennifer Clemens, NISEC LRE at Hobart High School

Barbara Luevano, NISEC LRE at Hobart High School

Pam Cunningham, NISEC LRE at Hobart Middle School

Shelley Ray, NISEC Intense long-term sum at Hobart High School

Maddy Fernandez, NISEC Lifeskills at Joan Martin School

Mickey Hanley, NISEC Hearing impaired at Joan Martin School and former Hobart teacher

Haley Govert, NISEC Behavior specialist at Joan Martin School

RESOLUTION: Lease Agreement: Attorney William Longer reviewed Resolution No. 2024-23 for the lease agreement for copy machines and colors printers for the Board's consideration. Russell Mellon, Director of Information Technology Services, indicated he requested four Requests for Proposal (RFP) from four vendors, Xerox, Adams Remco, ProvenIT, and Impact. Xerox and Adams Remco returned proposals, and ProvenIT and Impact did not. Mr. Mellon noted that the lease covered printers at the Administration Office and the Service Center, and due to problems with the color printers at the schools, he added new color printers for them, as part of the proposal. This new lease replaces end-of-life equipment on the prior lease which will be paid off this year. The lowest proposal was from Adams Remco who is the current vendor. The vendor RFP information was included with the electronic meeting information, and the proposals from Xerox and Adams Remco are listed below:

Xerox					
			Monthly	Yearly	5-Year
Lease			\$2,501.71	\$30,020.52	\$150,102.60
	Rate/Page	Pages/Month			
B&W Usage	\$0.0066	73,500	\$485.10	\$5,821.20	\$29,106.00
Color Usage	\$0.0506	4167	\$210.85	\$2,530.20	\$12,651.01
Total			\$3,197.66	\$38,371.92	\$191,859.61
Notes	Xerox is unable to provide an amortization schedule, as required by our business department, with their lease. Xerox doesn't not include a monthly allotment of pages. Monthly usage costs based on number of pages as included with Adams Remco quote.				
Adams Remco					
			Monthly	Yearly	5-Year
Lease			\$2,436.46	\$29,237.52	\$146,187.60
	Rate/Page	Pages/Month			
B&W Usage	\$0.0036	Included 73,500	\$264.58	\$3,175.00	\$15,875.00
Color Usage	\$0.0260	Included 4167	\$108.33	\$1,300.00	\$6,500.00
Total			\$2,809.38	\$33,712.52	\$168,562.60
Notes	Adams Remco includes 73,500 B&W and 4167 color pages as part of the maintenance agreement. Page Rate is only used when over monthly allotment, which is calculated quarterly to allow for overages and underages to balance each other.				

President Butler asked Mr. Longer if it would be sufficient for Vice President Rikki Guthrie to read the title of the resolution and the first paragraph. He indicated it was, and Brad Keehn, audience member, concurred he was agreeable to doing that.

Mrs. Guthrie then read the title and first paragraph as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2024-23

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Documents
Approving Lease Purchase Agreement for Equipment
and Authorizing Payment Pursuant to its Terms

WHEREAS, the School City of Hobart engages in significant in house document production and duplication district wide and to support operations of individual offices, and

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-23 as presented, and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to execute the necessary documents. Seconded by Karen Robbins.

In the discussion, Bill Longer noted that there had been lengthy discussion with Adams Remco and the expectations regarding the lease. To meet those expectations, Adams Remco returned to the bank they had used with the past lease because the other bank's lease did not meet the requirements. The Board extended thanks to Mr. Longer and Mr. Mellon for their work on this proposal.

Vote on motion: In the absence of Secretary Sandra Hillan, Vice President Rikki Guthrie called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Guthrie, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-23, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2024-23

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Documents
Approving Lease Purchase Agreement for Equipment
and Authorizing Payment Pursuant to its Terms

WHEREAS, the School City of Hobart engages in significant in house document production and duplication district wide and to support operations of individual offices, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the School City of Hobart, as purchasing agent, through her designee, the Director of Information Technology Services, has determined the equipment needed, and secured competitive pricing for said equipment in compliance with the public purchasing laws of the State of Indiana and the policies of the Board of School Trustees, and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to document approval of the vendor and terms of acquisition by the Board of School Trustees,

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart that the actions of the Superintendent and her designee in securing the best price for needed equipment for the School City of Hobart is found to be in the best interest of the district, and are hereby approved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute the Lease Purchase Agreement and related documents, and that payment of the amounts due pursuant to the terms of said agreement is hereby authorized, and the Business Manager is authorized to take any action necessary to fulfill the obligations created by said agreement.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2024.

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

By: _____
Terry D. Butler, President

Attest: _____
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Receipt of School Extracurricular SA-5 Reports: In the absence of Bob Glover, Business Manager, Superintendent Buffington told the Board that school corporations needed to file a report of their fund balances, receipts, and expenditures for their extra-curricular accounts (ECA) each year, and the report is called the ECA Risk Report. The report is used by the State Board of Accounts to develop criteria to examine the extra-curricular accounts. The Indiana State Board of Accounts states in part that a report of the ECA account (SA-5) be submitted to the school board after the close of each school year. She noted that the SA-5 reports were submitted on Gateway, and the individual SA-5 reports for each of our schools were included with the electronic meeting information for the Board's review.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Karen Robbins moved that the school board acknowledges receipt of the ECA Risk reports for their review as required by Indiana Code. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

In the discussion, it was noted that the athletic booster clubs were not included with this information.

Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

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

➤ School Information – weekly agendas from the Early Learning Center, and Liberty School.

COMMENTS: President Butler asked the audience members if they had any comments, and they had none.

From the administration, Dr. Buffington told the Board it was “a terrific week” with a couple of days for team building and professional development for staff with programs such as Parent Square, and a lot with Khanmigo, and they had time to work in their classrooms, as well. She extended her appreciation to staff members who did curriculum mapping this summer. In addition, she mentioned that she spoke with the Chief of Police who told her when Wisconsin Street is closed for the bridge replacement, they were thinking about putting in a temporary traffic light at 8th and Lincoln Streets. She told him that they needed assistance to get the buses through 10th and Lincoln Streets. Yesterday was the first bus day, and “It was all hands-on deck.” Dr. Buffington noted there were no lost kindergarten students, and she complimented Mat McKee and his staff for the great job they have done. She noted the huge accomplishment of the Food Services staff for preparing 45,000 meals this summer compared to 4,000 meals last summer. In addition, she said thanked the Technology Department for getting all of the Verkada cameras installed, and she said the SRO's and administrators received training on their use. She extended her appreciation to those who worked throughout the summer. The custodians and maintenance/grounds have gotten the schools and grounds ready for school. Transportation for summer school at the high school, third grade at Veterans, and the Victory4Kids summer program at Veterans went very well. Matt McKee and his school bus drivers did a great job. After the election, Dr. Buffington told the Board that she would be talking to them about renewing the referendum to cover transportation department's services. Her proposed theme was Renew the Referendum to Ride. Chris King said it was a very busy summer and said school had gotten off to a good start, and he has gotten many “positive vibes” and lots of smiles from staff and students who seem to be glad to be back in school. Bill Longer was “glad to be back” and was “sorry he missed the last meeting.” He was pleased to read about the proposed changes to the draft verbiage for the new diplomas and the list of colleges/universities who were now signing on with the changes. Dr. Buffington mentioned that the second draft came about because of the comments from the public, as well as those of educators, colleges/universities, businesses, the trades, etc. Russ Mellon felt the opening of school was more energetic this year and agreed with Mr. King about “happier vibes.” He mentioned the tech team processed 1,800 Chromebooks before school started as well as all of the other things that needed to be completed. He commented that his oldest son was now a ninth grader at the high school, and he was not sure how that could be. He noted that his youngest son would be a ninth grader in 2032. Dr. Buffington mentioned that Mr. Mellon turned 50 yesterday, and he received belated birthday greetings.

From the Board, Frank Porras was glad the school year got off to a good start and hoped everyone would have a great school year. Don Rogers extended his congratulations for the start of an outstanding school year and thanked everyone involved with the preparations to get it done. Mr. Rogers apologized for not being able to make the popcorn for Brickie Rush. Dr. Buffington noted that for Brickie Rush the ninth graders are at the high school for activities during the day, and parents come for a spaghetti dinner and presentation in the evening. She noted that Co-Principal Craig Osika decided that he would make the popcorn and enlisted the help of his Co-Principal, Colleen Newell. Mr. Rogers mentioned he gave Mr. Osika the recipe. Needless to say, it took way longer than expected to make the popcorn, and the popcorn did not compare with the quality of what Mr. Rogers makes because some of it was burnt. Dr. Buffington noted it takes “a different skill level” to do the job.” Karen Robbins thanked everyone “for getting school off to a great start.” In addition, she thanked the School City for their food pantry donation. Stu Schultz extended his appreciation “for all your hard work all summer long” preparing for the new school year and noted it was “a huge task.” Kayla Davis said school got off to a great start and was very organized. She was looking forward to the upcoming senior activities and noted the donation to the Hobart Food Pantry. Isis Fleming commented, “It takes a lot of work to make something look easy,” and she extended her thanks to those for making that happen at the high school. Rikki Guthrie extended her congratulations on the start of another school year and thanked everyone “for all of the hard work and time to

make it happen.” She mentioned the community’s appreciation for the Food Services Department’s summer food program. She noted there were “178 more days” in the school year and said the year would go by quickly. Terry Butler mentioned about Mr. Mellon turning 50 and said his son was retiring at 50, and he was working on “what he is going to do.”

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 7:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is September 5, 2024.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: September 5, 2024