

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
May 6, 2021**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on May 6, 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 at noted:

Board Members Present:

Terry D. Butler
Rikki A. Guthrie
Sandra J. Hillan
Frank Porras
Donald H. Rogers
Stuart B. Schultz
Lauren Cicillian, HHS student representative

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington
Ted Zembala
Christopher N. King
Jonathan Mock
Bob Glover

Administrator Absent:

Tim Krieg

Board Members Absent:

Karen J. Robbins
Kelsey Black, HHS student representative

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Butler apologized for being little late. He indicated that the Board met in a work session and an 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 7:16 p.m.

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

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Beth Morales, parent
Carole Carlson, reporter for the *Post-Tribune*
Ken Cawthon, Aquatic Center Coordinator
Chief Vince Balbo, Lake County Sheriff's Department
Shanon Hamara, Dive Operations Coordinator for the Lake County Sheriff's Department

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of April 15, 2021. Seconded by Stuart Schultz. Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: There were no financial reports.

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.

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

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contract for Extracurricular Services –

Katharine Rinas, Hobart High School, resigned assistant girls track position effective March 19, 2021

Retirement Resignations –

Paul Allen, Service Center/school bus driver, effective June 9, 2021
Linda Ban, Hobart High School/food service, effective June 9, 2021

Resignation –

Misty Scheuneman, Hobart High School/Co-principal, effective June 30, 2021

Requests for Leave of Absence

Lisa Agee-Jackson, Hobart Middle School/food service, unpaid leave, effective May 1 through June 9, 2021
Debbie Mladenovski, Joan Martin School/Principal's administrative assistant, FMLA, effective March 21 through June 24, 2021
Sheila Schultz, Service Center/MRC secretary, FMLA, effective April 22/June 14, 2021
Joanna Montemayor, Joan Martin School/teacher, FMLA, effective September 28 through November 5, 2021

Extracurricular Club Duty Contract –

Kelly Butler, Hobart High School/Unified Track & Field, 42 hours, August 20, 2020/June 10, 2021, \$1,050.00

Teacher Contracts – 2021-2022 School Year –

August 16, 2021/June 3, 2022, 184 days:

Shari Hughes, Hobart Middle School/teacher, \$52,000.00
Haile Metz, Placement TBD/elementary teacher, \$42,400.00
Dominique Shirey, Placement TBD/elementary teacher, \$42,400.00
Alyssa Skertich, Placement TBD/elementary teacher, \$42,400.00
Ellie Welsch, Placement TBD/elementary teacher, \$44,000.00
Gervey Sison, Hobart Middle School/teacher, \$52,000.00

Service Agreement –

Hobart Middle School, March 29/June 9, 2021:
Amanda Winland, Extended Day, zero hour, 33 hours, \$1,452.99

Request for Leave of Absence –

Employment Contract – 2021-2022 –

Mark Volk, Hobart High School/JROTC, July 1, 2021/June 30, 2022, \$88,200.96

PRESENTATION: Lake County Sheriff's Department: Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed Ken Cawthon, Aquatic Center Coordinator, Chief Vince Balbo from the Lake County Sheriff's Department, and Shanon Hamara, Dive Operations Coordinator for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

On behalf of Lake County Sheriff Oscar Martinez, Chief Balbo presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ken Cawthon and to the School City of Hobart that read "In grateful recognition and appreciation of your service, support, and contributions to our department and the citizens of Lake County." Chief Balbo indicated their appreciation for allowing the reactivated diving unit to use the Hobart Middle School swimming pool so that the volunteer dive team could be trained and recertified. They appreciated the support of the Board, administration, and Mr. Cawthon. They noted that the sheriff's department dive team came into being after the tragedy of a child falling through the ice by the dam on Lake George. They explained all of the dive team members were volunteers and purchase their own equipment that they use for the team's rescue operations. They were pleased with the cooperation and the facilities for their diving team.

The Board thanked Chief Balbo and Mr. Hamara for their presentation and was glad that arrangements could be made to them to use the pool. They were thanked for coming to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: 2021 Learn-to-Swim Summer Lessons at Hobart Middle School: Dr. Peggy Buffington reviewed the 2021 Learn-to-Swim Lessons for this summer. She indicated that Ken Cawthon was running his own program at the high school pool that was not taking away the usual summer Learn-to-Swim Lessons.

Dr. Buffington indicated the program would continue to be at the pool at Hobart Middle School and would be COVID friendly. The cost per session for the Learn-to-Swim and Junior Life Saving Course is \$50.00 per child, per session. Betty Funkhouser and Deborah Glass would be the two experienced, certified WSI teachers running the program along with experienced certified lifeguards. Depending upon the needs of the

programs, additional swim instructors and/or student lifeguards may be hired. The Learn-to-Swim Summer Lesson information and personnel needs/costs were included in the electronic meeting packet for the Board's consideration. The information about the programs is as follows:

- **LEARN-TO-SWIM-LESSONS**: Will continue to be at Hobart Middle School in two two-week sessions: June 14 to 24 (Monday through Thursday; and June 28 to July 9 (Monday through Thursday the first week and Tuesday through Friday the second week).
- **JUNIOR LIFE SAVING COURSE**: Students need a Brickie Advanced Strokes Card or Skills Proficient. A good course to be ready for the Lifeguard Certification Course offered as a semester class at Hobart High School (at age 15). Classes are held in both sessions. Cost is \$50.00. Registration begins May 1 through June 24, 2021.
- There will be limited sign-ups available the first day of each session at the pool. In addition, the summer lunch program will be serving lunches. The summer Learn-to-Swim Program has been self-supporting since its inception in 1978 and is a great value for the children and community.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the 2021 Learn-to-Swim Lessons at Hobart Middle School and respective personnel information/costs, as presented. Sandra Hillan seconded.

In the discussion, Sandi Hillan thought it was sensible to continue this program, and Terry Butler agreed with her because of Lake George. Most of children in Hobart learned to swim through this program, and he noted that Betty Funkhouser and Deb Glass were outstanding instructors. Dr. Buffington reminded the Board about the new safety device that was tested out by Becky Logano, former Board student representative, before the Aquatic Center was opened. The device is used by every student swimmer at the middle school and high school. She noted it was another level of protection and indicated that it was working very well. She complimented Ken Cawthon, Aquatic Coordinator, for all of the work he has done and noted he was doing an outstanding job. Mrs. Guthrie noted that the device was not available when her son learned to swim, and she appreciated the extra safety for the swimmers. Mr. Cawthon told the Board about the new Brickie Swim Club. He noted that the Summer Learn-to-Swim Lessons, provided by Betty Funkhouser and Deb Glass, always has an amazing turnout and assists in keeping the program going. He noted that there was a new Hobart Swim Club, formerly known as the Tiger Sharks, and the club would be able to swim all year. In addition, there will be a diving club that will be coached by one of Hobart's state diving competitors. This will be the only diving club in the area. He noted that Hobart was the first school to use the wave units and said the lifeguards have become acclimated to their usage. Anyone in the water has them on, and it has become second nature for the kids to use them. He also mentioned some measures that have been done for ADA compliance.

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

The Board thanked Mr. Cawthon for the work he was doing in the Aquatic Center and for coming to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: Earlham College Key Club Grant: Superintendent Peggy Buffington highlighted a grant that the Hobart High School Key Club was awarded from Earlham College in the amount of \$1,000.00. She noted that the Key Club had been interested in assisting homeless people and have been making sleeping mats for them, and the funds would be used for this project. She indicated the she was proud of their efforts.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board accept the Earlham College Key Club Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00, as presented. Frank Porras seconded.

In the discussion, President Butler asked Lauren Cicillian to explain how the mats were made. Lauren indicated that with the use of a loom, the plastic bags are woven to make a mat that has a rod on each end. The mats protect them from the ground heat in the summer and from the cold in the winter. Several Board members volunteered to save plastic bags for them.

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

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: John Anderson Foundation Grant: Dr. Peggy Buffington highlighted a grant from the John Anderson Foundation. The award notification letter from the Board of

Directors of the John Anderson Foundation Grant was included in the electronic meeting packet, as was the grant request letter. The foundation awarded the school district a grant for \$5,000.00. The high school performing arts program received \$1,000.00, and \$4,000.00 was awarded for the purchase of 3-D printers. She indicated the printers would be used to enhance opportunities for STEM classes, for the robotics programs, and in our computer education classes. Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation for their continued generosity for our performing arts program and for our STEAM curriculum by supporting the growth of our robotics programs. Since 2010, the district has received \$43,000.00 in grant awards from the foundation.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Donald Rogers moved that the Board accept the John Anderson Foundation Grant in the amount of \$5,000. Seconded by Sandra Hillan.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington noted that Pat Schoon puts the grant together. Mrs. Schoon checks with her as to what the grant would be used for, and then puts together the paperwork for the grant and makes sure it is delivered. Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation to her for doing that. In addition, she thanked Don Rogers for putting “in a good word” for us. Sandi Hillan inquired about the foundation and was told that Mr. Anderson had been a wealthy man who owned the ANCO Company that made windshield wipers in Gary. Mr. Rogers indicated it was his understanding that Mr. Anderson wanted all of his money to be used for education, and his foundation supports programs like the Boys and Girls Clubs and other educational type endeavors. Dr. Buffington noted that each school would have “maker space” available through a grant from the Hobart Redevelopment Commission. ESSER funds will assist with technology at the middle school and high school. She also indicated that the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation has always supported the robotic clubs and supplied funds for needed supplies for them, whenever there was a need.

Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

CONSIDERATION: Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Financing of School

Improvements: Superintendent Peggy Buffington described the need for obtaining funds for the financing of the school improvement projects that were discussed at a work session with the Board. She highlighted those needs, as follows: school improvement projects at 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 renovations and improvements that included but not limited to paving, parking lot repair, painting, turf replacement, track/court/floor replacement, fencing repairs, stage curtain replacement/stage rigging replacement, pool repairs, HVAC/chiller/boiler repairs, elevator rebuild, playground improvements, carpeting/door improvements, roof repairs, new plow truck, erosion control, ceiling tile replacement, Johnson Control automation, and all other related improvements were necessary to provide educational opportunities for students within the school corporation. Dr. Buffington noted the project would be over \$1,000,000.00 but was estimated not be more than \$5,750,000.00. The resolution sets the dates for conducting the 1028 hearing and the lease hearing on June 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Hobart High School and authorized that the school corporation would be reimbursed for costs incurred in connection with this project prior to the issuance of bonds.

The Board was asked to entertain a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-22.

Audience members were asked whether they wanted the motion read in its entirety or whether reading the title was sufficient since the resolution was displayed on the screens in the Board Room. They indicated it was okay to only read the title of the resolution aloud.

Secretary Guthrie read the title of Resolution 2021-22 authorizing the financing of school improvements, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

(Resolution No. 2021-22, as presented, is attached the minutes of this meeting.)

President Butler called for a roll-call vote.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board approve Resolution No. 2021-22 as presented and include with said approval permission to advertise the required Notice of Hearings on Proposed School Construction and Proposed Amendment to Lease, and to place on the June 17, 2021 agenda the 1028 Hearing and Lease Hearing. Donald Rogers seconded.

In the discussion, it was noted that the high school has been open since 2009, and the maintenance items were normal things that needed to be done. Frank Porras inquired about doing the HVAC work with ESSER funds. Dr. Buffington indicated the Technology Department's projects were being paid from ESSER funds so more projects could be done with Capital Project funds. President Butler noted that these projects would not affect the tax rate.

Vote on motion: Secretary Rikki Guthrie called roll on vote, as follows: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Transfer of Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund: Business Manager Ted Zembala indicated that for the budget year 2021, \$4,491,000 was approved for transfer from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, and he indicated that zero funds had been transferred to date. He requested that \$2,491,000.00 be transferred from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund and noted that would then leave a balance of \$2,000,000.00 available for transfer through the end of the 2021 calendar year. He indicated that the legislature made some changes several years ago and eliminated funds previously used. They created two funds, the Education Fund and Operations Fund. Depending upon the former account numbers, the determination was made as to which of the funds they were put into. State Support goes into the Education Fund from which up to 15% of state tuition support dollars can be transferred into the Operations Fund to help fund the accounts in the Operations Fund.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the transfer as presented and authorize the Treasurer of the School City of Hobart to transfer \$2,491,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

In the discussion, Mr. Zembala indicated that another transfer request to the Operations Funds would be made later in the year that would stay within the mandated 15% amount. However, he noted that transfer amount may need to be reduced due to the drop in ADM to keep the transfer in line with mandated percentage amount.

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

The Authorization to Transfer \$2,491,000.00 from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented and approved, is as follows:

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER \$2,491,000 FROM THE
EDUCATION FUND TO THE OPERATIONS FUND

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees is the governing body of the School City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2020 the Board of School Trustees passed resolution 2020-36 authorizing up to \$4,491,000.00 to be transferred from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund during the 2021 budget year, and

WHEREAS to date, \$0.00 has been transferred leaving \$4,491,000.00 available for transfer.

THEREFORE the Board of School Trustees authorizes the Treasurer of the School City of Hobart to transfer \$2,491,000.00 (two million four hundred ninety one thousand dollars) from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund.

This authorization was approved by the Board of School Trustees on May 06, 2021.

President, Board of School Trustees

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of School Trustees

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

- State Recognition - Dr. Kate Jenner, Secretary of Education – a copy of "A Message from Dr. Katie Jenner" from the Update from the Department of Education, April 16, 2021, in which she recognized Hobart University at Hobart High School and the benefits it offers to high school students and the savings it offers their parents. Dr. Buffington read several paragraphs from the article that mentioned partnerships with higher education institutions (Purdue University Northwest and Ivy Tech) and community partners (NIPSCO and St. Mary Medical Center); noted the number of combined college credits earned by Hobart University students to be 7,704 during the 2019-2020 school year, with an estimated savings to their families of over \$1.1 million; and what the early college experience meant to one student in the class of 2021. Dr. Buffington noted that it was “always nice to be recognized and affirmed” and speaks to the good work being done in our schools.
- HHS Aquatic Center Information – Open Swim Information for the Aquatic Center with COVID-19 safety protocols and information about Open Lap Swimming; Open Fun Swim, and pricing for the activities. In addition, a copy of a flyer for an upcoming Hobart Education Foundation Movie Night Fundraiser on May 22, 2021, from 5-8:00 pm with the movie *Finding Nemo*.
- Playground Rules – a summary of playground rules and requesting parental help in curbing vandalism of the playgrounds. Dr. Buffington indicated that the Summer Playground Hours and Rules had been posted. She indicated that there has been some vandalism, especially at Veterans. Parents, neighbors of the school, and the public have been asked to assist in trying to keep vandalism in check at the playgrounds. Because of the cameras installed at Veterans, they did find out who had done most of the vandalism. Dr. Buffington indicated that restitution would be sought for the damages due to vandalism at the schools. Terry Butler commented that many people thought Mundell was a city park because of the playground equipment that was at the site and did not realize that a school (Mundell Elementary School) had been on the property before. He hoped that the high definition cameras would assist in curtailing vandalism there.
- Focus on Education – the latest issue of the school district's newsletter, *Focus on Education*. Dr. Buffington encouraged everyone to review all of the good things that are happening in the schools and the upcoming activities and events.
- School Information – weekly agendas from all of the schools and the weekly BricksCenter newsletter from the HHS athletic department. In addition, there was the Early Learning Center's May newsletter and their May Monthly Activity Calendar.
- Upcoming Activities/Events – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington commented that the JROTC Awards Ceremony was a wonderful event where Lauren Cicillian was recognized, as were many other cadets. She noted that it “felt good to do something nice for our students.” She highlighted the following upcoming activities/events, as follows:

May 5 – Teacher Appreciation Day

May 7 – Recognition of School Nutrition Employees (School Lunch Hero Day)

May 12 – School Nurse Appreciation Day

May 15 – Junior-Senior Prom, 5:00 p.m. @ Hobart High School. Dr. Buffington noted the prom would be COVID friendly. She thanked the National Honor Society for paying for the food for the dinner that will be held in three shifts. The different happenings at the Prom were The Red Carpet Grand March in the gym, Dinner in the Great Hall, Dancing in the Fieldhouse, and a movie will be shown in the Theatre after the third dinner setting was completed. She reminded the Board that the Prom was totally free for the students attending.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Peggy Buffington told the Board that everything was getting “fast and furious coming to the end of the school year.” She extended her thanks and appreciation to all of the staff members for all that they have done this year and said she was “really proud of the students.” The school district was open the entire school year thanks to the efforts of everyone, staff and students. Now is the time of year that students will be getting recognized with awards and scholarships. She noted that tomorrow would be Chris King’s 40th birthday. She noted that Chris has worked with her since he was sixteen as her intern while he was in high school. She noted that she used to do a summer camp computer program for teachers in our area that was funded by the state, and she “put Chris in charge of running the technology.” She indicated he was “always a responsible individual.” She thanked him for everything he does for the school corporation. He received birthday wishes from everyone. Chris King extended his appreciation for the birthday wishes. In addition, he thanked Dr. Buffington and the Board for the cakes in

celebration of Teacher Appreciation Day that all of the staff received. He noted that everyone appreciated the treats. Bill Longer extended birthday wishes to Chris King. Jon Mock noted there were many good things happening in the school district and was a busy time of the year. He noted that he was very impressed the Innovate WithIN pitch-competition and how our well our students presented their projects. He indicated he was proud of the students, as well of Daniel Schultz, their teacher. Ted Zembala thanked Mrs. Schoon for her work on the Anderson Foundation Grant. He recognized Dr. Buffington's visions for the school district and now seeing the fruits of her labor benefitting the students and their families and to having the school district recognized by Secretary of Education Kate Jenner was a testament to her. He indicated he was proud of her efforts. He indicated that Dr. Jenner was going to be at an upcoming IASBO conference and said that maybe she would visit in Hobart some day. Dr. Buffington indicated that Dr. Jenner was going to give a key note address at a ReadyNWI meeting being held in Hobart, but she did not know whether she would be here in-person or virtually. Mr. Zembala noted that Terry Butler always comments about Hobart being "the best kept secret" but that was no longer just in Lake County because the whole state knows about us now. He congratulated Chris King on his service and for making a difference in the lives of children. Bob Glover echoed Ted's comments about Hobart University and noted the students know its benefits. They know about the savings the university program provides them, and he said it was the "centerpiece of what makes Hobart High School great." Terry Butler noted the size and its program offerings were outstanding, and students are able to get a number of their courses completed while in high school. Dr. Buffington commented that many people are not aware that many trades programs require prerequisite coursework/certifications that students can complete through college credit from Ivy Tech, one of the district's partners.

From the Board, everyone extended birthday wishes to Chris. King. Stu Schultz extended his thanks and appreciation Dr. Buffington and staff for all of their hard work and noted it was appreciated. Frank Porras told Mr. King it was always nice to see someone "doing something he really loves." Don Rogers extended his appreciation to everyone for handling all the stressful stuff of the school year. Sandi Hillan was "proud of the Brickie family, great mentors, and Hobart University." As a parent, she thanked and extended her appreciation for the monetary savings that she has had with her children for their post-secondary education costs. Her daughter will be attending Valparaiso University, and she said they were impressed with the amount of coursework she had already completed. Mrs. Hillan was pleased to hear about the diving team being reactivated and thanked Dr. Buffington for allowing them the use of the middle school pool. She was happy that a sad situation turned into something good. Lauren Cicillian noted she had been very busy, senior night was coming up for her tennis team, and last night was awards night for the JROTC. She said it was a happy night where deserving people were recognized for this year's accomplishments, as well as those from last year. She noted she had some other activities coming up and knew emotional times were coming. Rikki Guthrie was pleased with the direction of the high school opportunities and thanked Dr. Buffington and Dr. Krieg, and she indicated that Hobart does not get the recognition that it deserves. Terry Butler appreciated being able to have some fun things going on, which was so much better than last year. He told Lauren Cicillian to keep in touch with the Board when she goes to college, and he hoped she enjoyed serving on the Board this year. Dr. Buffington told the Board the Aquatic Center was going to be a vaccination site for the Indiana Department of Health on May 11, 12, and 13. They would be administering the Johnson & Johnson one shot vaccination. There is a possibility, if approved, they may also be giving the Pfizer vaccination that would be available younger children, and parental permission was needed for children under the age of 18.

There were no comments from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:22 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is May 20, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: May 20, 2021