

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
March 18, 2021**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on March 18, 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 as noted:

Board Members Present:

Terry D. Butler  
Karen J. Robbins  
Rikki A. Guthrie  
Sandra J. Hillan  
Frank Porras  
Donald H. Rogers  
Kelsey Black, HHS student representative  
Lauren Cicillian, HHS student representative

Administrators Present:

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

Administrator Absent:

Ted Zembala

Board Member Absent:

Stuart B. Schultz

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:11 p.m.

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

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

In the Zoom audience:

Kari Roach, teacher at Hobart High School and Brickie Leaders sponsor  
Brooke Burczyk, teacher at Hobart High School and Brickie Leaders sponsor  
Jackie Keefe, teacher at the Hobart High School  
Calle Hairston, Brickie Leader  
Kaylynn Hubbard, Brickie Leader

In-Person Audience:

Heather Ganske, Counselor and Mental Health Advisor at Hobart High School  
Dr. Mark and Bonnie Olson, parents of Maddy and Jack Olson  
Maddy Olson, high school student and her grandmother  
Jack Olson, graduate of Hobart High School and his grandmother  
Carole Carlson, reporter for the *Post-Tribune*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the executive session and regular session minutes of March 4, 2021. Seconded by Rikki Guthrie. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** In the absence of Business Manager Ted Zembala, Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented the following for the Board's consideration and recommended approval:

➤ Vouchers for March 18, 2021 – Kelsey Black and Lauren Cicillian, HHS student representatives, shared the reading of the accounts payable voucher summary with Lauren reading the first portion and Kelsey Black the last part, as follows:

School Education Fund \$461,513.73  
Operating Referendum Fund \$34,237.21  
School Operations Fund \$252,778.02

Construction Fund 700 \$67,914.94  
School Lunch \$78,825.85  
Textbook Rental Fund \$140,076.14  
Self-Insurance Fund \$505,034.90  
Community Gifts and Donations \$135.65  
Building Brickies \$1,755.55  
Eat, Play and Learn Project \$395.50  
Formative Assessment Grant \$14,850.00  
Title I Part A \$834.00  
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal \$389.60  
Title II Part A FY 2019 \$1,587.00  
18002 Gov Emerg Educ Relief \$82,566.00  
Fed Stimulus-18003 Ed Stabilization Relief \$3,301.56  
Clearing Accounts \$389,023.64  
Self-Insurance Clearing \$1,858.50  
Clearing/Flexible Benefits AF \$47,950.49  
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$96.60

for vouchers totaling \$2,085,125.38. The February payroll distribution by the school corporation's treasurer was \$1,528,212.92.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for March 18, 2021. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated February 28, 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 on the listed agenda items.

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

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contract for Extracurricular Services –

Hobart High School, August 20, 2020/June 10, 2021: Ty Artherhults, resigned as varsity girls track coach, effective February 26, 2021

Homebound Teaching Contract –

March 3/June 13, 2021: Sharon Auttonson, Compass and Edmentum, two hours per week, \$45.20 per hour

Resignations –

Denise Phillips, Service Center/school bus driver, effective March 4, 2021

Rachel Punak, Liberty School/food service, effective March 12, 2021

Dolly VanderWoude, Joan Martin School/custodian, effective April 8, 2021

Retirement Resignations –

Leo Marshall, Hobart High School/JROTC, effective August 31, 2021

Cindy Melody, Hobart Middle School/custodian, effective May 28, 2021

Extra Duty Contact –

Hobart High School:

Gary Roach, varsity boys golf, effective March 15/June 16, 2021, \$2,491.00

New Employee –

Cassandra Allen, Service Center/school bus driver, effective March 8, 2021, \$15.31 per hour with probation period waived

**RECOGNITION: Kindness Support Group at Hobart High School:** Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed Jack and Maddy Olson, and Dr. Mark and Bonnie Olson, their parents, and their grandmother to the meeting. In addition, she indicated that she invited Heather Ganske, counselor and mental health advisor at the high school, to come and speak about a kindness support group at Hobart High School called "Bump in the Road." Dr. Buffington noted that many people are impressed with the support group and the help it provides for our students. She indicated that staff members throughout the district have emailed her about the program and because of this, she wanted to recognize Jack and Maddy and their family for the impact that the program has had on Hobart students and even adults. Mrs. Ganske noted that she was the facilitator of the support group. She said the support group came about after the loss of the Olson's youngest daughter, Amelia. Jack and Maddy played a huge part in getting the program started at the high school. She said that many students have experienced great loss and meeting as a group they are able to share and emphasize with one another. Mrs. Ganske was asked to help in guiding them through the grieving process. The group meets every two weeks after school and is open to any high school student. She thanked the Olson's for the delicious desserts they provide at the meetings. In addition, Mrs. Ganske thanked the high school administration and the Olson family for their support. Dr. Buffington said the program would not have happened without the support of the Olson family and she told the family they were "a light for other people." Dr. Buffington extended her thanks and appreciation to the Olson family for this wonderful program that was impacting the lives of many Hobart students. On behalf of the Board and Dr. Buffington, the high school student representatives, Kelsey Black and Lauren Cicillan, presented certificates of recognition to Jack and Maddy Olson and an inscribed gift for the Olson family. Sandi Hillan expressed her appreciation to the Olson's and said they were touching lives. Terry Butler noted the Olson family members were "unsung heroes" helping others with extremely difficult issues, and he appreciated what they were doing. Mrs. Hillan noted that Mr. Ganske was "truly an asset to the staff." Dr. Olson extended his thanks to the Board and Dr. Buffington, and he told everyone they were going to be able to have their annual bake sale this year that they could not do last year. It will run from May 3 through May 27 with a donation being given to Erin's Farm in memory of Amelia. Erin's Farm is located in Hobart and takes in rescue animals. He said his daughter loved animals and wanted to be a veterinarian. He noted that Amy Turley had contacted him and may do a fundraiser of some sort at Liberty School. The Olson's were thanked again for all that they do and the impact this program will provide Hobart students.

**PRESENTATION: Hobart High School Brickie Leaders in Recognition of March is Disabilities Month:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed high school staff members, Brooke Burczyk, Jackie Keefe, and Kari Roach and Calle Hairston and Kaylynn Hubbard, members of Brickie Leaders, to the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Burczyk and Mrs. Roach are sponsors of the Brickie Leaders and Ms. Keefe is a special needs teacher. Dr. Buffington indicated the students would be making a presentation about a Brickie Leaders Project to Celebrate Inclusion in recognition of March is Disabilities Month.

A video presentation was viewed with Calle Hairston and Kaylynn Hubbard being the commentators. It was explained that because of pandemic, the special needs students were not able to have their annual basketball game or their prom this year so the Brickie Leaders wanted to do something special for them. The week of March 15-19 was celebrated as Spirit Days, as follows: Monday was "Sleepy Monday" – wear pajamas; Tuesday was "Twinning Tuesday" – twin someone; Wednesday was "Wacky Wednesday" – Dress mismatched; Thursday was "Throwback Thursday" – Dress up like your favorite decade; Friday – "Super SupSPORT" – wear you Brickie Gear, sportswear, or Superhero wear. In addition, the Brickie Leaders and the students in Ms. Keefe's class created and painted posters with positive sayings about inclusion and what it means that were posted in the high school, and they were shown as part of their presentation. The Brickie Leaders and Ms. Keefe's students enjoyed working together on the posters, and the students enjoyed seeing their posters displayed around the school. Calle and Kaylynn thanked the School City of Hobart for letting them celebrate inclusion and everything they did with the project. Dr. Buffington told them a wonderful program came about because of the coronavirus. The inclusion awareness program impacted all of the students at the high school. They indicated that everyone seemed to enjoy the Spirit Days. Kaylynn admitted that she found her passion of working with the special needs students. It was her favorite class of the day.

Dr. Buffington and Board thanked them for the outstanding, informative presentation. Dr. Buffington indicated that to publicize their inclusion program on social media and said she was very proud of everyone involved with this project. The students indicated they "had a great time this entire week." Terry Butler thanked the students for all of their efforts and work they did. He noted that he has had the opportunity to watch young children grow as leaders with their dedication and caring into adults with those same attributes, and one of those was Jackie Keefe. Mr. Butler thanked the teachers and students for attending the meeting and for the great presentation.

**RESOLUTION: Paraprofessional Appreciation Day:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2021-10 in recognition of Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. The resolution designated April 7, 2021, as Paraprofessional Appreciation Day.

President Terry Butler asked School Board Attorney William Longer whether reading the title of the resolution would be sufficient, and he indicated that it would. Secretary Rikki Guthrie then read the title of the resolution, aloud, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

President Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 recognizing Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. (Mrs. Guthrie verbally corrected the typographical error in the year in the resolution number from 2011 to 2021-10.) Sandra Hillan seconded.

In the discussion, Sandi Hillan noted that sometimes paraprofessionals were “underappreciated” or “taken for granted.” When she was a principal, she indicated the paraprofessionals were “so flexible and helpful” and said they “really do make a big difference.” President Butler commented on the importance of the paraprofessionals and indicated the paraprofessionals had to meet certain requirements. He noted he was sure Dr. Buffington would pass on the resolution to them and knew the paraprofessionals would receive tokens of appreciation on their special day. Dr. Buffington indicated that she would be emailing the resolution to all staff members and their treats were already in the works.

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

Resolution No. 2021-10, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and presented and adopted, is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, paraprofessional educators may be known as paras, instructional assistants, or teacher aides; and

WHEREAS, paraprofessionals perform a variety of teacher-related jobs and assist teachers in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, paraprofessionals may assist students in completing assignments, work with students on supplemental enrichment activities, either in small groups or one-on-one, often work with students with special needs and disabilities; and supervise students outside the classroom, and

WHEREAS, the first Wednesday in April is Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that April 7, 2021, be designated *Paraprofessional Appreciation Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School City of Hobart expresses its deep appreciation to these employees and values the outstanding job that they do on behalf of our students.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2021.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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

ATTEST:

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

**RESOLUTION: The Week of the Young Child:** Dr. Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2021-11 for the Board's consideration. The resolution commemorates the Ready, Set, Go Association and the

School City of Hobart, as well as other organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, in celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 10-16, 2021. Dr. Buffington indicated that the school district had been celebrating the Week of the Young Child for many years. She said the city had also participated in the Week of the Young Child and celebrating the importance of early education since the very beginning. The resolution acknowledged the investment of the Hobart community in the importance of early childhood experiences. She noted the Ready, Set Go Association was comprised of Hobart preschools that have a similar curriculum that fits in with the school district's kindergarten curriculum and said the district appreciated all of the preschools in Hobart. She indicated that COVID-19 curtailed activities last year, and the same may be true this year. However, she noted they may be able to have some limited activities to celebrate the special week.

President Terry Butler asked Secretary Rikki Guthrie to read the title of resolution. Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-11 aloud, as follows:

Resolution No. 2021-11  
Week of the Young Child

President Butler requested a motion and roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-11 commemorating the Week of the Young Child. Rikki Guthrie seconded.

In the discussion, it was noted that the partnership with the city was appreciated.

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

Resolution No. 2021-11, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and presented and adopted, is as follows:

Resolution No. 2021-11  
Week of the Young Child

Whereas, the Ready, Set, Go Association and the School City of Hobart, as well as other organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the *Week of the Young Child*, April 10-16, 2021; and

Whereas, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Hobart, Indiana; and

Whereas, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Hobart, Indiana, deserve thanks and recognition; and

Whereas, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the week of April 10-16, 2021, be designated as the *Week of the Young Child* in Hobart, Indiana and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board encourages the community of Hobart to work to make a good investment in early childhood in Hobart, Indiana.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2021.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

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

**CONSIDERATION: Trademark License Renewal Agreement for Hobart Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented a renewal trademark license agreement with Hobart Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. to use the Yohan logo in connection with the uniforms worn by

student athletes and their coaches' shirts for the 2021 season. The new agreement would expire on April 30, 2022. She noted Hobart Pop Warner was not requesting any changes from last year's agreement of using the logo on the shirts of the coaches (either on front left chest or center tag line on back) and the pants of the uniform (front waist line).

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Donald Rogers moved that the Board renew the trademark license agreement with the Hobart Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. as presented and authorize the superintendent to sign the agreement on behalf of the School City of Hobart. Rikki Guthrie seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**RECOMMENDATION: 2021 Summer School Course Recommendations:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington highlighted the 2021 summer school course offerings that were included in the electronic meeting packet. She noted that the reimbursement for summer school would be determined at a later date because the reimbursement was based on the number of state-wide programs. Dr. Buffington indicated that the course offerings would be turned in the Department of Education after Board approval. She said that the district has offered a great high school summer program for some time and allows some students to get requirements out of the way to open up their schedule for other classes for their graduation pathways. In addition, there are also credit recovery offerings for those who need to make up classes.

Summer School will be in-person, and the recommendations were as follows.

- Elementary –  
Summer school programs will be held at the Liberty, Joan Martin, and Veterans Elementary Schools from July 27 through August 13, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1100 a.m. each day. The program will be targeting specific language arts and math skills.
- Hobart Middle School –  
Summer school will be held for incoming 6th graders to incoming 8th graders from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Mondays through Thursdays for the period of July 26 to August 13, 2021. Summer school will focus on literacy/language arts skills and math concepts. Students that have the love for literacy or English and/or want to learn more about the way numbers work in all facets (including money, etc.) are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those that might need some refreshing and a jump start to the 2021-2022 school year may also attend.
- Hobart High School –  
Session 1:  
June 14-17 (Monday through Thursday)  
June 21-24 (Monday through Thursday)  
July 6-9 (Tuesday through Friday due to July 4th being Sunday)  
  
Session 2: (Monday through Thursday):  
July 12-15  
July 19-22  
July 26-29  
  
Times: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with two 15-minute breaks and one 30-minute break  
  
Attendance: Students may not miss more than the equivalent of one school day  
  
Courses Being Offered:  
English 9-12, History (World and U.S.), Health\*, Physical Education, Algebra I, Honors Geometry\*\*, Biology, Algebra II, Marching Band (PE), Government\*\*\*, Economics\*\*\*, Integrated Chemistry/Physics, Geometry, and Lifeguarding

\*If taking Health to "get ahead", students must take both sessions.

\*\*Honors Geometry requires Math Department permission.

\*\*\*Government/Economics can only be taken by juniors going into their senior year IF they have no other classes to make up.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action for authorization to provide the programs and for the approval of the summer programs.

Frank Porras moved that the Board authorize and approve the 2021 Summer School programs as presented. Sandra Hillan seconded.

In the discussion, Karen Robbins noted that many years ago fun classes were offered in the summer and wondered why they could not be offered again. She said her children really enjoyed them. Dr. Buffington noted that those kinds of classes would not receive reimbursement from the state, and the school corporation could not absorb their cost. However, she indicated that something like that could be run as a club and noted the Early Learning Center runs an amazing reading club in the summer. It was mentioned that perhaps the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation could designate funds to pay for some fun summer program classes. Dr. Buffington was asked about virtual summer classes, and she indicated all the classes would be in-person. Lake County has been in the blue and the vaccination program has been moving along quite well. She noted desks would be three feet apart and facing the front of the classroom. Dr. Buffington noted that they have been analyzing student failures and told the Board about some of the wellness checks that have been made with E-Learners and trying to get them to stay on task.

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH: Annual Performance Report:** Dr. Peggy Buffington briefly reviewed the Annual Performance Report. She noted that the Indiana Department of Education furnished the data for the report and said it can be a challenge such as giving us a Gary school that had to be removed. No test scores are shown because tests were not taken last year due to COVID-19, and all school corporations are being held harmless due to those circumstances, and the same was true for the accountability grades that remained the same. She noted there were questions about the salary range considering the minimum salary range went one down when actually the minimum salary had increased. She noted there were a few items they had asked to be corrected, but other than that the report was ready. The 2020 School Corporation Annual Performance Report (APR) for the district and each of the individual school reports were included in the electronic meeting packet.

Dr. Buffington requested that the Board grant permission to advertise the report.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board grant permission to publish the annual performance report. Seconded by Rikki Guthrie.

In the discussion, Sandi Hillan commented about retentions numbers being down, as were the suspensions. Dr. Buffington noted that work was done on restorative practices of trying to keep students in school and correct their behaviors for loss of learning.

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

**RESOLUTION: Joint Resolution Between Lake County School Boards in Opposition to School Vouchers and Bills that Negatively Affect the Finances of Public Schools:** Resolution No. 2021-12 was presented for the Board's consideration. It was a joint resolution between the Lake County School Boards of Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Hanover, Highland, Hobart, Lake Central, Lake Ridge, Lake Station, Merrillville, Munster, River Forest, Tri-Creek, and Whiting in opposition to school voucher expansions and bills that negatively affect the finances of public schools, the schools that are held accountable and are open to all children. Dr. Buffington indicated that the Board had already passed a resolution concerning H.B. 1005 and said it and some other bills this legislative session are syphoning off funds from the public schools. She noted that the state superintendents association and the Indiana School Board Association are requesting school corporations and individuals join together to let their legislators know they are opposed to the legislation. This resolution was a joint effort to do this. Dr. Buffington indicated that the Lake County Superintendents are planning on a press release indicating the united opposition to bills that negatively affect the finances of public schools.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-12 aloud as follows:

JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS OF  
Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Hanover, Highland  
Hobart, Lake Central, Lake Ridge, Lake Station, Merrillville, Munster,  
River Forest, Tri-Creek, & Whiting School Corporations

IN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL VOUCHER EXPANSIONS AND BILLS THAT NEGATIVELY  
AFFECT THE FINANCES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE SCHOOLS THAT ARE HELD  
ACCOUNTABLE AND ARE OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN

School City of Hobart  
Board of School Trustees

Resolution No. 2021-12

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-12, as presented. Rikki Guthrie seconded

In the discussion, Terry Butler hoped that this resolution and those of other school districts around the state would have an effect on the legislators.

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

Resolution No. 2021-12, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and presented and adopted, is as follows:

JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS OF  
Crown Point, East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Hanover, Highland  
Hobart, Lake Central, Lake Ridge, Lake Station, Merrillville, Munster,  
River Forest, Tri-Creek, & Whiting School Corporations

IN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL VOUCHER EXPANSIONS AND BILLS THAT NEGATIVELY  
AFFECT THE FINANCES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE SCHOOLS THAT ARE HELD  
ACCOUNTABLE AND ARE OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN

School City of Hobart  
Board of School Trustees

Resolution No. 2021-12

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering bills that dramatically increase funding for private institutions and provide incentives for wealthy families; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County School Boards recognize that these bills do not help communities of color and other marginalized groups despite the use of the word “choice;” and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Public Schools provide a strong education for Indiana’s children, and these bills would divert resources from accountable public schools and give them to private schools that are not compelled to follow the same state standards and mandates; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Public Schools serve all students and provide robust program offerings that include college prep courses, as well as career and technical education and special education, which are more expensive per student; and

THEREFORE, the Lake County School Boards strongly oppose legislation that diverts funding away from public schools.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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

ATTEST:

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

LAKE COUNTY INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS (16)

CROWN POINT  
David Warne, President  
\_\_\_\_\_

EAST CHICAGO  
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, President  
\_\_\_\_\_



GARY  
Robert L. Buggs Sr., President

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GRIFFITH  
Kathy Ruesken, President

---

HAMMOND  
John Czulno, President

---

HANOVER  
Connie Sterkowitz, President

---

HIGHLAND  
Robert Kuva, President

---

HOBART  
Terry D. Butler, President

---

LAKE CENTRAL  
Cindy Sues, President

---

LAKE RIDGE  
Glenn Johnson, President

---

LAKE STATION  
Karen Curtis, President

---

MERRILLVILLE  
Linda Jonaitis, President

---

MUNSTER  
John Doherty, President

---

RIVER FOREST  
Michelle Martin, President

---

TRI-CREEK  
Douglas Ward, President

---

WHITING  
Kathy Murzyn, President

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

- School Information – weekly agendas from all of the schools and the weekly BricksCenter newsletter. Dr. Buffington hoped that everyone took the opportunity to view the winter sports season video Mike Black prepared and was linked with the BricksCenter newsletter.
- Upcoming Activities/Events – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington noted the following upcoming activities/events, as follows:

April 7 – 7th Annual Brickie Makers and Innovators Showcase (Virtual)  
Entries due by March 31, 2021.

April 9 – E-Learning Day

June 13 – Graduation, 6:00 pm in The Brickyard. Dr. Buffington noted this was a Sunday evening, had been scheduled since the beginning of the school year, and said there had been a few complaints from parents who had scheduled their open house on that date. She indicated that there will be more events. Dr. Buffington indicated that as long as Lake County remains in the blue, events can be held with up to 250 people. Events with more than 250 people still need to have an approved plan from the Lake County Board of Health. She said they will work with the high school administrators and students.

**COMMENTS:** From the administration, Peggy Buffington thanked the high school students involved with all of the activities celebrating inclusion week at the high school. She said it was important for all of the students at the high school, she was “proud of how our students treat special needs students,” and she “thanked Brickie Leaders” for doing a great job. Dr. Buffington gave “shout outs to the school nurses, especially Jamie Noel.” Mrs. Noel and the Human Resources Department work closely on the COVID-19 regulations/protocols. Dr. Buffington told the Board that the National Guard will be training all of the school nurses on March 31 on the protocols for them giving the BinaxNOW Antigen Tests. She noted that Spring Break will be next week, and then it would be the fourth quarter when the students and staff return. She commented that it was hard to believe the school district had endured through the coronavirus. She noted that most people are not aware or do not understand the things that go on behind the scenes with administrators and the SROs. She noted the Hobart Police Department was phenomenal to work with and they are helpful to work with when crisis-type problems pop up. Chris King echoed the comments about Mrs. Ganske at the high school and said he worked with her about some concerns he had about one of his E-sport participants. Jon Mock indicated he was “proud of the Brickie Leaders” and all of the work they did with inclusion at the high school. He noted that one of the Brickie Leaders was in his class and he confirmed that she had “found her niche” in working on inclusion. He wished everyone “a safe and

enjoyable Spring Break.” Tim Krieg echoed the comments about Heather Ganske, as well as the comments about Brickie Leaders and their enthusiasm. He noted a quote from St. Francis of Assisi, “It is in the giving that we receive.”

From the Board, Frank Porras was impressed with the Bump in the Road presentation and noted that it would help students going through losses. He indicated that “the full impact” of this assistance may not be recognized for many years. Don Rogers commented it was nice to have people in the audience and be able to hear about the good things that were happening. He told everyone to enjoy Spring Break. Sandi Hillan extended her appreciation to the Brickie Leaders on their inclusion project. She indicated that the Olson family and Mrs. Ganske were touching the lives of students and adults with the Bump in the Road program. Dr. Buffington noted that grief affects everyone. Kelsey Black commented that she has friends who are Brickie Leaders, and she thought they did an outstanding job with the inclusion program all week. She especially liked the Spirit Days and being able to wear different types of dress for each day of the week. She noted that the Olson family’s program impacts the lives of many students, and she said that Mrs. Ganske has the biggest smile every day. In addition, she told everyone to have “a great Spring Break,” and she extended her congratulations to Mr. Krieg. Lauren Cicillian thanked everyone for their support of the JROTC Mattress Fundraiser for the Hobart Food Pantry. She said that she did not have a final report yet but indicated that since they were very close to reaching their financial goal, the company extended the sales through tomorrow. She noted the Hobart Fire Department purchased some mattresses and may purchase a few more to help them meet their goal. She told everyone to enjoy their Spring Break. Rikki Guthrie extended her congratulations to Tim Krieg. Mrs. Guthrie appreciated the decision to having the nurses administer the BinaxNOW Antigen Tests. Dr. Buffington thanked her for filling in for the school nurses earlier in the school year. Mrs. Guthrie extended her appreciation to everyone “for all of their hard work” and told them to “enjoy Spring Break.” Karen Robbins noted, “The kids and staff are amazing people. We have the best.” She extended her congratulations to Mr. Krieg “on becoming a dad.” Mr. Krieg said they were having a daughter, her name is Ellie Fitzgerald, and she is due on September 3. Mrs. Robbins pitched the Hobart Educational Foundation upcoming Easter fundraiser of 40 candy-filled eggs for \$20.00 that can be hidden in the yard or left in a basket. Terry Butler asked Mr. Longer about having an executive session or a work session to discuss compensation for personnel, whichever was appropriate. Mr. Longer indicated that an executive session would be appropriate, and if any action was needed, it would be done at a regular session meeting. Terry Butler read an Irish toast: “There are good ships, And wood ships, Ships that sail the sea, But the best ships are friendships, and May they, Always be!” He indicated that was how the Board was. They may have differing opinions, but they still remain friends. He noted his appreciation for what everyone does.

Since no one remained in the audience, there were audience comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:31 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular session meeting is April 1, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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

ATTEST:

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

Submitted for Approval: April 1, 2021