

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
August 19, 2021**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on August 19, 2021, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

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

Board Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington
Bob Glover
Christopher N. King
William J. Longer
Jonathan Mock
Tim Krieg
Lori Anderson

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Butler indicated that the Board did not meet in an executive session meeting prior to the regular session.

CALL TO ORDER: Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:00 p.m.

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

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Joe and Jane Clemmons, parents of Andrew Clemmons
Andrew Clemmons, high student and 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
Randy and Polly Griffith, grandparents of Andrew Clemmons
Doug Adams, new counselor at Hobart Middle School
Shelby Clindaniel, new counselor at Hobart High School
Savannah Tilford, new teacher at Hobart Middle School
Daphne Pantazis, new teacher at Hobart Middle School
Brian Richter, new NISEC teacher at Hobart Middle School
Maceo Rainey, TRIO Program Director from Purdue Northwest
Lisa M. Daugherty, President & CEO Center of Workforce Innovations

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the executive session and regular session minutes of August 5, 2021. Seconded by Stuart Schultz. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Schultz, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Bob Glover, Business Manager, presented the following for the Board's consideration and recommended approval:

- Vouchers for August 19, 2021 – Olivia Garcia and Morgan Sanchez, HHS student representatives, shared the reading of the accounts payable voucher summary with Olivia reading the first portion and Morgan the last portion, as follows:

School Education Fund \$1,101,493.10
Operating Referendum Fund \$267,401.31
School Operations Fund \$459,067.20
Construction Fund 700 \$99,792.95
Construction Fund 701 \$17,127.00
Construction Projects \$12,496.00
School Lunch \$57,946.75
Textbook Rental Fund \$59,965.32
Self-Insurance Fund \$572,671.92
Community Gifts and Donations \$3,970.38
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal \$284.00
ESSER III \$149,506.21
ESSER II \$182,260.27
Fed Stimulus-18003 Ed Stabilization Relief \$5,652.50

Clearing Accounts \$354,387.45
Self- Insurance Clearing \$1,851.51
Clearing/Insurance Account \$7,943.98
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$45.00

for a total of \$3,353,862.85 with no transfers. The July payroll distribution by Dawn Powers, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$1,273,876.40.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for August 19, 2021. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Schultz, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

In addition, Mr. Glover indicated the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated July 31, 2021, 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: There were no comments from the audience or Board members on the listed agenda items.

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

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

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

In the discussion, the Board noted that Mr. Mock had been a very busy person. He noted that he processed the employment information, which Dr. Buffington then approved, and Pat Schoon put it all together for the personnel reports.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Correction to August 5, 2021 Personnel Report Addendum –
Summer School Contracts: Ryan Williams, teaching 8 Math, not health

Summer School Contracts –
Veterans @ Mundell, July 27/August 13, 2021:
Martha Carnahan, 14 days, \$1,800.90
LaToya Greenwood, 14 days, \$1,390.80
Holli Kostbade, 14 days, \$1,236.00
Amy Mihalich Gruhlke, 14 days, \$1,390.80
Alyssa Skertich, 14 days, \$1,152.30
Alaina Richter, 14 days, \$1,152.30
Harley Sutton, 14 days, \$1,152.30
Christa Wein, 14 days, \$1,152.30
Trevor Wiesemann, 14 days, \$1,152.30
Beth York, 14 days, \$1,800.90

Resignations –
Allison Boudreau, Early Learning Center @ George Earle/teacher, effective August 13, 2021
Shari Brown, Hobart High School/administrative assistant, effective August 6, 2021
Emily LaVelle, Joan Martin School/teacher, effective August 10, 2021
Kerry Batistatos, Hobart High School/administrative assistant, effective August 18, 2021

Service Agreements –
August 24, 2020/June 9, 2021: Kriste Bell, Hobart High School/Special Education Department Chair (50%), \$523.50
August 18, 2021/June 2, 2022: Kriste Bell, Hobart High School/Special Education Department Chair (50%), \$523.50

Teacher Contracts – 2021-2022 –

August 16, 2021/June 3, 2022:

Kataryzna (Kasia) Gacek, Liberty School/teacher, 184 days, \$43,600.00
Nicole Leonard, Joan Martin School/teacher, 184 days, \$42,400.00
Stephen Markos, Hobart Middle School/teacher, 184 days, \$42,400.00
Christa Wein, Joan Martin School/Title I teacher, one-half day, 184 days, \$21,200.00
and interventionist aide, one-half day, \$14.16 per hour

Transfers of Assignment –

Nicole Kelly

From: Temporary Teacher Contract/Early Learning Center @ George Earle/teacher
To: Regular Teacher Contract/Early Learning Center @ George Earle/teacher,
effective August 16, 2021

Michelle Burton

From: Hobart Middle School/aide
To: Early Learning Center @ George Earle instructional aide, effective 2021-2022
school year

Michelle Frazee

From: Early Learning Center @ George Earle instructional aide
To: Early Learning Center @ George Earle/media specialist, effective 2021-2022
school year

Carly Gregory

From: Early Learning Center @ George Earle/student supervisor
To: Early Learning Center @ George Earle instructional aide, effective 2021-2022
school year

Rebecca Williams

From: Joan Martin School/student supervisor
To: Joan Martin School/media center aide, effective 2021-2022 school year

Corina Heredia

From: Veterans School @ Mundell/instructional aide
To: Veterans School @ Mundell/Title I aide, 170 days, part time, effective 2021-2022
school year

Brienne Snedecor

From: Joan Martin School/media center aide
To: Administration Office/payroll officer, \$170.05 per day

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School, football, August 2/November 27, 2021:

Steve McIntyre, assistant varsity, \$4,838.00; Rob Segudovic, assistant varsity, \$4,838.00;
James McCormack, junior varsity, \$4,560.00; Anthony Sansone, 9th grade, \$3,034.00;
and Terrance Turner, head 9th grade, \$3,641.00

Hobart High School/tennis, August 2/October 23, 2021:

Kenny Walsh, boys varsity, \$3,121.00; and Cade Brumley, boys junior varsity, \$1,561.00

Hobart High School/volleyball, August 2/November 6, 2021:

Kristy Hawkins, 9th grade, \$3,453.00

New Employees –

Kyle Bultema, Joan Martin School/MTSS instructional aide, part time, effective for the
2021-2022, school year, \$11.67 per hour, no probation

Jody Gawthrop, Hobart Middle School/MTSS instructional aide, part time, effective for
the 2021-2022 school year, \$14.16 per hour, no probation

Jill Bober. Early Learning Center @ George Earle/school nurse, part time, effective for
the 2021-2022 school year, \$22.69 per day, no probation

Jennifer Dickerson, Hobart High School/food services, effective August 16, 2021, \$11.67
per hour

Samantha Gonzalez, Hobart Middle School/food services, effective August 16, 2021,
\$10.70 per hour

Elizabeth Williams, Service Center/bus aide and school bus driver, effective August 16,
2021, \$13.78 per hour as bus aide; then \$15.31 per hour when CDL is received for bus
driver

Linda Ban, Hobart High School/food services, effective August 16, 2021, \$11.67 per hour

Salary Adjustment –

Increase the hourly pay rate for substitute custodians to \$12.00 per hour, effective
August 9, 2021

ECA Resignations –

Diane Bali, Hobart Middle School/PLTW Department Head, effective August 9, 2021

Marissa Madrigal, Hobart Middle School/ECA duties, effective August 19, 2021

Service Agreements –

August 18, 2021/June 2, 2022: Deborah Glass, Hobart Middle School/Sports Coordinator, \$2,000.00

August 16, 2021/June 3, 2022: Terrance Turner, Hobart High School/MTSS & Aspire, 184 days, \$42,491.00

Building Brickies Program 2021-2022 –

Early Learning Center @ George Earle/Building Brickies:

DeAnn Jennette, Coordinator, part time, 212 days, 2021-2022 school year, \$34,500.00

Kim Hendricks, Community Outreach Specialist, part time, 24 hours per week, August 16, 2021/June 2, 2022, \$13.50 per hour

Jackie Jenkins, Parent Educator, part time, 29 hours per week, August 24, 2021/June 4, 2022, \$16.00 per hour

Jill Runyan, Parent Educator, part time, 29 hours per week, August 16, 2021/June 2, 2022, \$16.00 per hour

Amanda Johnston, Administrative Assistant, part time, 10 hours per week, August 16, 2021/June 2, 2022, \$11.50 per hour

Request for Leave of Absence –

Carol Edelen, Liberty School/custodian, FMLA Extension (from 27 to 60 days), August 5 through September 20, 2021

Change in Contract Status –

Due to a recent clarification from the Indiana Department of Education, the following personnel are considered licensed teachers and are eligible for a Regular Teachers Contract:

Hobart High School, August 16, 2021/June 3, 2022:

Mark Volk, JROTC instructor, 184 days, \$88,200.06

Scott Buhmann, JROTC instructor, 184 days, \$106,204.56

Shaun Doyle, Work Place Specialist/computer networking, 184 days, \$49,390.00

Greg Crouch, Work Place Specialist/radio/TV & graph design, 184, \$50,167.00

Valentine Torres, Work Place Specialist/business courses, \$55,188.00

Darren Sandilla, Work Place Specialist/criminal justice, 184 days, \$46,688.00

Daniel Schultz, Work Place Specialist/PLTW engineering, 184 days, \$56,120.00

Jill Cawthon, Work Place Specialist/medical terminology, and anatomy & physiology, 184 days, \$47,400.00

Randi Candiano, Work Place Specialist/CNA program (51% of day), 184 days, and school nurse (49% of day), \$47,400.00

RECOGNITION: 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year: Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed Andrew Clemmons and his family to the meeting. She indicated Andrew, a high school student, was recently selected as the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and was going to be recognized for the tremendous accomplishment at the Board meeting. She noted that being an Eagle Scout was the highest recognition in Boy Scouts, and Attorney Longer indicated that only around 4% of Boy Scouts earn Eagle Scout recognition. Andrew brought the plaques he received from the American Legion for the district and state level awards that he showed the audience. Dr. Buffington asked Olivia Garcia and Morgan Sanchez, HHS student representatives, to present Andrew with a token gift of appreciation and a certificate of recognition. Andrew received a mini-acrylic plaque that was personalized with his name and his recognition, and Olivia read the verbiage on his certificate of recognition. There was discussion along with the presentation, and it was noted Andrew was one of four family members who are Eagle Scouts. Board members extended their congratulations to Andrew. Rikki Guthrie told Andrew that he was “a tremendous young man,” and she was “proud to be your neighbor.” Dr. Buffington indicated that the Board’s student representatives would be posting Andrew’s recognition and pictures on their social media account. Dr. Buffington told Andrew to “keep doing what you are doing” and that everyone was “very proud of you as a Brickie.”

PRESENTATION: Purdue Northwest 2021 TRIO Program Community Partner's Award: Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed and introduced Maceo Rainey, TRIO Program Director from Purdue Northwest, and Lisa M. Daugherty, President and CEO of the Center of Workforce Innovations. Mr.

Rainey told the Board the TRIO-Educational Talent Search Community Partners Award was a yearly award that their program presents to a community partner that assists in their mission of providing educational access, inclusion, equity, and workforce development resources to the region's income eligible, students with disabilities, students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and potential first generation college students. The TRIO Program was federally funded by way of the US Department of Education, and over the past two to three years Indiana's state senators have brought back over \$10 million dollars in federal funding for TRIO Programs in Indiana. Mr. Rainey told the Board that the TRIO Program was located on the campus of Purdue University Northwest and provided high caliber pre-college services for students of families in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Starke Counties. However, the TRIO Program depends on the collaboration of community partners working in a collaborative fashion to promote and manifest a college and career culture among students within the Northwest Indiana region and beyond, and thus, working for a more educated and highly skilled workforce in Indiana. Mr. Rainey said that he was a first generation college graduate from the south side of Chicago, and totally understands the needs of the TRIO Program and the value of an organization like READY/NWI.

Mr. Rainey indicated that the TRIO-Educational Talent Search Program was publicly recognizing the collaborative and transformational work spearheaded by Roy Vanderford and Peggy Buffington by way of the READY/NWI initiative that brought together the brightest minds in K-12 public education in conjunction with a spectrum of community agencies all working in the best educational and career readiness interests of Northwest Indiana students and their families. Unfortunately, Mr. Vanderford was not able to attend the meeting. However, Lisa Daugherty who replaced Linda Woloshansky was present to accept Mr. Vanderford's award. It was noted that Linda Woloshansky was part of the original initiative in organizing READY/NWI. This was done during a time of great uncertainty and challenge. A few related documents and artifacts to familiarize the Board with the dynamics of their federally funded program, as well as their commitment to student achievement in the Northwest Indiana region were included in the electronic meeting information for the Board's review. They were the TRIO Talent Search Brochure, TRIO Program (Public Relations), and the 2020 TRIO Factbook.

In addition, to complimenting Dr. Buffington on her vision and outstanding leadership, Mr. Rainey noted that excellence begins with the Board, and he extended his compliments to the Board for their leadership, as well. Mr. Rainey presented the inscribed TRIO trophy to Dr. Buffington in appreciation to her contributions through the collaborative and transformational work that she and Mr. Vanderford had done through the READY/NWI group of K-12 public educational leaders in conjunction community agencies and employers in Northwest Indiana working in the best educational interests and career readiness of the area's parents and students.

Dr. Buffington thanked Mr. Rainey for trophy and indicated that before COVID-19, READY/NWI met monthly in the Board Room at the high school and during COVID, they continued to have regular Zoom meetings with around 110 people in attendance. This proved the importance of what the group was doing because everyone made the effort to attend each month and when READY/NWI began in 2009, dual credit was very fragmented, as were career readiness workforce goals. Through deliberation and articulation "the region has blossomed in early college credit." People in the group live and work in the region so everyone gets something from the group. What they are doing is working and was proof that the group had grown into a viable group that was doing their best for area students going to college or entering the workforce with certificates and eligibility into apprentice programs. Dr. Buffington commented that approximately one-half of high school graduates leave high school with nine semester hours of credit. If the students have one or two years of college credits, they will try to earn their degree. Dr. Buffington told Mr. Rainey that she was very interested in having stackable credentials and hoped that he would be able to assist with this. Karen Robbins commented that one of last year's student representatives graduated with an associate degree, and she was pleased that Hobart students had this opportunity. It was noted that credentialing for staff members to teach dual credit/early college classes changed by the Commission of Higher Education and noted that Dr. Krieg was involved with assisting our staff members with their credentialing. Sandi Hillan appreciated the hard work that was done to allow students to earn dual credit/early college courses and noted that her daughter had earned 27 college credits while in high school and would be attending Valparaiso University in the fall. She noted the university was impressed with the credits her daughter had earned, and she was pleased that Hobart's students have the opportunity to take advantage of these classes. Dr. Buffington reminded Mr. Rainey that stackable credentials were a priority for her, and she hoped he'd be able to assist with this. Dr. Buffington noted that Mr. Rainey was an asset to READY/NWI, and she thanked him for his leadership, service and participations in the group.

Mr. Rainey and Lisa Daugherty were thanked for coming to the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS: New Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year: Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed a few of this school year's new teachers to the meeting. She indicated that Lori Anderson and Tim Krieg, Directors of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum, respectively, were responsible for this year's New

Teacher Induction Program that all of the new teachers recently completed. Those present were Doug Adams, Savannah Tilford, and Daphne Pantazia from Hobart Middle School and Shelby Clindaniel from Hobart High School. Dr. Buffington commented that it was a very busy week, but she noted that several of the new teachers had already been recruited for extracurricular assignments and was probably why they were unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Krieg concurred and indicated that Leo Guzman wanted the Board to know that he was coaching his first football game this evening. Dr. Buffington introduced and shared information about each of the new teachers present. She acknowledged Brian Richter, a NISEC (Northwest Indiana Special Education Coop), indicated that he would be teaching at the middle school, and thanked him for coming to the meeting. Mr. Richter indicated that he, too, was an Eagle Scout, and his wife was a teacher at Veterans School. Lori Anderson noted that the new teachers were “a great group” to work with, and they had a good time and were “impressed with the Brickie culture.” Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation Lori Anderson and Tim Krieg for the outstanding induction program they had with the new teachers, and she thanked them for their leadership. She said everyone was excited for the teachers to get started with their students so the learning could begin.

Mr. Butler asked the new teachers some Hobart history questions that the student representatives from two years ago put together for him plus a few questions that other Board members asked and the some of the questions and their answers are as follows:

- ▶ Who was home to Hobart before it was the city of Hobart? The Potawatomi Indians
- ▶ Why is Hobart the “Friendly City”? Back in the days of the Indians, it was considered a safe zone for the trading and selling of goods.
- ▶ What was the first main business in Hobart? The grist mill
- ▶ What former school stood where Joan Martin is today? Foreman School
- ▶ Where is the Victory Bell? At The Brickyard at Hobart High School
- ▶ What’s the name of the senior center? Maria Reiner Center
- ▶ Who is the mascot? Yohan Petrovich, and his name was made up by a student in a study hall
- ▶ What’s the name of the football field? Don Howell Field
- ▶ What’s the name of the stadium? The Brickyard (It was noted that the school district has an agreement with the family who owned the Indianapolis Speedway to be able to use the name for our stadium, and it was also agreed that we would not to race cars there.)

Don Rogers asked if anyone knew what business would be locating in the Hobart area in the near future, and he indicated that it was Nothing Bundt Cakes. Dr. Buffington was pleased, as were a few others.

Terry Butler asked any of the experience teachers how Hobart’s induction program compared to their former school corporations. Someone commented that the Hobart community culture was totally different and was more vested in the school district than they had at their former high school, and the induction program was informative for them. President Butler commented that teaching was not an easy career choice, and he hoped “You would enjoy time here.” He also told them that if they see Board members at their schools, they would be there as visitors or family members. He noted that Board members have no individual power other than when they meet together as the Board at their meetings. If a Board member would ask them to do something for them, they should refer them to the superintendent. He indicated the Board oversees budgets including salaries and so forth and Board Policy and said, “Running the schools was Dr. Buffington’s job.” President Butler invited the audience members to stay for the rest of the meeting, but he excused anyone who needed to leave. No one remained in the audience.

The list of this school year’s new teachers that was included with the electronic meeting information is as follows:

Early Learning Center @ George Earle –

Alyssa Skertich, Nicole Kelly, Amanda Swims, and Halie Metz, kindergarten

Joan Martin Elementary School –

Jamie Edwards, music; Nicole Leonard, fourth grade and Laura Roth, counselor

Liberty Elementary School –

Katarzyna Gacek and Alaina Richter, both fourth grade

Veterans Elementary @ Mundell –

Ellie Welsch, fifth grade, and Dominique Shirey, art

Hobart Middle School –

Doug Adams, mental health counselor; Leondardo Guzman, social studies; Shari Hughes, science; Stephen Markos, social studies; Daphne Pantazis, English/language arts; Anna Reyes, math; Gerveva Sison, science; Savannah Tilford, English/language arts; and Cailin Trezak, English/language arts

Hobart High School –

Emily Bratcher, MTSS math interventionist; Shelby Clindaniel, counselor; Madison Price, social studies; Nathan Sloan, English; Harley Sutton, English; Mark Volk, JROTC; and Zackary Johansen, social studies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Receipt of School Extracurricular SA-5 Reports: Bob Glover, Business Manager, told the Board that school corporations must file a report of their fund balances, receipts and expenditures for their extra-curricular accounts (ECA) each year and are called an 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 has indicated that a report of the ECA account (SA-5) be submitted to the school board after the close of each school year. Mr. Glover noted that the SA-5 reports were submitted on Gateway, and the individual SA-5 reports for each of our schools were included in the electronic meeting information for the Board's review.

Sandra Hillan moved that the school board acknowledges receipt of the ECA Risk reports for their review, as required by I.C. 20-41-1-3. Rikki Guthrie seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Schultz, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

The Board thanked Mr. Glover for the information.

OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIP: 2021 JROTC Fall Raider Competition: Dr. Peggy Buffington presented and recommended approval for the 2021 Fall JROTC Raider competition at Marion High School in Marion, Indiana, on October 1 and 2, 2021. The cadets would travel in a district activity bus. There will be 14 cadets in grades 9-12 attending the competition, and there was no cost for the cadets. Their lodging and meals will be paid from JROTC funds. Marion High School JROTC had completed a mandatory safety assessment survey and considered the Raider Challenge competition a low risk to cadets. Dr. Buffington indicated that they would keep watch on the COVID-19 numbers. Many levels of safety have been incorporated into the training. The instructors will always be present. She wished them well and hoped they would “bring back the goodies.”

Dr. Buffington requested Board action for the overnight JROTC Raider competition.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the overnight Raider competition for JROTC at Marion High School, as presented. Karen Robbins seconded.

In the discussion, Olivia Garcia was surprised about the request being presented so soon, but she noted that there was a good camaraderie competition whenever they compete with Marion High School. The cadets respect one another, and she said she would be competing. Dr. Buffington commented that Col. Buhmann was “always on top” of the paperwork for the JROTC competitions. Olivia said that they do have four or five competitions scheduled this year and was disappointed that they would not be going to Georgia. Morgan Sanchez, HHS student representative, inquired about the status of COVID-19. Dr. Buffington indicated that Lake County was still in the yellow at 1.5, and since it was the first week of school, she would begin sending out her update information on a weekly basis. It was noted that if there would be an upward change with COVID-19, Dr. Buffington always has the option to cancel the trip.

Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Schultz, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

RECOMMENDATION: Updated Curricular fees for Hobart High School for 2021-2022 School Year: Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented and updated curricular fees for Hobart High School for the 2021-2022 school year that were included with the electronic meeting information. She indicated that Dr. Tim Krieg, Director of Secondary Curriculum, had been working to finalize the curricular fees for this school year, and she indicated that doing this involved another level of approval from the Porter County Career Center and Ivy Tech for their classes being taught at Hobart High School. The information pertaining to the updated curricular fees from Dr. Krieg was included with the electronic meeting information and is as follows:

1. English 12 Honors Literature/ENGL 206 (Intro. To Literature (#70019)
 - a. Reduced the curricular fee from \$38.82 to \$10.33.

- b. Note: This change resulted in going from having students purchase all three texts to only purchasing one of the three texts – in addition to changes in costs of the books.
2. Early Childhood Education I/ECEC 100 & ECED 101 (#70600, 70601) & Early Childhood Education II/ECED 103 & ECED 105 (# 70700, 70701)
 - a. Does not appear to have been imported in Skyward for fees. Should be \$82.64 (curricular).
3. Emergency Rescue Technology Academy (#70604, 70609)
 - a. Change from \$21.11 (curricular) and \$25.00 (fee) to \$82.95 (curricular) and \$79.00 (fee)
 - b. Resulted from a change on PCCC’s behalf thereafter
4. Fundamentals of Sports Medicine (PCC) – (#70611)
 - a. Course is listed on the spreadsheet, but no fees are attributed to it in Skyward.
 - b. No change for the Board but do need a change in Skyward
 - c. Should be charging \$46.69 (curricular) and \$45.00 (fees)
5. Energy Technology (#HU5616)
 - a. We had “TBD” in our board-approved fee as we have awaited a final response from Ivy Tech.
 - b. Following up with them again and no response as of August 19, 2021.
6. Pre-Nursing /CNA/(#HU5284)
 - a. We had “TBD” in our board-approved fee as we have awaited a final response from Ivy Tech. Assuming no fees but want to check nonetheless.
 - b. Following up with them to be certain. Though I believe we handled things with building fund, so shouldn’t have anything here for this year). No response as of August 19, 2021.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the updated Hobart High School 2021-2022 curricular fees. Seconded by Rikki Guthrie.

In the discussion, the Board thanked Dr. Krieg for his work with the textbook rental and student fee schedules. Dr. Krieg concurred about the different parties involved with the early college and career education courses, and he thanked Chris King for inserting the textbook rental and student fees in Skyward, the district’s student management system. The Board appreciated the decrease for the one class and noted Indiana was only one of a few states that does not pay student textbook costs.

Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Schultz, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

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

➤ **Bond Sale** – Dr. Peggy Buffington reported on information from the recent bond sale that she received from Jim Elizondo from Stifel, as follows:

- Funds available for construction: At Project Hearing \$5,360,000 and at Bond Sale \$5,419,876 for an increase of \$59,876.
- Total payments: At Project Hearing \$8,334,500 and at Bond Sale \$7,507,000 for a reduction of \$827,500.

She commented that Attorney Longer and Mr. Glover “had a great bond sale,” and the increase of funds was “good news” so another project or so would be able to be done. Mr. Longer indicated that the bond closing would be on September 1. He noted that it was always nice to work with a team of professionals that included the financial manager and bond counsel. He noted, “Everyone works real well together as a team and does a good job” of having everything prepared at every step along the way for the bond sale and its closing.

COMMENTS: Return to In-Person Instruction Plan: Brickie Forward 2021-22: The Board did not receive any comments from the public on the Brickie Forward Plan 2021-2022, nor did Dr. Peggy Buffington, Superintendent. The link to the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan: Brickie Forward 2021-22 was listed was included in the electronic meeting packet.

Superintendent Buffington indicated that the biggest topic right now was whether masks should be worn or not. At the present time, the CDC and IDOH continue to recommend that masks be worn, but they were not mandating that they be worn. She indicated that school administrations were not scientists and felt that

the CDC, Boards of Health, and/or the federal government should be the ones to mandate the wearing of masks like the federal government has done for those riding in school buses. She noted that even though some Lake County school districts were requiring masks, that was not true in Porter County where we have students attending Porter County Career and Technical Education classes. Dr. Buffington noted that in terms of athletics, they were following the protocols/guidelines that were followed last year.

Dr. Buffington indicated that school districts are required to report to the state and their respective boards of health when student absences for a communicable disease reaches 20% or more in a school, and then a decision be made would whether to close a school or not. If the district's numbers start to trend upward, Dr. Buffington said that she might have to mandate the wearing of masks and was not afraid to make that the decision, if needed. She indicated that she would be sending out her first COVID-19 information newsletter this week. Dr. Buffington commented that the students would do whatever is asked of them and said that this has become more of a political issue, than remaining a health issue, and it was more of an issue for parents. She indicated that one of the best parts of the plan deals with the BinaxNow testing that our school nurses have been trained to give. If someone was a close contact and the student's test results are negative, they can return to school with no quarantining. Dr. Buffington indicated that the testing had to be done by our nurses and that home related tests cannot take the place of the school administered test. Mr. Porras commented that where he teaches the students are required to wear masks, and he noted that some have to be reminded to do this, but no one has refused to wear one. Terry Butler commented that where his daughter teaches in central Indiana they have 237 students quarantined. The student representatives were asked how the students were doing, and they indicated that there were differing opinions and that it had become more political. They thought that the students that were in school last year would wear masks, but the E-learners from last year might not be as receptive to them. Some students wear their mask below their noses. Olivia Garcia commented about a time someone had made an offensive comment to her about how she should either wear the mask or take it off and not wear it on her ear. Dr. Buffington asked whether she had reported it, and she indicated that she did not. She said she was just surprised by the comment and language that was used.

President Butler noted the Board's appreciation of all of Dr. Buffington efforts during this time, and if and when the time comes that it would be necessary to mandate the wearing of masks that the notification should be from her and the Board. There were no objections to doing this.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Dr. Buffington said the past couple of days had been great and noted all of the hard work that everyone had done getting ready for the start of school. She was proud of the transportation and technology departments, as well as the teachers and principals welcoming their students back to school and said the opening of school went really well. She complimented Jon Mock for all of the HR work that he had done. Even though the welcome back tour was not done this year, Dr. Buffington said that she was able to visit every school and stopped in classrooms, too. She noted, "Kids were happy to be back" and "will do what we ask them to do." She was proud of the opening day for teachers and mentioned that about 99% of the staff had not ever been in the new Aquatic Center where the "Brickie Olympics" were held. There were accomplished swimmers and divers (students and graduates) to beginning elementary student swimmers and those in between. The students showed off their skills, and the teachers cheered them on, especially the beginners who were swimming 50 yards for the first time. They were very nervous about doing this, but the cheering from the teachers helped them accomplish their goal. Dr. Buffington told them the students were able to accomplish their goals because of the coaching and teaching they had received. They persevered and showed their grit to do this. Bob Glover said it was nice to have everyone back in the schools, thought it "felt normal," and was exciting, and he was glad "to be part of it." Chris King passed on the thanks and appreciation to the Board and Dr. Buffington from one of his technicians for the flowers he recently received when he was in the hospital. Bill Longer commented on the excitement he felt from everyone for the start of a new school year. Jon Mock commented that it's been like "whirlwind," but it was nice to see "smiling faces" on the students. He appreciated the pictures from Dr. Buffington showing some kindergarten students just worn out at the end of their school day. He was looking forward to the new school year. Dr. Buffington commented that the kindergarten students "were exhausted" today, as her photos showed. This was their first full day of school because yesterday they had a shortened day visiting at the school. She noted that getting on the school bus was always special experience for kindergartners and noted the drivers do not let them off the bus unless someone was there to get them. She sent a message to the drivers to make sure their buses were empty at the end of the day even though she knew they walked their buses at the end of the routes. She complimented the transportation department for the great job they do on a daily basis. Tim Krieg was "thankful to be here" and was looking forward to working with the new staff members. He commented that he had visited in the buildings and echoed the comments about the excitement of the students, as well as the teachers. He said "a lot of work goes on to make it" feel normal in the schools, and he was "glad to be part of it."

From the Board, Frank Porras was excited for another school year and extended his congratulations to Dr. Buffington on her TRIO award. He commented the TRIO program was in the high school he works in and

said it was a very worthwhile program for those students. He thought the new teachers were a good group, and he was looking forward to the new school year. Don Rogers extended his congratulations to Dr. Buffington on her award and said it was “well deserved.” He hoped the start of this school year would not be “as challenging as last year.” Mr. Rogers also mentioned about a football practice at the high school that never got started because of several warning interruptions due to lightning strikes in the area. On his way home, he noticed that the middle school football team was practicing, and he thought there should be some kind of communication between the coaches when these circumstances happen. Dr. Buffington indicated that she had contacted people to do this in the future. Sandi Hillan commented that the beginning of every school year was always exciting. Having taught kindergarten, she noted that the beginning of the year was just as exhausting for the teachers as it is for their students. She thought the year was off to a good start and thanked Dr. Buffington for the Board’s swag. She especially liked the phrase, “Be a Brickie! Be Excellent on Purpose!” She extended her thanks to Jon Mock for all of his efforts and work that he did with all of the new hires this summer. Someone asked Mr. Mock whether his dad would be applying to be a bus driver now that he was retired, and Mr. Mock indicated that his dad would not. Stu Schultz extended his congratulations to Dr. Buffington for her award and noted it was “well deserved,” and he “would not have expected anything less.” He expressed his appreciation to and thanked the administrators on the other side of the room for all of their work in getting ready for another school year. Olivia Garcia, HHS student representative, indicated that her school year had gotten off to a good start. She was thrilled that the ceramics class was being taught this year and was part of her class schedule. In addition, she noted that she was excited about her visit at Purdue Lafayette today. Morgan Sanchez, HHS student representative, was sad that she could not take the ceramics class this year, and she congratulated Dr. Buffington on her award. She was excited that it was her senior year, having senior privileges, and was looking forward to the football game. Rikki Guthrie was glad for the first day of school and thanked Jon Mock for the great job he had done in processing all of the new employee information. She congratulated Dr. Buffington on her award that was “well deserved.” She noted it was nice to have a routine again. Karen Robbins extended her congratulations to Dr. Buffington on her award, and she thanked Jon Mock the work involved with all of the new hires. She was glad school was back in session and got off to a good start, as well. Dr. Buffington told the Board the support staff from the Service Center recently had a picnic, and she thanked all of them for everything they had done this past school year during the pandemic. She noted that Becky Rosenbaum was her go to person for PPE and sanitizing supplies, and she always went “above and beyond” to find what was needed and sending the items to all of the buildings. She said a great time was had by all, and everyone “enjoyed being celebrated.” Terry Butler noted that a lot was going on, and he thought there might be two buses going through his subdivision. He appreciated the good work that everyone was doing. In addition, it was noted that there would be a Tube Night Fundraiser in the Aquatic Center on August 29 from 2-5:00 p.m. benefitting the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation. The movie “JAWS” will be shown, and the cost is \$5.00 plus any refreshments purchased. Dr. Buffington noted that on opening day for teachers, they were served water and popcorn.

Since no one was in the audience, there were no comments from of the audience.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is September 2, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: September 2, 2021