

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
February 15, 2024**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on February 15, 2024, 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:**

Terry D. Butler  
Rikki A. Guthrie  
Sandra J. Hillan  
Karen J. Robbin  
Donald H. Rogers  
Madelyn Burton, HHS student representative  
Angelina Zepeda, HHS student representative

**Board Members Absent:**

Frank Porras  
Stuart B. Schultz

**Administrators Present:**

Peggy Buffington  
Christopher N. King  
William J. Longer  
Jonathan Mock

**Administrators Absent:**

Bob Glover  
Tim Krieg

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Butler indicated that the Board did not meet in executive session 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:

Bradley Keehn, parent of Joan Martin School and Hobart Middle School students  
Erika McDermott, teacher at Veterans School @ Mundell  
Several guests of Ms. McDermott  
Valentine Torres, high school teacher and President of the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation (HEF)  
Jon Brumley, high school teacher and HEF grant recipient  
Greg Crouch, high school teacher and HEF grant recipient  
Rhyan Strick, high school student

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the executive session and regular session minutes of February 1, 2024. Seconded by Rikki Guthrie. Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** In the absence of Bob Glover, Business Manager, President Butler asked the student representatives to read the accounts voucher summary.

► **Vouchers for February 15, 2024** – Madelyn Burton read the first portion and Angelina Zepeda read the last, as follows:

School Education \$782,111.58  
Exempt Operating – Post 2009 \$60,501.34  
School Operations \$377,765.25  
Construction 0701 \$90,398.40  
Construction Projects \$52,625.06  
School Lunch \$138,709.39  
Curricular Materials \$476,256.23  
Self-Insurance \$677,924.48  
Building Brickies \$921.89  
SCOH Educational Foundation \$51.60  
Literacy Achievement Grant \$2,759.00  
Competitive Science of Reading \$57,398.30  
Title II Part A FY 2024 \$4,170.84  
Explore, Engage, Experience \$68,265.98  
ESSER III \$16,819.22  
Clearing Account \$440,775.57  
Self-Insurance Clearing \$2,057.02

for a vouchers totaling \$3,301,755.17 with no transfers. The payroll distribution for January by Dawn Powers, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$890,680.44 on January 5 and \$914,933.86 on January 19, 2024.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for February 15, 2024. Donald Rogers seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

In addition, the Board received copies of monthly budget reports, dated January 31, 2024, in their electronic meeting information, as follows: Analysis by Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Summary of Balances by Account-Object, and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

**ADDITION TO AGENDA:** Terry Butler, President, indicated that an item had been added to the published agenda, indicated it would be the last agenda item, and was titled, RESOLUTION: Expressing Interest in the Purchase of Specified Land.

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

President Butler spoke to the audience about the Board's student representatives. He indicated that two high school students are selected to serve on the Board each year. He noted that some years ago a former Board member brought back the idea from a national conference, and Board members thought it was a good idea. He said the student representatives share their ideas and perspectives with the Board, and the Board appreciates their input. The idea has worked out very well. Mr. Butler mentioned that the student representatives are good students and are also active with extracurricular activities. Dr. Buffington indicated that they are not able to vote but can participate in Board discussions. Karen Robbins mentioned that both of this year's student representatives are members of the 2024 Hall of Scholars that is comprised of the top 15 seniors the class.

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

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contracts for Extracurricular Services –

Hobart Middle School, August 15, 2022/June 5, 2023:

Cailin Trezak, boys basketball – 7th grade, \$2,048.00

Hobart High School:

Leonardo Guzman, track-assist varsity girls, August 15, 2022/June 5, 2023, \$2,973.00

Catherine Nelson, dramatics specialist, April 28/May 26, 2023, \$1,802.00

Nathan Sloan, resigned 7th grade boys basketball

Contracts for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –

Joan Martin School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024:

Michelle Mecha, Crazy 8's Section 2, \$ 270.00

Rachel Sieffert, Crazy 8's Section 2, \$ 270.00

Veterans School @ Mundell, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024:

Sherry Finnerty, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00

Tara Hamilton, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00

Stefanie Osika, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00

Dominique Shirey, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00

Hobart Middle School, August 14, 2023/May 31, 2024:

Randall Griffith, Robotics, \$1,242.00

Catherine Patterson, Art, \$1,134.00

Jayne Price, Board Games, \$ 675.00

Homebound Teaching Contract –

February 5/June 1, 2024: Cheryl Stephens, ELA and math, two hours per week, \$32.01 per hour

Extracurricular Club Duty Contracts –

Veterans @ Mundell, 2023-2024 School Year:

Lindsay Clawson, Dodgeball, \$108.00

Wendy Howatt, Dodgeball, \$108.00

Jennifer MacDonald, Maker's, \$1,188.00

Resignations –

Taylor Chitwood, Hobart Middle School/food services, effective January 31, 2024  
Eileen O'Neill, Service Center/school bus driver, effective February 1, 2024

Requests for Leave of Absence

Mary Locke, Hobart Middle School/administrative assistant, FMLA, December 4/December 21, 2023

Katarzyna Szponder, Liberty School/teacher, unpaid leave, 2024-2025 school year

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

Larry Mills, transferred from Hobart Middle School/Class I custodian to Joan Martin School/Class I custodian, effective February 12, 2024, hourly rate remains the same – \$16.38

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School:

Stanley Bell, boys track – assistant varsity, February 12/June 1, 2024, \$4,236.00

Jim Johnston, Jr., girls track – assistant varsity, February 12/May 31, 2024, \$4,236.00

New Employees –

Kaitlyn Doneski, Hobart Middle School/Food Services – server-dish room, effective February 1, 2024, \$12.67 per hour

David Razo, Hobart Middle School/Food Services – café manager, effective February 5, 2024, \$17.63 per hour

Michael Terek, Hobart Middle School/Class I custodian, effective February 5, 2024, \$16.38 per hour

**RECOGNITION: Emergency Response Hero:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington introduced Erica McDermott, fourth grade teacher at Veterans Elementary at Mundell, and also welcomed her guests. Dr. Buffington indicated that during snack time a student was choking, and Ms. McDermott performed the Heimlich maneuver and saved the student's life. She stated that educators, as part of the licensing process, have to be trained in lifesaving procedures, and then, as part of the license renewal process, they have to take an updated lifesaving class. Dr. Buffington said Ms. McDermott was a hero because her quick actions saved a student's life. After the incident, the school nurse assessed the student and recommended the student be taken to their family doctor, as well. This was done and all was well with the student. It was noted that Ms. McDermott was always BEOP (Being Excellent on Purpose). Dr. Buffington presented her with a BEOP award in front of her class, and her students understood why she was recognized and were excited for her. Dr. Buffington commented that the City Council also recognized her efforts at a council meeting in December, and even though this recognition was delayed, it does not negate the importance of her actions that day. Ms. McDermott was presented with a certificate of recognition and a token of appreciation from the Board and Dr. Buffington. The Board members thanked her and extended their appreciation for her quick reaction. Sandi Hillan noted that as a first year teacher, she did not panic, which kept her class calm, and she was "in the right place" to save a student's life.

President Butler invited the guests to stay for the rest of the meeting, but he said audience members were free to leave at any time.

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: School City of Hobart Educational Foundation Donations**

**(HEF):** Jonathan Mock, the Grant Review Chair of HEF, highlighted this year's eight grants that were recently awarded, and he noted that some of the grant recipients were present to speak about their individual grant. Mr. Mock stated that all of this year's grants were from high school teachers and totaled \$4,514.26 and indicated the grants flow through the central office bookkeeping process. Copies of the letters sent to the grant recipients, and a recap of the grant titles and the amount of each grant was included with the electronic meeting information. Valentine Torres, President of the Educational Foundation, spoke about the importance of the grants from a teacher's viewpoint and noted they were important because they can enhance a class's curriculum or support different student extracurricular activities. She mentioned her collaboration with Rhyan Strick, a high school student, on a project. She offered her some ideas/suggestions about a project and within a short amount of time, she had completed a design. The two of them tweaked it a little bit, and the project was completed. Mrs. Torres noted that Rhyan was very talented in using the computer for design. Ms. Torres noted it was always exciting to see students grow because their curiosity had been enhanced.

The grant information is as follows:

- USA and Japan - Heidi Polizotto, \$1,080.00  
Mr. Mock indicated that these funds would be used towards the cost involved with the Key Club's sponsor and two Key Club representatives' trip to Japan this spring.
- Physics Day at Great America – Jon Brumley, \$620.00  
Mr. Brumley thanked the Foundation for the grant, and he said this was the second year for this trip. Fourteen students attended last year's trip, and this year there will be 31 students attending. They will be tracking different scientific calculations of roller coasters.

- Color Me Smart! – Heidi Polizotto, \$169.26  
Mr. Mock indicated this grant was for use in Mrs. Polizotto’s foreign language classes.
- Dungeons and Dragons – Kristen Musall and Nathan Sloan, \$645.00  
Mr. Mock said the grant was for the Dungeons and Dragons club at the high school, and Mrs. Musall and Mr. Sloan were the club’s sponsors.
- Brickie E-Sports – Chris King, Shaun Doyle, Greg Crouch, and Ben Horjus, \$1,000.00  
Chris King noted that the grant was written by Shaun Doyle who was unable to attend the meeting this evening, and he extended his appreciation for him doing so. He thanked HEF for the grant and said the funds would be used to assist the E-sports club at the middle school. He noted that Mike Jimenez was a sponsor there was doing a great job.
- T-Shirt Design – Greg Crouch, \$1,000.00  
Greg Crouch expressed his appreciation for the grant and said the funds will be used to design and make t-shirts. He introduced one of his students, Rhyan Strick, and noted that she designed the logo for the banner class. He handed out samples of the brand to the Board and administrators. It was noted that she also assisted in the cover design for this year’s Pathway Guide and the banner for the Hobart Food Pantry. Mr. Crouch and Rhyan were thanked for the Hobart Food Pantry banner. Rikki Guthrie told Mr. Crouch that he could get \$3.00 t-shirts at Hobby Lobby.

Mr. Mock indicated that in addition to the grants, the Hobart Educational Foundation approved funding of \$5,000 for Brickies from the Start and \$2,000 Camp Inventions summer program and will give \$1,500 for the Hall of Scholars and \$4,000 for scholarships to high school students. Dr. Buffington noted that Brickies from the Start was a self-supporting program, receives no funding from the state, and was a program that supports families with children from birth to kindergarten. The Hall of Scholars recognizes the top 15 students in the senior class and funds their swag bags. In addition, it was noted that at HEF’s last meeting they also funded magnets for the Early Learning Center in the amount of \$984.00. The total for these items was \$13,484.00, and the grand total for donations and grants was \$17,998.26. The Board acknowledged the incredible work of the Hobart Educational Foundation members who work tirelessly for the benefit of the students and teachers in the School City of Hobart. Dr. Buffington noted that the Board members were “hard working people” who volunteer their time for staff and students.

Mr. Mock asked the Board to accept the grants and donations from the Hobart Educational Foundation.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board accept the grants and donations from the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation, as presented. Rikki Guthrie seconded.

In the discussion, Mrs. Guthrie told everyone that on March 2nd there would be a Bingo Night at the Hobart Moose Lodge to benefit the Hobart Educational Foundation. There will be a 50/50 Raffle and basket raffles along with Bingo games. Proceeds will benefit students.

Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Mrs. Torres was thanked for attending the meeting.

**OVERNIGHT-EXTENDED STUDENT TRIP: Hobart High School Youth and Government:** Dr. Peggy Buffington presented information about this year's Youth and Government Program that is a program of the Indiana Alliance of YMCA's. This year, eight Hobart High School students will take part in the statewide program, which features a mock legislature and court. High school students from throughout the state who have an interest in public policy will be in attendance. All Hobart students must sponsor a state bill that they write on their own. Students present and debate their bill in the state capitol and actually have the chance to do this in the Indiana Statehouse. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in the Supreme Court, Press program, or run for elected office. Hobart students have been successful in being elected to state offices and placed on important state committees.

Dr. Buffington said the students would travel by school bus, leaving on Friday, March 8, and returning on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Students will stay at Hilton Hotel and be chaperoned by Colin May, middle school teacher, and sponsor.

Dr. Buffington asked the Board to approve the overnight-extended trip for the Hobart Youth and Government students, and she requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the overnight-extended student trip for the Hobart Youth and Government students, as presented. Seconded by Karen Robbins.



In the discussion, a question was raised if there would be any additional chaperones. Dr. Buffington said they were still working on this, and she said that Sharon Tarry used to attend and chaperone the conference before she retired. Also, Madelyn Burton, high school student representative, said she had planned to attend, but she had a conflict with this year's Business Professionals state leadership conference.

Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**OVERNIGHT-EXTENDED STUDENT TRIP: Hobart High School HOSA Future Healthcare Professionals State Leadership Conference:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington highlighted a request from Tiffany Parrish and Eden Alexander, sponsors of the high school's HOSA Club, for members to attend the HOSA Future Healthcare Professionals State Leadership Conference at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Seven to eight club members and the two sponsors will leave Hobart on April 10 and return on April 12, 2024. The conference is focused on leadership and career-based learning. The students compete in knowledge and skill events for various healthcare professions. In addition, they will attend workshops and symposiums on healthcare topics and careers.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the overnight-extended student trip for the HOSA club members at Hobart High School. Seconded by Rikki Guthrie.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington asked Angelina Zepeda, high school student representative, if she was attending the conference, and she replied that she was. Terry Butler observed that Angelina always smiles.

Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**OVERNIGHT-EXTENDED STUDENT TRIP: Hobart High School Key Club:** Dr. Peggy Buffington, highlighted a request from Heidi Polizotto, Key Club sponsor, for an overnight-extended trip to Japan for two Key Club members and Mrs. Polizotto, sponsor, for the Sister District Friendship Tour. They would be visiting the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kobe and would be participating in activities with their sister Japan Key Club and Kiwanis. She explained that during COVID-19 Hobart's Key Club became a sister club with a Japanese Key Club. This year, the Japanese Key Club extended an invitation for Hobart's Key Club to visit in Japan.

Dr. Buffington highly recommended approval of the overnight-extended trip from May 19 to May 27, and requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the overnight-extended trip to Japan, as presented. Sandra Hillan seconded.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington indicated their specific itinerary and phone numbers for the hotels where they will be staying was still being planned by the sister club, and she has asked Mrs. Polizotto to furnish that information to her, as soon as it becomes available.

Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**CONSIDERATION: Trademark License Agreement with Pel Industries:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented a trademark license renewal agreement with Pel Industries. The term of the lease was two years, April 6, 2024, through April 5, 2026, with a royalty of 10% of the Licensee's net selling price of products sold that include the trademarked phrase or image. Currently, their products are at Target and Meijer. A copy of the trademark renewal agreement and exhibit with their current product were included with the electronic meeting information. Dr. Buffington stated that the proceeds of the trademark license agreements are given to the Brickies from the Start program, because it was self-supporting program that does not receive any state funding.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board approve the trademark license renewal agreement with Pel Industries and authorize the superintendent to execute the agreement, as presented. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

In the discussion, Rikki Guthrie noticed a discrepancy regarding verbiage with the term of the agreement on the agreement. It was clarified that the term of the agreement was for two years, April 6, 2024, through April 5, 2026, and it was noted the incorrect verbiage would be deleted.

Vote on motion: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION: Expressing Interest in the Purchase of Specified Land:** Attorney William Longer presented Resolution No. 2024-3 for the Board's consideration. Mr. Longer indicated the resolution pertained to the Board's interest in purchasing a specified piece of land. He stated that state law describes the process that is to be followed, and the first step was to pass a resolution indicating the Board's interest in purchasing a specified piece of land. In accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent was authorized to negotiate the site acquisition, and he stated the resolution authorized the Superintendent and the Board President to appoint two appraisers to complete an appraisal of the property within 30 days to get an average value of the land. He indicated residential properties in our area have kept appraisers busy, and it was his hope that the appraisals would

be completed within the specified timeline. Because of the limited timeframe, he said that ratification of the appraiser appointments could be done at a future meeting.

President Butler asked the audience members if they wanted the whole resolution read aloud or just the title. No one requested that the whole resolution be read aloud.

Secretary Sandra Hillan read the title of the resolution aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-3

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING INTEREST  
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
IN THE PURCHASE OF SPECIFIED LAND

President Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-3, as presented. Donald Rogers seconded. Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Rogers, Robbins, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Absent: Porras and Schultz. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-3, 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. 2024-3

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING INTEREST  
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
IN THE PURCHASE OF SPECIFIED LAND

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart determines that there is a potential for sufficient growth in the student population of the School City of Hobart, that additional educational space may be required, and

WHEREAS, prudent future planning dictates that site acquisition for possible school construction occur; and

WHEREAS, the School City of Hobart is interested in purchasing suitable real estate for this purpose, as described in Exhibit "A" attached, and the owner has expressed an interest in selling; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 7240 authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate site acquisition; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-10.5-5 requires the adoption of a Resolution expressing the intent of the Board in the purchase of specified land; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution be adopted, and that appraisers be appointed, for the Superintendent to be able to proceed with negotiations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Trustees is interested in purchasing the real estate described in Exhibit "A", attached, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent in consultation with the Board President is authorized to appoint two appraisers pursuant to I.C. 36-1-10.5-5(2), to appraise said property within thirty (30) days.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2024.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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

Attest:

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

EXHIBIT A

All the part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 35 North, Range 07 West of the Second Principal Meridian, in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: beginning at a point on the North line of the said Southwest Quarter being the Southeast corner of Lot 8, in Lake George Plateau, Unit 6, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 88, Page 40 in the Office of the Recorder, Lake County, Indiana; thence South 00 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds East, a distance of 60.18 feet; thence South 85 degrees 53 minutes 27 seconds East parallel with and 60.00 feet South of the said North Line, a distance of 470.80 feet to a point of the East line of the said Southwest Quarter; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 29 seconds East along the said East line, a distance of 614.38 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 31 seconds West, perpendicular from the said East line, a distance of 1191. 51 feet; thence 04 degrees 10 minutes 53 seconds East, a distance of 649.35 feet to a point on the South line of a parcel of land described in a Warranty Deed dated March 15, 2023 and recorded March 29, 2023 as Document Number 2023-509166 in the Office of the Recorder, Lake County, Indiana; thence South 85 degrees 53 minutes 27 seconds East along the said South line, a distance of 198.05 feet to the Southeast corner of said Document Number 2023-509166; thence North 04 degrees 06 minutes 33 seconds East along the East line of said Document Number 2023-509166, a distance of 110.00 feet to a point on the North line of said Southwest Quarter and the monumented South line of said Lake George Plateau, Unit 6; thence South 85 degrees 53 minutes 27 seconds East along the said North line, a distance of 469.48 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 784,080 square feet, 18.00 acres more or less.

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

- ▶ **School Information** – weekly agendas from all of the schools and the weekly BricksCenter newsletter.
- ▶ **Upcoming Activities/Events** – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington highlighted the following upcoming activities/events, as follows:

February 13 – Brickie Kidz Preschool Open House, 5-6:30 p.m. at either or both the Early Learning Center, 400 North Wilson Street and Hobart High School, Door 1, 2210 East 10th Street//Dr. Buffington indicated that preschool is recommended for all students, and scholarships are offered for families who need assistance.

February 15 – SRO National Recognition Day//Dr. Buffington noted the importance of recognizing our SRO’s and their importance to keep students and staff safe. Their interaction with students is outstanding.

February 16 and 19 – Presidents’ Break – No school for students//Dr. Buffington noted this would be a four-day weekend.

January 15 – February 26 – Lake County Public Library READ-a-THON

March 1 and 2 – *The SpongeBob Musical*, Hobart High School Performing Arts Center, 7:00 pm

March 3 – *The SpongeBob Musical*, HHS Performing Arts Center, 3:00 pm

March 2 – JROTC Annual Mattress Sale, Hobart High School, Great Hall, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

March 8 and 9 – *The SpongeBob Musical*, HHS Performing Arts Center, 7:00 pm

March 14 – Hobart University Parent Night @ HHS Board Room, 6-7:00 pm enter Door 1

April 10 – Brickie Makers & Innovators Showcase, HHS Field House, 6-8:00 pm

Dr. Buffington told Mrs. Robbins she did try to change this year’s date but could not find an open date. She will try to schedule a later date next year. She encouraged everyone to attend and said it was one of her favorite events of the school year.

**COMMENTS:** From the audience, Bradley Keehn extended his appreciation of our teachers, and he acknowledged the quick actions of Ms. McDermott in assisting one of her students. Heather McCarthy told the Board that she was a candidate for the Indiana State Representative for District 3. She noted that boundaries of the district have changed, and she highlighted the areas included in the district and noted that most of City of Hobart was included in it. She is currently the City Attorney in Hobart and worked in that capacity for the last four years. Before that she had assisted former City Attorney, Anthony Debonis. This year, she decided to run for office so that she could have a positive impact in our area. Because of the redistricting, she felt she had a very good chance to win the district seat. The Board thanked her for running and attending the meeting.

From the administration, Peggy Buffington commented she had had a great couple of weeks. She noted the districts received funding for mentoring three other high schools on implementing early college programs at their schools. She looked for something different at the last ISBA Fall Conference, but there was not anything like the Anatomage table that was purchased for the high school. She decided that something similar to the Hall of Fame display that was shown at this year’s fall conference could be useful in the schools so she and Tim Krieg wrote a grant that was approved. The kiosk will have information and facts for Hobart University and other important district information. She had hoped to have at least one kiosk at each school, but she indicated she was not sure that would be the case because cost involved. Chris King thanked the Board and Dr. Buffington for their support

of the Esports program and the Hobart Educational Foundation for the grant funds. He commented that he now serves on the Board of Directors that oversees our Esports program and was surprised to learn that many of the schools trying to form Esports programs do not have support of their administration and/or school boards. He noted forming the program here was easy because of the support they received. Dr. Buffington commented that she had seen something about Esports and sent the information to Mr. King. She said it was researched and indicated we have an outstanding program that serves an eclectic diverse group of students. They have learned to accept one another, collaborate, strategize, and work together. She thanked Mr. King and the other coaches for making that possible. Bill Longer thanked Heather McCarthy for coming to the meeting and supporting public education. He has worked with her and observed her work with the city. Jon Mock thanked Erica McDermott for her quick response to the student in need. In addition, he extended his congratulations to Madelyn Burton and Angelina Zepeda for being members of this year's Hall of Scholars.

From the Board, Don Rogers extended congratulations to the grant recipients and thanked Ms. McDermott. He told the Board that he recently saw Coach Kerr before he left for Florida. He said he was doing well. He commented the band sounded good and mentioned the big wrestling tournament being held at the high school. Dr. Buffington mentioned that she no longer attends that competition due to the unbelievable amount of people who attend. Karen Robins was glad that the high school was being used as the Board had wanted it to be. She was thankful for the Esports team and their coaches, and offered her congratulations to Madelyn Burton and Angelina Zepeda for being part of this year's Hall of Scholars. Madelyn Burton extended her thanks to Ms. McDermott for the actions she took to assist her student. She said from a student perspective, sometimes she has some what if thoughts, and she appreciates knowing that student safety was always of prime importance. She thanked the Board of the Hobart Educational Foundation (HEF) for the grants they funded. She commented that her step-brother attended Kankakee Valley and did not have the opportunities that she and Hobart students have. Madelyn commented that she would be visiting Indiana University next week to find out about what they would be offering her financially, and she hoped it would be "a full ride." She told everyone that when she found that she would have 97 college credits at the end of her senior year, she decided that she wanted to have at least 100 credits. Angelina Zepeda thanked the Board for approving the HOSA state competition and was thankful for the Anatomage table. She extended her thanks to HEF for the grants they awarded and noted she was going on Mr. Brumley's physics trip. Angelina expressed her thanks and appreciation to Miss McDermott for her quick actions with the emergency situation in her class. Dr. Buffington asked her if she had decided on the college/university that she will be attending. She replied that she did not but hoped to know later next month. Dr. Buffington told her to let them know when she does. Sandi Hillan told the student representatives that she was so proud of them and noted that she had enjoyed getting to know them. She commented that the overnight/extended student trips provide wonderful opportunities that the students "will never forget." She appreciated that they are able to have these opportunities. She extended her appreciation to Miss McDermott for her quick actions to save her student. Rikki Guthrie thanked everyone for all that they do. She commented that her profession is nursing, and as such, she has been trained to act quickly in an emergency, but she said that was not something that a teacher ever thinks will happen to them even though they receive basic training for this kind of emergency. She thanked her for her quick response and said that spoke well about her and other teachers. Mrs. Guthrie thanked Heather McCarthy for attending the meeting and showing her interest in public education. She extended an invitation to everyone to attend the upcoming Bingo Night at the Moose Lodge for the Hobart Educational Foundation on March 2. She said it was a great way to support the foundation. She thanked Chris King and the other Esports coaches for their successful program that was a great place for students to be successful. Mrs. Guthrie thanked the Board and those who have contacted her and her sister pertaining the loss of a family member. Terry Butler thanked Miss McDermott again. He noted that she was only a first-year teacher and pointed out a couple Hobart history items that she might not be aware of. One was that the district has a contract with the Indianapolis 500 organization to use the name "The Brickyard" for the stadium. He noted that the district could not have any auto races on the track and they cannot have any football games on theirs. Mrs. Robbins asked Mr. Butler where the Victory Bell was. He explained that he had forgotten that it was now at the high school. It used to be in front of the old high school but had been blown up. Dr. Buffington said the bell was repaired many times. Mr. Butler noted that he has lived in Hobart for 50 years and said he was still considered a newcomer. Mr. Butler suggested they needed to have some kindergartners present to lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:07 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular session meeting is March 7, 2024.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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

ATTEST:

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

Submitted for Approval: March 7, 2024