

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
July 15, 2021**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on July 15, 2021, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

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

Board Members Present:

Terry D. Butler  
Karen J. Robbins  
Rikki A. Guthrie  
Sandra J. Hillan  
Frank Porras  
Olivia 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

Board Members Absent:

Donald H. Rogers  
Stuart B. Schultz

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Two unidentified parents and a student

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the work session, executive session, and regular session minutes of July 1, 2021. Seconded by Karen Robbins seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Mrs. Hillan thanked Pat Schoon, recording secretary, for the good job she does with the minutes.

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

- Accounts Payable Vouchers for July 15, 2021 – Olivia Garcia and Morgan Sanchez, HHS student representatives, shared the reading of the accounts payable voucher summary with Morgan reading the first portion and Olivia the last portion, as follows:

School Education Fund \$898,378.97  
Operating Referendum Fund \$35,726.38  
Debt Service Fund \$4,214,333.33  
School Operations Fund \$410,256.28  
Construction Fund \$700 \$172,365.16  
School Lunch Fund \$57,129.22  
Textbook Rental Fund \$77,920.45  
Self-Insurance Fund \$547,536.44  
Community Gifts and Donations \$7,400.00  
Building Brickies \$222.82  
Hobart Educational Foundation/Legacy Grant \$158.10  
Formative Assessment Grant \$2,000.00  
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal \$227.60  
Title II Part A FY 2019 \$700.00  
ESSER II \$315,373.22  
Fed Stimulus-18003 Ed Stabilization Relief \$2,409.26  
Clearing Accounts \$476,392.07

Self-Insurance Clearing \$50,969.49  
Clearing/Insurance Accounts \$147,199.94  
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$24.27

for a total of \$7,416,723.00 with no transfers. The June payroll distribution by Dawn Powers, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$1,860,276.67.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for July 15, 2021. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

The Board congratulated the student representatives for the great job they did with their first reading of the vouchers, and everyone gave the student representatives “a round of applause.”

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated June 30, 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.

- Applications for Payment No. 26 - Veterans Elementary at Mundell –  
Adams Masonry, Inc., App No. 15 – \$101,894.45  
Circle R Mechanical, Inc., App No. 17 and 18 – \$20,561.33 (total for both payments)  
Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Inc., App No. 20R – \$116,611.02

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the applications for Payment for the Veterans Elementary at Mundell as presented. Seconded by Sandra Hillan. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Dr. Buffington noted the project was “inching closer for completion.” There were a couple of retainage payments left, as well as Larson Danielson was still working on the foam insulation.

**COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no comments from the audience 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 Rikki Guthrie. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Request for Leave of Absence –  
Carol Edelen, Liberty School/custodian, FMLA, June 24 through August 3, 2021

Extracurricular Club Duty Contract –  
August 24, 2020/June 9, 2021: Sallie Thomas, Hobart High School/Multicultural Club, 5 hours, \$125.00

Summer School Contracts –  
Hobart High School, Session 2, July 12/July 29, 2021:  
Emily Bratcher, Algebra 2 – Semester 2, 12 days, \$2,995.98  
Michael Brown, physical education, 12 days, \$3,333.72  
Jason Cook, Edmentum/Credit Recovery, 12 days, \$4,984.08  
Justine Eubank, physical education, 12 days, \$3,369.60  
Eike Fischer, English (all levels), 12 days, \$4,744.74  
Mark Leto, health, 12 days, \$4,640.22  
Jill MacDonald, Algebra 1 – Semester 2, 12 days, \$4,431.18  
Colin May, government, 12 days, \$4,555.98  
Josh Mehay, physical education, 12 days, \$4,076.28  
Anna Reyes, honors geometry – Semester 2, 12 days, \$2,995.98  
Kari Roach, economics, 12 days, \$4,682.34

Transfers of Assignment –

Jennifer Kemp

From: Liberty School/aide-student supervisor

To: Joan Martin School/principal's administrative assistant, effective July 26, 2021

Diane Romeo

From: Hobart Middle School/media center aide

To: Liberty School/principal's administrative assistant, effective July 26, 2021

Teacher Contract – 2021-2022 –

August 16, 2021/June 3, 2021: Jamie Edwards, Joan Martin School and Hobart Middle School/teacher, 184 days, \$43,691.00

**INTRODUCTION: 2021-2022 Hobart High School Student Board Representatives:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed and introduced the Board's new Hobart High School student Board representatives for the coming year, Olivia Garcia and Morgan Sanchez. Dr. Buffington indicated that she, Sandi Hillan, and Karen Robbins held virtual interviews with a large number of students who applied for the positions. She indicated that it was a difficult decision and said Olivia and Morgan “rose to the top.” She said they were “enthusiastic and passionate,” involved “in everything,” and would be able “to reach out to a diversified group of students.”

Dr. Buffington turned the meeting over to Sandi Hillan and Karen Robbins for their comments. Sandi Hillan indicated that all of the interviewed candidates did a great job, but that Morgan and Olivia stood out with their maturity. She was “looking forward to serving” with them. Karen Robbins concurred with Mrs. Hillan that they had interviewed great candidates. She indicated that Morgan and Olivia were a unanimous selection, and she, too, was “looking forward to serving with you.” Mrs. Robbins indicated that Olivia was a shirttail relative, and it was noted that everyone in Hobart was related to someone else in Hobart. Dr. Buffington told the student representatives that they would be serving on the Board through end of June next year. Even though they were not voting members, President Terry Butler told them to feel free to express their opinions/concerns during discussions at Board meetings. Morgan Sanchez and Olivia Garcia were excited and looking forward to serving on the Board.

**OVERNIGHT/EXTENDED STUDENT TRIP: Hobart High School Boys Soccer:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington reviewed a request for the boys soccer team to attend a summer camp at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, from July 16 to July 18, 2021. Around 22 varsity and junior varsity team members would be attending and would travel in School City of Hobart activity buses. Coaches attending would be Luke Weinman, Jamie Harris and Brandon Walker, and possibly two volunteer coaches. This would be the second time the team has attended this camp. Before approving the trip, Dr. Buffington requested the protocol/guidelines for the handling of sick campers due to COVID-19, and she was told that the university would be using CDC guidelines. She indicated that this was the same procedure that was followed for the JROTC when they participated in their last national competition. Dr. Buffington told the Board that a copy of the CDC protocols/regulations were included in the electronic meeting packet, as was a parent waiver form that has to be completed.

Dr. Buffington recommended approval and requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the overnight student trip request as presented. Seconded by Frank Porras.

In the discussion, President Terry Butler asked whether the coaches were the same as last year and if the request was just for the boys soccer team. He was told that the coaches were the same, and the request was only for the boys soccer team.

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

**PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE: Annual Financial Report:** Bob Glover, Business Manager, requested permission to advertise the Annual Financial Report. He indicated that in accordance with I.C. 5-3-1-3 each school corporation is required to publish an Annual Financial Report, and the report needed to be published one time, not earlier than August 1 or later than August 15 of each year. The statute also stated that each school corporation shall submit a copy of the Annual Financial Report to the Department of Education, and that the Department shall make it available for public inspection. Mr. Glover indicated this report had been around for many years and was a routine report that included a variety of information and named a few, as follows: 2020 Receipts and Expenditures and Salary Information that included a breakdown on different positions.

Mr. Glover requested permission to advertise the Annual Financial Report.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve permission to advertise the Annual Financial Report. Frank Porras seconded.

In the discussion, Terry Butler inquired about the report still having to be advertised in newspapers and noted that many people do not subscribe to newspapers any more. Mr. Glover indicated that was still a requirement of the statute that has not changed.

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

**BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATION: Second Reading of Resolution Adopting Updates for Hobart School Board Policy:** William Longer, School Board Attorney, presented Resolution No. 2021-33 for updates to Board policy. He explained the changes and adoption process of changes in the comprehensive document entitled "Bylaws and Policies of the School City of Hobart." He indicated no changes had been made since the first reading at the last Board meeting and indicated the changes reflected changes in state law, federal regulations, and state statutes, as well as technical correction update. This was the second reading and possible adoption at this meeting.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie asked Attorney Longer if it would be acceptable for her to only read the title of the resolution since it was being displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and Mr. Longer indicated it would okay to do so.

Secretary Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-33 aloud, as follows:

School City of Hobart  
Board of School Trustees

Resolution No. 2021-33

A Resolution Approving Amendments to the Bylaws and  
Policies of the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart

President Butler called for a motion and a roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-33 for the bylaws and policies changes in the comprehensive document entitled "Bylaws and Policies of the School City of Hobart". Sandra Hillan seconded.

In the discussion, the Board thanked Bill Longer and Jon Mock for their work with the Board policy.

Vote on motion: Secretary Rikki Guthrie called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

A copy of Resolution No. 2021-33, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room and as presented and adopted is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: IDOE ESSER III Grant:** Dr. Peggy Buffington indicated a copy of the email approval of the ESSER III Grant for FY 2021 that was awarded to the school district was included in the electronic meeting packet, as was a copy of the grant. She said the grant was for \$5,434,523.87 and would be used to assist with goals for the Return-to-Learn Plan. The funds would be used for loss of learning and technology and would provide a multitier support system at the secondary level.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board accept the 2021 ESSER III grant, as presented. Karen Robbins seconded.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington told the Board that the federal grants “were very laborious,” and she extended her appreciation to Bob Glover, Ted Zembala, and Lori Anderson for their work on the grants, as well as Chris King and Tim Krieg. She said the grants were turned in, returned and resubmitted a couple of times, before approvals were granted. In addition, she noted that all of the administrative and the multitier services would be evaluated during the term of the grant so that when the grant monies were no longer available, a decision could be made whether those services should be continued and how they would be funded. Sandi Hillan was happy about the instructional services being provided through the grant. Karen Robbins thanked everyone for the work they did on the grant.

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

**RECOMMENDATION: Contract for Athletic Trainer Services with The Methodist Hospitals, Inc.:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington told the Board that the district had an athletic trainer on staff, but it was difficult for the trainer to be at all the practices and competitions. She noted that during the pandemic, Community Network decided to terminate their contract for athletic trainer services. She said a need still existed for additional athletic trainer services, and Methodist Hospitals was willing to provide the services. Dr. Buffington highlighted the contract with The Methodist Hospitals, Inc. for Athletic Trainer Services and said the term of the contract was for the period of July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. She indicated that Attorney William Longer reviewed the contract and made a couple of suggestions that have been incorporated into the contract. The contract was included in the electronic meeting packet for the Board’s review.

Board action was requested.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the contract with The Methodist Hospitals, Inc. for athletic trainer services, as presented, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract. Seconded by Frank Porras.

In the discussion, Terry Butler thought it was unfortunate that our local hospital was not able to provide these services. Dr. Buffington explained that it was not St. Mary’s who cancelled the contract but the Community Care Network of which St. Mary’s is just one of their hospital/medical centers. Mr. Butler inquired whether the x-ray machine in the Brickie Clinic was available if needed for athletic injuries. She told the Board about a recent meeting concerning the Brickie Clinic and its services. Dr. Buffington noted that when COVID-19 happened, services at the clinic were reduced and the x-ray machine was not used, nor were the mental health services put in place. She indicated that with the new pool at the high school, inquiries have been made about it being used for physical therapy and said this would benefit the community and school district. She said she would keep the Board informed of their discussions.

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

**RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: Lake County Supporting Addiction Free Environments Grant:** Dr. Peggy Buffington highlighted the Lake County Supporting Addiction Free Environments Grant (SAFE) and said the total amount of the grant was \$18,176.00. She said the grant funds would be used for the district's Prevention and Random Drug Testing for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Debbie Matthys, Director of Social Emotional Learning, for applying for the grant and noted that Mrs. Matthys had been a member of this group for many years.

Dr. Buffington recommended acceptance of the grant and requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board officially accept the Lake County Supporting Addiction Free Environments Grant, as presented, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the grant documents. Sandra Hillan seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:** The Board received the following information that was included with the electronic meeting information:

► **BRICKIES SHINE!** – Dr. Buffington explained that “Brickies Shine!” will be an addition to the agenda to showcase the accomplishments of those in the school district and was the idea of Pat Schoon, administrative assistant and recording secretary of Board meetings. Dr. Buffington noted that everyone was proud of the accomplishments our students who "shine" and she highlighted the following that was included in the electronic meeting information:

- 1) Key Club International Convention Awards that the Hobart High School Key Club received were as follows: Hobart High School, Distinguished Diamond Club; Heidi Polizotto, Outstanding Faculty Advisor; Sheila DeBonis, Outstanding Kiwanis Sponsor; and Gold Single Service Award: Hobart High School for Key Clubbers Got Talent. Dr. Buffington noted that not only was the school community proud of the Key Club but so was the entire Hobart community. She noted their club was an outstanding organization, and its members “inspire others to serve.”
- 2) Andrew Clemmons, a Hobart High school student, was selected as the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. She highlighted Andrew’s Eagle

Scout Project, which was making “buddy benches” for all of the elementary schools. He purchased the materials and built the benches. Attorney William Longer, an Eagle Scout, commented that “only four to five percent of Boy Scouts” attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Being an Eagle Scout of the Year would put Andrew in an even more elite group. Dr. Buffington told the Board that Andrew had been invited to an August Board meeting. Mrs. Hillan indicated that Andrew was recognized at the last Park Board meeting. Olivia Garcia commented that Andrew did not share this honor with the JROTC cadets, and they did not find out until he was not at a practice and Lt Col Buhmann told them about his recognition. She thought it was an outstanding accomplishment for him. Dr. Buffington noted that Andrew was an outstanding individual and citizen, as well as being a role model for our students.

► Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School District Award – Dr. Buffington indicated that the School City of Hobart was one of only 19 school districts in the United States to receive this prestigious award for the 2020-2021 school year and said that PLTW was a special program that was “near and dear to her heart.” She said that PLTW began in Hobart in 1999, and the school district was one of the first school corporations to participate in the program. She congratulated the teachers and their students for the success of the program. Dr. Buffington extended her appreciation to Chris King and Tammy May for their continued support and professional development for the staff. Terry Butler noted that when the program began it was to give the students the opportunity to find out if they wanted to be an engineer and to give them a head start when they went to college. The program has become so much more and is a very successful program offering early college/dual credits, which is a savings to parents and students. Dr. Buffington noted the award was an honor for our students, staff, and community!

► REPORT: Teacher Evaluation Category Aggregate Report – Dr. Peggy Buffington told the Board that Indiana Code required that the Board receive the Teacher Evaluation Category Aggregate Report each year. She indicated that the Board had received a copy of the report with the electronic meeting information. She thanked Jon Mock for his work in keeping track of the teacher evaluations. Dr. Buffington noted that the Marzano Evaluation Model was used by the school district, and she indicated that the school district was required to give the report to the Hobart Teachers Association. She said that district’s staffs were “Highly Effective” and “Effective” with no staff members designated as “Needs Improvement” or “Ineffective.” She was “proud of the teachers” especially under the extenuating circumstances of the past school year.

The report information for the 2020-2021 school year is as follows:

LOCATION/CATEGORY	COUNT	PERCENT
<u>District</u>	FOCUSED	MODEL
Effective	13	
Highly Effective	181	7%
Total	194	93%
<u>Early Learning Center</u>		
Effective	2	14%
Highly Effective	12	86%
Total	14	
<u>Hobart High School</u>		
Effective	2	4%
Highly Effective	55	96%
Total	57	
<u>Hobart Middle School</u>		
Effective	2	4%
Highly Effective	46	96%
Total	48	
<u>Joan Martin Elementary</u>		
Effective	0	0%
Highly Effective	25	100%
Total	25	
<u>Liberty Elementary</u>		
Effective	0	0%
Highly Effective	22	100%
Total	22	
<u>Veterans Elementary</u>		
Effective	7	26%
Highly Effective	20	74%
Total	27	

► Return to In-Person Instruction Plan: Brickie Forward 2021-22 – The Board was updated on the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan: Brickie Forward Plan for 2021-22. Dr. Buffington highlighted the plan with the Board, as it was displayed on the screens in the Board Room, including the updates that were made since the plan was adopted on June 3, 2021. The heading sections are listed, as follows:

- 1. Addressing Community Spread in School City of Hobart Community (As guided by local Health Department, State Health Department and CDC)
- 2. Expect Each Brickie Family to Assume Personal Responsibility to Protect Brickies – Myself, Others, Our Hobart Community
- 3. Offer In-Person Learning for All Students and an Instructional Option for Students Who Need to Continue Virtually Due to Covid-19
- 4. Implement Personal Health Safety Practices and Protocols
- 5. Enact Health Safety Changes in Physical Spaces, Food Services, and Transportation
- 6. Teaching and Learning
- 7. Social-Emotional Learning
- 8. Extra-Curriculars, Co-Curriculars, & Clubs
- 9. Anticipate and Plan for Contingencies
- 10. Engage Our Stakeholders with Consistent, Compelling, and Timely Communication and Clear Guidance
- Brickie Forward Plan (2021-2022) Updates (47 through July 15, 2021)

There was discussion along with Dr. Buffington's presentation. She noted that the state and local health boards were recommending that masks be worn, not mandating that they be worn, but there is a federal mandate that masks be worn on school buses. She indicated the school district would follow the guidelines of the government authorities and noted the increase in community spread of COVID-19 cases in the state. Dr. Buffington indicated that students and staff can continue to wear masks, if they wish to do so. Wipes will still be available for wiping down desks, and decanters of sanitizer would be available. Dr. Buffington noted the importance of washing hands and keeping hands away from their face and eyes. She indicated the plan was still in flux and would be updated, as needed, due to recommendations and guidelines from federal and state authorities, the CDC, and the state and local boards of health.

► School Information (Summer School Schedules; Brickie Rush '21; Registration Information; and First Day of School for Students & Late Start Wednesdays) –

► Information pertaining to Summer School at Hobart High School, Hobart Middle School, and the elementary schools is as follows:

- Hobart High School – Session 2, July 12 through July 29  
Mondays through Thursdays, 7:30 am to 1:30 pm
- Hobart Middle School – July 27 through August 12  
Mondays through Thursday, except the first week will be Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
- Elementary Schools – July 27 through August 13  
Monday through Friday, except the first week will be Tuesday – Friday  
9-11:00 am Monday through Friday except the first week will be Tuesday through Friday

► Information for this year's Brickie Rush for the incoming freshman class that will be held on August 11 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at the high school. In addition, there will be a spaghetti dinner for parents that evening at 6:00 pm, and RSVPs are required for the dinner. Dr. Buffington indicated that Shaun Zoladz and Courtney Gill were looking for mentors for the program, and she asked the student representatives if they would be willing to assist and/or recruit some of their fellow students, too. Both agreed to help, and she asked them to let Mr. Zoladz and Mrs. Gill know. Olivia Garcia noted the importance of “teaching the young ones” about the high school and its culture so that they will be able pass this along to those following them. Dr. Buffington commented that she just enjoys hearing Olivia talk about “teaching the young ones.”

- ▶ Information pertaining to online registration for 2021-2022 and the need for parents/guardians to register ASAP. Dr. Buffington indicated that registration had to be re-opened for the school families who had not registered their students for the coming school year and said that in addition to Skyward blasts and posts on social media, phone calls were placed to all of those families. She said that some of them were not very nice in responding to the person making the calls and used inappropriate language during the conversation.
- ▶ Dr. Buffington said the first day for students for this school year is August 18, 2021, and first late start Wednesday would begin the following week on August 25, 2021. Dr. Buffington was asked about the first day of school tour and whether there would be one this year. She thought it would be okay to do one this year and reminded the Board members that there would be a lot of steps involved.

**COMMENTS:** President Butler asked for comments from the audience, and two unidentified parents spoke to the Board. The first parent inquired about the teaching of CRT (Critical Race Theory), vaccinations, and masks, and she inquired about the paintings propped against a wall on the floor in the audience area. President Butler answered that the school district follows and does not deviate from state standards that do not include CRT. Vaccines are not required or mandated for returning students but were highly recommended for those able to be vaccinated. Masks were also not required except for students riding school buses, and students would be asked to always carry a mask on their person in case a situation would arise where it would be needed. It was noted that this could change if a mandate were to be instituted by the CDC, state or county health boards, and/or actions at the state or federal level. Dr. Buffington indicated that the paintings came from a learning center in the high school that was being converted into the Early College and Career Hub. She noted this came about because of the addition of new administrators. One of the administrators would be working there and at the Administration Office. Everyone liked the paintings, and Dr. Buffington said they would be used elsewhere. The other parent inquired whether students would be sharing school supplies or would they be able to keep the supplies they bring in because she was “ready to label” her son’s school supplies. She noted when her son returned to school in March, students were not allowed to sharpen their pencils. The teacher collected them, sharpened them, and then had them available to the students the next day. Dr. Buffington did not know why the students could not sharpen their pencils, but she was sure that the teacher had sanitized the pencils before they were returned to the students because that was the procedure to be followed with school supplies. She noted that in art classes supplies/utensils were not shared from one class to another and were sanitized each day. The parent gave a shout out to all of the custodians at Joan Martin School for all of their efforts in keeping the school clean. Mr. Butler noted that the custodial staff “really stepped up” their efforts with cleaning the schools and did a great job. The parent commented that the pandemic had taken a toll on families, and students are more anxious. Mr. Butler thought everything would work out and that students were ready to return to school. The mother mentioned that her son had had straight A’s but did not get a certificate this year. Dr. Buffington thought the certificates had been mailed out but said she would look into it. The parents were thanked for coming to the meeting.

From the administration, Peggy Buffington welcomed the student representatives and indicated that the team on her left was “getting ready to open for another school year.” She extended her appreciation to them for their hard work. Bob Glover welcomed the student representatives. Chris King also welcomed them and extended his congratulations to them. Bill Longer welcomed Olivia and Morgan to the Board, told them there were “no stupid questions,” and they should feel free to ask them so they would find out the answers. Jon Mock welcomed the student representatives and noted that during their training, they asked great questions. He thought they would do a good job and indicated that he prepared them for the “budget meeting.” Tim Krieg echoed everyone’s comments and extended his welcome to the student representatives. He indicated that he had been meeting with teachers on curriculum and noted they were excited for the coming school year.

From the Board, Frank Porras welcomed Olivia and Morgan and hoped they have a great experience serving on the Board. Sandi Hillan indicated she was pleased to have Morgan and Olivia serving on the Board. She complimented the administration for their work on the ESSER grant. Olivia Garcia commented that she had been nervous before the meeting, but she felt welcomed. She noted she normally was a talkative person. Morgan was excited and looking forward to the coming year, noted she would be talking more, and said that some of her questions were answered at tonight’s meeting. Dr. Buffington commented that many times students do not understand how things happen. They do not realize that the school district has to follow rules/regulations from the state and county health boards, the federal government, and the governor’s executive orders during the pandemic. They just think the administration made up the rules because they could. Rikki Guthrie welcomed the student representatives and indicated she was “glad to



have you.” Karen Robbins welcomed the student representatives and said she was excited to have them serve. She told them she hoped they would enjoy the year and told them about the desserts at the meetings and to help themselves. Mrs. Robbins thanked Dr. Buffington for being the speaker at a recent Kiwanis meeting and the school district for their assistance in getting water to the Hobart Food Pantry facility. She said it was much appreciated. She noted that Terry Butler was heading the annual city-wide food drive that the Kiwanis Club sponsors. Mr. Butler commented on the importance of never missing a meeting, which is what happened to him. He said he checked dates with Col. Buhmann because the JROTC was an integral part of the food drive, as was the Key Club. The food drive would be held on September 25 with the flyers being passed out on September 18. Olivia Garcia mentioned that the food drive was a favorite activity for her. Karen Robbins told everyone about one of our retired teachers, who was in the hospital, and to keep him in their prayers. Terry Butler welcomed Olivia and Morgan, noted the Board welcomes and appreciates their perspective, and was glad they were willing to represent their fellow students at the high school on the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:35 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular session meeting is August 5, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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

ATTEST:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: August 5, 2021