

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
March 20, 2025

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on March 20, 2025, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

ROLL CALL: President Rikki Guthrie asked Board Members to log in. The following Board Members and Administrators were present or absent as noted:

<u>Board Members Present:</u> Rikki A. Guthrie Sandra J. Hillan Frank Porras Bradley Keehn David W. Kostbade Donald H. Rogers Kayla Davis, HHS student representative* Isis Fleming, HHS student representative* *During Comments at the end of meeting	<u>Administrators Present:</u> Peggy Buffington Christopher N. King William J. Longer Jonathan Mock Tim Krieg Sara Gutierrez
<u>Board Member Absent:</u> Stuart B. Schultz	<u>Administrator Absent:</u> Bob Glover

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Guthrie indicated that the Board meet 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; and (7) for discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

CALL TO ORDER: Rikki Guthrie, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Guthrie led everyone present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were acknowledged for their great recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

- Audrey Amsler, music teacher at Veterans Elementary School @ Mundell
- Choir members from Veterans School @ Mundell
- Unidentified family/friends of the choir members
- Mindy Kusbel, administrative assistant at the Early Learning Center and family members
- Unidentified staff from the Early Learning Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bradley Keehn moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of March 6, 2025. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: In the absence of the Hobart High School student representatives, President Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the voucher summary

►Vouchers for March 20, 2025 – Mr. Porras read the vouchers aloud, as follows:

School Education	\$959,208.13
Education-form Curr. Mat.	\$17,877.00
Exempt Operating – Post 2009	\$170,849.59
School Operations	\$704,390.35
Construction 700	\$60,684.28
School Lunch	\$213,024.89
Self-Insurance Fund	\$452,708.85
Building Brickies	\$168.60
SCOH Educational Foundation	\$1,030.38
Career Coaching Grant	\$195.90
Indiana Literacy Cadre CELL	\$324.37
Medicaid Reimbursement Federal	\$152,483.55
Title II Part A FY 24/25	\$3,488.50
Clearing Accounts	\$451,765.76
Self-Insurance Clearing	\$74,778.61
Clearing/flexible Benefits AF	\$65,870.21
Clearing/Ins. Account	\$3,538.47

for vouchers totaling \$3,335,159.95 with no transfers. The February payroll distribution by Treasurer Tracy Brumley was \$1,954,088.64.

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated February 28, 2025, in their electronic Board packet: Analysis by Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Summary of Balances by Account-Object and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

Sandra Hillan moved and David Kostbade seconded that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for March 20, 2025. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: President Rikki Guthrie asked for comments on the listed agenda items. There were none.

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

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

Sandra Hillan moved and Bradley Keehn seconded to approve the Personnel Reports as presented. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contracts for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –

Early Learning Center, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025:

Aileen Boyle, Garden, \$216.00; and Amy Gruhlke, Garden, \$216.00

Joan Martin School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025:

Kristen Osika, Brain busters-math puzzle, \$405.00; Angela Golub, Puzzle, \$270.00; and Michelle Mecha, Board game, \$270.00

Veterans School @ Mundell, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025:

Dominique Shirey, GOTR (Girls on the Run), \$1,350.00; Derek Lannon, Brickie basketball, \$216.00; Dominique Shirey, Basketball, \$432.00; and Ellie Welsch, Brickie basketball, \$432.00

Liberty School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025:

Nathaniel Lacny, Cup stacking, \$486.00

Hobart High School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025:

Eden Alexander, HOSA, \$1,755.00

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

February 18/June 3, 2025: Jill MacDonald, algebra, one hour per week, \$68.20 per hour

February 24/June 4, 2025: Pam Cunningham, math and ILEARN, one hour per week and six hours total for testing, \$56.76 per hour; and Carole Fonner, ELA and ILEARN, one hour per week and six hours total for testing, \$54.62 per hour

March 5/April 3, 2025: Ann Janda, math, one hour per week, \$71.50 per hour

March 3/June 3, 2025: Jill MacDonald, algebra, one hour per week, \$68.20 per hour

Retirement Resignation –

Theresa Ledyard, Liberty Elementary School/media center aide, effective June 9, 2025

Resignations –

Tyler Cantu, Hobart High School/custodian, effective March 13, 2025

Nancy Cordova, Liberty Elementary School/aide-student supervisor, effective March 21, 2025

Kristy Murchek, Hobart Middle School/food services, effective March 10, 2025

Kelsey Szabo, Service Center/food services, effective March 11, 2025

Adjustment to Contract Adjustment –

Danielle Adams, Director of College and Careers, add a \$5,000.00 stipend from the College and Career Coaching Grant

Request for Leave of Absence –

Jamie Edwards, Joan Martin School/teacher, FMLA, effective on or about May 5 until June 4, 2025

Extracurricular Club Duty Contracts –

Joan Martin School, 2024-2025 School Year:

Elizabeth Heim, Dodgeball, \$162.00; Jennifer MacDonald, Dodgeball, \$216.00; and Audrey Finnearty, Fiber arts – third grade, \$540.00

Extra Duty Contracts –

Hobart High School/Golf, March 17/May 18, 2025:

Gary Roach, boys varsity, \$3,222.00; and Devon Key, boys junior varsity, \$1,306.00

Hobart High School/Tennis, March 17/June 14, 2025:

Cade Brumley, girls varsity, 4,593.00; and Bill Granzow, girls junior varsity 50%, \$1,469.50

Hobart High School/Volleyball, March 10/May 31, 2025:

Jason Snyder, boys junior varsity, \$3,664.00; and Ken Cawthon, boys 9th grade, \$3,663.00

Hobart High School/Soccer, August 4/November 1, 2025:

Keith Luttell, boys varsity, \$4,593.00

Hobart High School/Unified track, March 10/June 7, 2025:

Kriste Bell, \$3,061.00; James Landrum, \$1,819.00; and Jackie Pickett, \$3,061.00

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

Sarah Greene, Service Center, transferring from school bus trainee to school bus driver and new payrate of \$21.14 per hour, effective March 4, 2025

Holly Shelton, Service Center, transferring from school bus driver to the Transportation Department administrative assistant, hours increased to 8, new payrate of \$20.00 per hour, and \$21.14 per hour when driving a bus, effective March 17, 2025

Randy Sylvester, Service Center, transferring from mechanic to head mechanic position, salary adjusted to \$59,264.00 for 260 days, effective March 17, 2025.

New Employees –

Carleatha Green, Hobart High School/food services, dining room attendant, \$12.67 per hour, effective March 10, 2025

Alexis Montalvo, Service Center/transportation department, driver trainee, \$17.35 per hour, effective March 11, 2025

Correction to Personnel Report Addendum for March 6, 2025 –

Extra Duty Contracts: Hobart High School/Baseball, correct the salaries of Jorge Figueroa and James Sutherland, 9th grade (split 50% each) to \$1,582.00 from \$1,634.50.

Contracts for Extracurricular Services –

Scott Swanson, Hobart Middle School/track boys 4, April 11/May 23, 2025, \$3,061.00

Michael Black, Hobart High School/track boys assistant varsity, February 28/June 20, 2025, \$4,236.00

RESOLUTION: March is Music in Our Schools Month: President Rikki Guthrie asked the audience whether they wanted the whole resolution read aloud or just the title of the resolution that was displayed on the screens in the Board Room. They selected only reading the title. A copy of the resolution was included with the electronic meeting information and designated the month of March as Music in Our Schools Month.

Secretary Frank Porras read the title of Resolution No. 2025-5 aloud that celebrated March as Music in Our Schools Month, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5

Music in Our Schools Month

President Guthrie requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Donald Rogers moved and Bradley Keehn seconded that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-5 celebrating March as Music in our Schools Month. Vote on Motion. Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Absent – Schultz. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-5, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5

Music in Our Schools Month

WHEREAS, since 1985, March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education as Music in Our Schools Month®, encouraging communities across the nation to focus on music education; and

WHEREAS, music education is part of a well-rounded education for every student as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this celebration is to raise awareness of the lasting positive impact of music education on the academic, personal and professional growth of our students; and

WHEREAS, music education shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them, allowing for a deep engagement with learning; and

WHEREAS, Music in Our Schools Month reminds us that school is where all children should have access to music; and

WHEREAS, music educators, students and communities throughout Indiana demonstrate the importance of quality music education programs to the lives of young people

WHEREAS, the state of Indiana joins our music students, educators and communities in celebrating the power of music education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of School Trustees does hereby proclaim the month of March as *Music in Our Schools Month* and encourages our citizens to celebrate and acknowledge everyday but especially in March that Music Education is an essential part of every student’s well-rounded education.

DATED this 20th day of March, 2025.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

PRESENTATION: Veterans School @ Mundell Choir: Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed Choir Director Audrey Amsler, the Veterans School choir, and the family members of the choir members to the meeting. Dr. Buffington mentioned that Mrs. Amsler brought her students to Board meeting in celebration of March being Music in Our Schools Month. She said Veterans School just recently finished their amazing production of *Music Man Kids*, and they did an outstanding job. Dr. Buffington said that the school district supports the performing arts, and she noted that music makes people happy. Dr. Buffington took the opportunity to compliment the Veterans student body for their hard work in mastery and receiving BEOP’s (**Being Excellent On Purpose**). She told audience that whenever she visits the school to distribute BEOP awards, the students look forward to receiving them, but they also appreciate when their friends and classmates receive one. They always cheer for one another and said it was always a special time. She told the students that she would be there tomorrow to hand out BEOP’s.

Mrs. Amsler told the audience that they have two sessions of choir each year. They have a nice group of newcomers to this choir, and they have done a great job. She said they would be performing along with the elementary choirs at the All-District Elementary Music Festival on April 12 at 3:00 p.m. at Hobart Middle School. She invited everyone to "come out and support them." The group performed the song "Catch the Rhythm." Afterwards, Dr. Buffington presented Mrs. Amsler with Certificates of Appreciation for her and each of her choir members. In addition, Dr. Buffington read the verbiage that was on the students’ certificates.

Dr. Buffington asked the audience to stay for one more item, and then the meeting would be adjourned for cake and punch.

RECOGNITION: Indiana Association of School Principals Secretary of the Year: Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed Mindy Kusbel, administrative assistant at the Early Learning Center, her family members, and staff from the Early Learning Center to the meeting. Dr. Buffington indicated that Mindy Kusbel was being recognized for being selected the 2025 Indiana Association of School Principals Secretary of the Year. Dr. Buffington invited Mrs. Kusbel and Sara Gutierrez, Director of Early Education, to come up front. Mrs. Gutierrez read aloud the nomination letter she prepared for Mrs. Kusbel that outlined all that she does for the school, staff, parents, and students. It was noted that one of the many projects she has organized was the "Career on Wheels" program that is enjoyed by all of the students, as well as all of the participants. Dr. Buffington said that it was an exciting day at the Early Learning Center the day Mrs. Kusbel was notified about her award. In addition, Dr. Buffington mentioned that Mrs. Kusbel had been a teacher and took time off after having a child. In 2013, she applied for the administrative assistant position at the Early Learning Center and has been there ever

since. Mrs. Kusbel is supportive, committed, and above all loves children. In addition, Mrs. Kusbel displayed her recognition plaque from the principals association, and as a token of appreciation, Dr. Buffington presented her with an acrylic summit award engraved recognizing her award from the school district. The students in the audience were very supportive of the recognition for Mrs. Kusbel, and the Board extended their congratulations to her also.

RECEPTION: To Celebrate Mindy Kusbel, IASP Secretary of the Year, and the Veterans Choir: President Guthrie recessed the meeting around 7:34 p.m. and reconvened it around 7:47 p.m. No one remained in the audience.

RESOLUTION: Paraprofessional Appreciation Day: President Rikki Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the title of Resolution No. 2025-6 recognizing Paraprofessional Appreciation Day that was displayed on the screens in the Board Room. The resolution designated April 2, 2025, as Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, and a copy of the resolution was included with the electronic meeting information.

Secretary Frank Porras read the title of resolution, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

President Rikki Guthrie requested Board action followed by a roll-call vote on the motion, as well as voting electronically.

Bradley Keehn moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-6 recognizing Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. Donald Rogers seconded. Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Absent: Schultz. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-6, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6

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 the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart designates April 2, 2025, as *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 20th day of March, 2025.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

RESOLUTION: The Week of the Young Child: President Rikki Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the title of Resolution No. 2025-7 that recognized the Week of the Young Child, and it was displayed on the screens in the Board Room. A copy of the resolution was included with the electronic meeting information, and Secretary Frank Porras read the title of the resolution, as follows:

Resolution No. 2025-7

Week of the Young Child

President Guthrie called for a motion and a roll-call vote, as well as an electronic vote.

David Kostbade moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-7 commemorating the Week of the Young Child. Donald Rogers seconded.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington mentioned that the resolution commemorated 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 5-11, 2025. She announced some of the activities that will be held during the week and noted that through the years the city mayors have joined in on the first-day activities, which has now become a tradition. She noted that on Monday, they kick off the week with a Bubble Bonanza at the Early Learning Center, on Tuesday, they have a Family Water Safety/Swim at the Hobart Crossroads YMCA, and on Thursday, there will be a Bear Hunt Adventure at the Early Learning Center. In addition, the Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held that week at the Early Learning Center.

Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Absent: Schultz. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-5, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

Resolution No. 2025-7

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 5-11, 2025; 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, this is a week to celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers, their families, and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Hobart, Indiana, and 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 April 5-11, 2025, be designated as the *Week of the Young Child* in Hobart, Indiana, and

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

Dated this 20th day of March, 2025.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Wellness Policy: Superintendent Peggy Buffington asked the Board members to acknowledge that they had received and reviewed a copy of the district's Wellness Policy 8150 that was included with the electronic meeting information. She noted that no changes had been made to the Wellness policy this past year.

By mutual consent the Board members acknowledged that they had received and reviewed the district's Wellness Policy.

1028 Hearing Public Hearing: Consideration of capital improvements equipping and installation of improvements to the school buildings and grounds of the School Corporation: President Rikki Guthrie noted that on February 6, 2025, the Board scheduled a 1028 public hearing as required by Indiana Code 20-26-7-37. The Notice of Hearing was published in the NWI Times and the Post-Tribune on February 14, 2025.

President Guthrie opened the public hearing and asked Dr. Buffington to comment on the financing of the project and tax impact. Dr. Buffington indicated that the school district was going out on a bond issue for maintenance on HVAC systems, to take care of maintenance of buildings, and technology upgrades within the district and bus replacement. The amount of the bond issue was \$19,810,000.00. She spoke about the Operations Fund and noted it could not finance these projects and mentioned that the Referendum would sustain school transportation, except for the purchase of school buses, and without the bond issue, the district would not be able to maintain its facilities and do planned upgrades. She indicated that the school district works with a financial planner who has assisted the district in planning the bond issue to keep the tax rate level for Hobart's taxpayers and be able to do the planned work to maintain facilities and reiterated the importance of maintaining facilities and doing necessary upgrades. President Guthrie invited public comment, and there was none so she closed the public hearing.

Second Preliminary Determination Hearing: President Rikki Guthrie noted on February 6, 2025, the Board scheduled the second Preliminary Determination public hearing, as required by Indiana Code 20-47-3, for this Board meeting. The Notice of Hearing was published in the NWI Times and the Post-Tribune on February 14, 2025.

President Rikki Guthrie opened the second Preliminary Determination Hearing. Dr. Peggy Buffington stated the district was seeking a \$19,810,000.00 bond issue to take care of the facilities in the district, and some of the items she mentioned were HVAC and updating boilers, concrete repairs and parking lots, technology upgrades, and school bus replacement and transportation upgrades. President Guthrie asked for public comments, and there were none. Mrs. Guthrie then closed the public hearing.

CONSIDERATION: Preliminary Determination and 1028 Resolution for capital improvements to the school buildings and grounds of the School Corporation: President Rikki Guthrie noted this agenda item was for the Board's consideration of a resolution for the Preliminary Determination and 1028 Resolution for capital improvements to school buildings and grounds of the school corporation. A copy of the resolution was included with the electronic meeting information. She asked Secretary Frank Porras to read only the title of Resolution 2025-8, aloud, as long as Attorney William Longer agreed that it was acceptable to do so, and he agreed that it was. Secretary Frank Porras read the title of Resolution 2025-8 aloud, as follows:

RESOLUTION 2025-8 OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
(Preliminary Determination and 1028 Resolution)

President Guthrie requested Board action and a roll call vote, as well as voting electronically.

Bradley Keehn moved that the Board approve Resolution 2025-8 and with said approval, grant permission to advertise the required Notice of (I) Hearing on Proposed Amendment to Lease and (II) Notice of Preliminary Determination, and to place on the May 1, 2025 agenda the Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to Lease. Seconded by Sandra Hillan. Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Absent: Schultz. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

A copy of Resolution 2025-8, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

CONSIDERATION: Overnight/Extended Student Trip for Hobart High School HOSA Future Healthcare Professionals State Leadership Conference: Dr. Peggy Buffington highlighted a request from Sarah Collins, EMT instructor of the high school's EMT students, to attend the state HOSA Future Healthcare Professionals State Leadership Conference at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Six students and Ms. Collins will travel in an activity bus and will leave Hobart on April 14 and return on April 16, 2025. The conference will be professional development for the students, and they will network with peers and compete in the EMT skills competition. Dr. Buffington mentioned that the salary for Ms. Collins was shared with St. Mary Medical Center. She noted that healthcare is the largest pathway at the high school, as well as being the largest work sector. She said it will be a great experience for the students.

Superintendent Buffington requested Board action.

Donald Rogers moved that the Board approve the overnight-extended student trip for the EMT students to attend the HOSA state leadership conference in Indianapolis. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

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

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

March 24-28 – Spring Break – Dr. Buffington commented that everyone needed and was looking forward to it.

April 11 – HHS Key Club's Easter Egg Hunt for children in grades K-5 at Fred Rose Park on 8th Street, 4:30 pm, and cost \$5.00. RSVP's are required.

April 14- May 9 – ILEARN Test Window for Third to Eighth Graders
Dr. Buffington noted this was a major test for these students.

April 16 – Makers & Innovators Showcase, HHS Fieldhouse, 6-8:00 pm
Dr. Buffington was looking forward this year's event and seeing the talents of the students and what they have accomplished.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Peggy Buffington mentioned that the past couple of weeks have been very busy. She thanked and noted her appreciation to those who have attended the referendum presentations. She commented that she enjoyed her presentation at the Maria Reiner Center even though she was there around 2½ hours. She noted that so many of them are “Brickies” and supporters of the school district. They are family to one another and the center has saved lives. Some have lost spouses and other seniors moved here because of the Maria Reiner Center. She noted that the “Cooking with Friends” had been there the day before the referendum presentation serving them brunch. She said it was amazing to watch the students and the senior citizens interact with one another, and she said the students do a great job preparing and serving the brunch and then enjoying time with them afterwards doing various different activities. The senior citizens love attending their special events at the high school and look forward to them, and they feel at home at the high school. She hoped that teachers and students would enjoy spring break and come back refreshed and invigorated. She mentioned it was a great meeting having the Veterans choir here and recognizing Mindy Kusbel. Chris King extended his congratulations to Mindy Kusbel and indicated he has worked with her for a long time. She was very deserving of the recognition and was always willing to help anyone. He said she was solution orientated and does it all with a smile. Dr. Buffington commented Mrs. Kusbel may call her about a technology situation. She would inquire whether Mr. King was aware of the situation, and her response was that he was. However, she knew Dr. Buffington could speed up things to get it taken care of sooner. Bill Longer echoed what Mr. King had said and noted the secretaries in the district “made him look good” when he was working with them. Jon Mock echoed the previous comments and noted that Mrs. Kusbel was outstanding and hardworking. Tim Krieg extended his thoughts about the Maria Reiner Center, even though he had never been there until the referendum presentation. He noted that Hobart has “multi-generational Brickies,” who have moved back here, as well as new people who have moved to the community. He commented on all of the relationships that Dr. Buffington has built. He mentioned another example of building relationships was the number of staff members who attended the meeting to celebrate Mindy Kusbel. He was thankful for all the smiles and joy that were expressed at the meeting. Dr. Buffington spoke about a conversation she had with a student prior to the start of the meeting who was expecting recognition because reaching 80% mastery, and she mentioned to them that they had spring break to work on their skills to reach 100%. She mentioned “how much the students love their school” and appreciate it. They enjoy being recognized and work hard to achieve goals and to cheer on their friends and other classmates when they receive a BEOP award. She said it was wonderful to watch them, and she wished it would catch on at the other schools.

From the Board, Dave Kostbade thought the choir was excellent, and he said the Hobart Educational Fund raised around \$4,700.00 at their bingo fundraiser. He said HEF will be beginning to give out grants to staff members, and they approved three new members who had been members of PTO's. He noted that the Football Booster Club's bingo fundraiser would be Saturday at the Hobart Moose Lodge. He told everyone to enjoy spring break. Don Rogers thought it was a great meeting and enjoyed having the room filled up. He hoped the administrators would be able to take some time for themselves during spring break. Dr. Buffington commented that she usually begins planning and preparations for her retreat before the start of the next school year. Brad Keehn enjoyed the choir's performance and noted they did a great job. He appreciated the BEOP recognition in all of the schools at all levels. He extended his congratulations to Mindy Kusbel on her recognition. Frank Porras indicated that the choir did a great job and commented that it was nice to see Mindy Kusbel recognized at the state level. He said her recognition was well deserved. He hoped everyone had “restful spring break.” Kayla Davis, HHS student representative, joined the meeting, and she commented that this was the third year she had attended this student trip. They toured the State House and had a great time. Sandi Hillan remembered her trip to the State House when she was in the seventh grade and said she still has good memories of the trip. She spoke about Mindy Kusbel's award and noted one of the students in the audience kept nodding her head agreeing with the comments that Mrs. Gutierrez was reading about Mrs. Kusbel. She said that speaks to the relationship she has with the students and speaks highly of her and the climate at the Early Learning Center, and the same was true at Veterans School. She noted it usually takes three to five years to develop those kinds of relationships. Dr. Buffington spoke about the process and how the staffing was done for Veterans School and noted the climate of the school

turned out very well. She told the Board at the end of the school year some of the students were crying because they did not want school to end. She said they love their school. Isis Fleming, HHS student representative, joined the meeting. She said they had a great day and enjoyed the tour of the State House. It was her last time to do this and was trying not to be too sad when the year ends. Rikki Guthrie, too, was glad to have a full room this evening and enjoyed having the young voices joining in the pledge of allegiance and complemented the choir's quietness and patience while waiting for their audio system to work. She extended her congratulations to Mindy Kusbel for her coordination skills, as well as being very kind and patient. In addition, she noted her resourcefulness and mentioned that she has many contacts. Mrs. Guthrie commented that she does her job very well, and she extended her appreciation to her for all that she does. Dr. Buffington mentioned that in addition to the kindergartners at the Early Learning Center, the ECD class was also housed in the building, and she handles it all very well. Mrs. Guthrie mentioned how impressed she was with the high school's Career Fair. The different presenters had the students engaged with their presentations, and she thought it "was a great event." Dr. Buffington noted that Danielle Adams, Director of College and Careers, was in charge, and she noted that all high schools with early college programs are required to have career fairs. She extended her appreciation to the City of Hobart for their participation, as well as the school district's participants.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guthrie adjourned the meeting around 8:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is April 3, 2025.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Frank Porras, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: April 3, 2025

**RESOLUTION 2025-8 OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
(Preliminary Determination and 1028 Resolution)**

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees (the “Board”) of School City of Hobart (the “School Corporation”), has given consideration to certain capital improvements in order to maintain the facilities of Hobart High School, Hobart Middle School, Joan Martin Elementary School, Veterans Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Early Learning Center, Service Center and Administration Building, consisting of improvements thereto including but not limited to paving, parking lot repair, painting, fencing repairs, stage repairs, HVAC/chiller/boiler repairs, carpeting/door improvements, roof repairs, athletic upgrades, safety and security upgrades, technology upgrades, as well as bus replacement and transportation upgrades, and all related improvements in connection therewith (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1, if the Board proposes to impose property taxes to pay lease rentals or debt service on a financing for a “controlled project”, as defined in Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-1.1, which is for an elementary school building, middle school building, high school building or other school building for academic instruction that will be used for any combination of kindergarten through grade 12 and which will not cost in excess of the threshold set forth in Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1(a)(2)(C)(i) which for 2025 is \$19,813,453, it must conduct two (2) separate public hearings on the preliminary determination to proceed with such project prior to the Board’s adopting any resolution making a preliminary determination to enter into a lease or pay debt service; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-7-37, a public hearing must be held if the Board proposes to construct, repair or alter a school building at a cost of more than \$1,000,000 that would be financed by a lease agreement, issuing bonds, or any other available method; and

WHEREAS, notice of said hearings has been given in accordance with Indiana law; and

WHEREAS, interested people have been given the opportunity to present testimony and ask questions concerning the Project, and this Board has heard public input at the public hearings held on March 6, 2025 and on this date concerning the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board, being duly advised, finds that it is in the best interests of the School Corporation and its citizens for the purpose of financing all or any portion of the Project to enter into negotiations with the Hobart Bldg. Corp., an Indiana school building corporation (the “Building Corporation”), to acquire all or any portion of any of the facilities operated or to be operated by the School Corporation, and enter into an amendment to lease (collectively, the “Lease”) with the Building Corporation, as lessor, for all or any portion of the facilities operated or to be operated by the School Corporation, in order to better serve the residents of the School Corporation, by allowing the Building Corporation to issue ad valorem property tax first mortgage bonds in one or more series (collectively, the “Bonds”), which Bonds will not exceed an original aggregate principal amount of Nineteen Million Eight Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$19,810,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby makes a preliminary determination that there exists a need for the Project. Accordingly, the Board hereby makes a preliminary determination that to the extent permitted by law the Board will take all of the necessary steps to enter into the Lease with the Building Corporation for all or any portion of the facilities operated or to be operated by the School Corporation, pursuant to which the Building Corporation and the School Corporation will finance all or any portion of the Project. The School Corporation and the Building Corporation will finance all or any portion of the Project through the issuance of one or more series of the Bonds. The total maximum aggregate principal amount of the Bonds will not exceed \$19,810,000. Each of the series of the Bonds issued will have a maximum term not to exceed twenty (20) years from the date such series of Bonds are issued. The Lease with respect to the Bonds will have a term not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. The proposed term of the Lease will begin on the date each portion of the Project or other school facilities are acquired and/or completed by the Building Corporation in connection with the Project.

Based on an estimated maximum interest rate that will be paid in connection with the Bonds of six percent (6.00%) per annum, the total interest cost associated therewith will not exceed \$16,390,000, not taking into account any funds of the School Corporation or Building Corporation being available for capitalized interest. Including interest costs, the maximum annual lease rental to be paid by the School Corporation under the Lease is \$5,000,000, and the maximum total lease rental paid by the School Corporation over the term of the Lease is \$36,200,000, not taking into account any funds of the Building Corporation available for capitalized interest.

The School Corporation's certified total debt service fund tax levy for 2025 (which is the most recent certified tax levy) is \$10,495,237 and the School Corporation's debt service fund tax rate for 2025 (which is the most recent certified tax rate) is \$0.9518 per \$100 of assessed value (\$0.7999 Non-Exempt Debt Service Fund and \$0.1519 Exempt Capital Referendum Fund). The School Corporation's estimated total debt service fund tax levy for 2026 is \$13,242,923 and the School Corporation's estimated debt service fund tax rate for 2026 is \$1.1794 per \$100 of assessed value. The estimated total maximum debt service fund tax levy for the School Corporation and the estimated total maximum debt service fund tax rate for the School Corporation after the issuance of the Bonds is anticipated to occur no earlier than 2026 and will be \$11,697,049 (Non-Exempt Debt Service Fund) and \$8,789,562 (Exempt Capital Referendum Fund), and \$1.0361 (Non-Exempt Debt Service Fund) and \$0.7242 (Exempt Capital Referendum Fund), per \$100 of assessed value, respectively, as a result of the payment of the lease rentals under the Lease. The percent of the School Corporation's outstanding long term debt after the issuance of the Bonds, together with the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any of the territory of the School Corporation, compared to the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation is approximately 11.01%.

The estimated completion date of the Project is two (2) years after issuance of the Bonds.

The estimated amount of the School Corporation's total debt service levy and rate that will result during the following 10 years if the School Corporation enters the Lease, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Non-Exempt Debt Service Levy</u>	<u>Estimated Total Debt Service Levy</u>	<u>Estimated Non-Exempt Debt Service Rate</u>	<u>Estimated Total Debt Service Rate</u>
2024	\$10,609,963	\$12,379,161	\$1.0258	\$1.1898
2025	8,758,007	10,495,237	0.7999	0.9518
2026	11,570,983	13,242,923	1.0361	1.1794
2027	11,697,049	13,364,370	1.0268	1.1670
2028	9,293,679	11,257,250	0.7999	0.9617
2029	5,362,987	9,299,118	0.4616	0.7859
2030	1,613,728	7,540,066	0.1389	0.6272
2031	1,648,189	7,521,875	0.1419	0.6258
2032	1,564,390	7,435,576	0.1346	0.6184
2033	1,565,252	7,436,180	0.1347	0.6184
2034	1,563,157	7,432,920	0.1345	0.6182
2035	1,563,178	7,435,258	0.1345	0.6184
2036	1,930,626	6,860,584	0.1662	0.5724

Section 2. A notice of the foregoing preliminary determinations set forth in Section 1 of this resolution shall be given in accordance with Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1. Any owners of real property within the School Corporation and/or registered voters residing in the School Corporation who want to initiate a petition and remonstrance process against the proposed Lease must file a petition requesting the application of a petition and remonstrance process with the Lake County Voter Registration Office which complies with Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1 not later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of such notice.

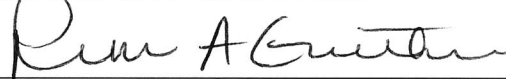
Section 3. The Board hereby finds that a need exists for the expenditure of funds for the Project and that the Project will serve to provide better educational opportunities for students of the School Corporation.

Section 4. The Board further determines and finds that the Project will provide better educational opportunities for students of the School Corporation. The estimated total cost of constructing the Project is \$19,810,000. The Project will be funded by the Bonds. The estimated maximum impact on the Debt Service Fund tax rate, assuming a Net Assessed Valuation for tax year 2026 of \$1,094,887,698, a 6.00% net interest rate and a 20-year amortization period will be \$0.4567, beginning in the year 2026; however, with modest net assessed value growth and miscellaneous revenue and prior debt retiring, the Board reasonably estimates the actual tax rate impact to be \$0.2362. The Project is hereby approved for purposes of Indiana Code 20-26-7-37.

Section 5. Any and all actions previously taken by any member of the Board or the Superintendent or his designee, in connection with the foregoing preliminary determinations, including, but not limited to, publication of the notice of the public hearings held in connection with such preliminary determinations, be, and hereby are, ratified and approved.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2025.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART



Rikki Guthrie, President



Sandra J. Hillan, Vice President

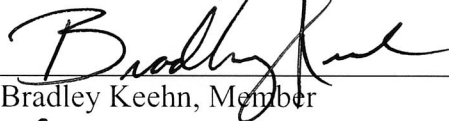


Frank Porras, Secretary



Donald H. Rogers, Member

Stuart B. Schultz, Member



Bradley Keehn, Member



David Kostbade, Member