

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
October 16, 2024**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on October 16, 2024, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

ROLL CALL: President 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
Sandra J. Hillan
Frank Porras
Donald H. Rogers
Stuart B. Schultz
Kayla Davis, HHS student representative
Isis Fleming, HHS student representative

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington
Bob Glover
Christopher N. King
William J. Longer
Tim Krieg
Sara Gutierrez
Danielle Adams

Board Members Absent:

Rikki A. Guthrie
Karen J. Robbins

Administrator Absent:

Jonathan Mock

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

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

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

AUDIENCE: The following were present in the audience:

Bradley Keehn, Joan Martin School and Hobart Middle School parent
DeAnn Jennette, Brickies from the Start Program
Kristal Rada, Brickies from the Start Program
Jill Runyan, Brickies from the Start Program
Charles Ganske, Hobart High School senior and National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, and his parents, Heather Connolly and David Ganske
Hannah Lucas, counselor at Hobart High School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Frank Porras moved that the Board approve the regular session minutes of October 3, 2024. Stuart Schultz seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Bob Glover, Business Manager, presented the vouchers for October 16, 2024, for the Board's consideration. He recommended approval and asked the student representatives to read the voucher summary.

- Vouchers for October 16, 2024 - Kayla Davis and Isis Fleming, Hobart High School student representatives, shared the reading of the accounts payable voucher summary with Kayla reading the first portion and Isis the last portion, as follows:

School Education \$947,310.97
Exempt Operating – Post 2009 \$97,531.83
School Operations \$408,917.58
Construction 700 \$258,441.45
School Lunch \$116,913.13
Curricular Materials \$32,390.95
Self-Insurance Fund \$231,531.58
Community Gifts and Donations \$3,184.30
Building Brickies \$253.41
SCOH Educational Foundation \$210.32
SAFE Supporting Addiction Free \$2,432.81
Indiana Literacy Cadre CELL \$986.57
Title II Part A FY 24/25 \$2,850.65
Explore, Engage, Experience \$36,465.59
Clearing Accounts \$616,001.33

Self-Insurance Clearing \$39,863.10
Clearing/Flexible Benefits AF \$60,928.42
Clearing/Ins. Account \$3,080.68
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$6,117.16

for a total of \$2,865,411.83 with no transfers. The September payroll distribution by Tracy Brumley, the school corporation's treasurer, was \$1,953,744.55.

Stuart Schultz moved and Sandra Hillan seconded that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for October 16, 2024. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

The HHS student representatives were complimented on the reading of the voucher summary, and it was noted that they were much more confident from their first reading.

In addition, Mr. Glover indicated the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated September 30, 2024, with their electronic meeting information: Analysis by Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Summary of Balances by Account-Object, and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

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

PERSONNEL: In the absence of Jonathan Mock, Director of Human Resources and Compliance, Dr. Peggy Buffington indicated the Personnel Report and Personnel Report Addendum were included in the electronic meeting information for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Buffington recommended approval and requested Board action.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the Personnel Reports as presented. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Butler commented he felt sorry for the transportation department because someone gets hired and then someone resigns. Dr. Buffington agreed with him and noted the custodial department has had difficulties finding employees also.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Returning Regular Teacher Contracts – 2024-2025
195 returning teacher contracts

Contracts for Extracurricular Services –
Hobart High School, October 11, 2024/August 15, 2025: Shelby Morgan, Yohan's Army 2, \$774.00; and Madison Price, Yohan's Army 3, \$774.00

Contracts for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –
Joan Martin School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025: Kendell Buckley, 2nd & 4th grades Yoga, \$324.00
Veterans School @ Mundell, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025: Jennifer Ayres-Cook, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00; and Dominique Shirey, Brainy Brickies, \$351.00

Homebound Teaching Contract –
October 7/December 20, 2024: Kristina Walton, Math and ILEARN Checkpoints, one hour per week and two hours for ILEARN Checkpoints, \$60.19 per hour

Teacher Contract Adjustment –
Carrie Kietzman, Hobart High School/PE teacher, \$2,000.00 adjustment to her base teacher contract for the completion of the American Red Cross water safety instructor certification. New salary total \$63,400.00

Classified Department – Adjustments of position, hours, and/or pay rate –
Lyndsey Deaton transferring to a different aide position, Aide-ISS/Reset at the Early Learning Center @ George Earle, effective October 7, 2024, \$13.26 per hour

Resignations –
Madison Blowers, Hobart Middle School/custodian, effective October 24, 2024
Dahlia Cooper, Service Center/Transportation Department, school bus driver, effective October 9, 2024

ECA Resignations –

Danielle McKee, Veterans @ Mundell/4th grade level contact, effective October 28, 2024

ECA Contract Adjustments –

Eric Schreiber, Jr., varsity football coach, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, should be placed at Step 6+ with a stipend of \$8,199.00

Angela Vera, varsity cheerleading coach, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, should be placed at Step 4-5 with a stipend of \$3,903.00

New Employees –

Erin Ballas, Hobart High School/food services-server/dishroom, effective October 15, 2024, \$12.67 per hour

Hunter Punak, Hobart High School/custodian October 7, 2024, \$16.38 per hour with a 90-day probation period

Jeffrey Mitchell, Service Center-Transportation Department/school bus driver, October 14, 2024, \$21.14 per hour

RECOGNITION: Charles Ganske, HHS Student and National Merit Scholarship Program

Semifinalist: Superintendent Peggy Buffington introduced and announced that Charles Ganske, a senior at Hobart High School, was named a National Merit Semifinalist, and she welcomed his parents, Heather Connolly and David Ganske. In addition, she introduced Danielle Adams, Director of Counselors, and Hannah Lucas, counselor at Hobart High School. She also mentioned that Heather Connolly was a counselor at the high school, but this evening, she was there as a parent.

Mrs. Adams summarized information to the Board and audience about the National Merit Scholarship Program. She noted that over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), last year as juniors, and the test served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, included the highest-scoring entrants in each state. From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level. Semifinalists will be notified in February if they will advance to the finalist designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists.

Dr. Buffington thanked Charlie and his parents for coming to the meeting, and she extended her congratulations to him. She had a certificate of recognition for him as a small token of his outstanding accomplishment, and she read the verbiage aloud. The student representatives, Kayla Davis and Isis Fleming, assisted her with the presentation of the certificate. Dr. Buffington complimented Charlie on his hard work, noted he exemplified what it means to be a Brickie, and was proud of him “for Being Excellent on Purpose.” Charlie told everyone that he hopes to be a music educator like Mr. Dinkins. It was noted that in addition to his high school diploma, he will graduate with an Associate Degree. The Board was told that Charlie will have a recognition parade on Friday at the high school.

The Board extended their congratulations to Charlie Ganske and thanked him and his parents for attending the meeting. Sandi Hillan extended her congratulations to him for this honor and also, extended her congratulations to his parents. Terry Butler congratulated Charlie on this honor, complimented him on his goal to be a music educator because he will also be helping people and hoped he reaches his goal.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT: Early Learning Indiana Grant for Brickies from the Start

Program: Dr. Peggy Buffington welcomed DeAnn Jennette, Coordinator of the Brickies from the Start, Sara Gutierrez, Director of Early Learning and Curriculum, and Kristal Rada and Jill Runyan from Brickies from the Start. Dr. Buffington said she worked with them as they prepared their grant application and was so proud of their efforts when they were notified that they were awarded their grant.

DeAnn Jennette told the Board they were awarded an Early Learning Indiana Grant in the amount of \$118,000.00. She said the Early Years Initiative was a competitive grant funded by Early Learning Indiana and Eli Lilly. Early Learning Indiana recognizes that the years between birth and age three were a period of rapid brain development in children and that a nurturing, supportive environment could strengthen that development. Mrs. Jennette noted the purpose of the Early Years Initiative was to provide funding to organizations to help infants and toddlers develop foundational knowledge and skills that support their future learning. Mrs. Jennette told the Board that the grant was awarded for a three-year period to enhance their service to children ages 0-3 and their families. She said their current program already offers developmental screenings, resources and referrals, parenting support, and a community playroom. Mrs. Jennette noted they also currently partner with Northwestern University to provide Mindful Parents, Mothers and Babies and Fathers and Babies. These programs have decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety in parents.

Mrs. Jenette indicated the grant would allow them to expand the Brickies from the Start program in the following ways:

- Hire an Infant and Toddler Specialist focusing on the needs of children ages 0-3 and their families

- Provide appropriate training and continued professional development
- Increase the number of Mothers and Babies and Fathers and Babies program
- Provide developmental screenings to families referred by WIC
- Provide developmental screenings to children ages 0-3 in childcare centers and in-home daycares
- Add more inclusive and diverse toys to the Community Playroom
- Purchase promotional materials for Brickies From the Start

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board accept the grant from Early Learning Indiana for the Brickies from the Start Program and authorize the superintendent to sign all necessary documents for the execution of the grant. Donald Rogers seconded.

In the discussion, the Board congratulated them for receiving the grant, noted how their program would be expanded, and extended their appreciation for all that they do. Dr. Buffington mentioned that the program had been going through changes such as their name change from Building Brickies and now being able to add additional services to the program will add to its successes. She thanked them for their willingness to expand their services to help people and was looking forward to the growth of their program.

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

RESOLUTION: Recognizing the Brickies from the Start Program: Dr. Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2024-29 that recognized the district's Brickies from the Start Program and National Parents as Teachers Day on November 8, 2024, for the Board's consideration.

President Terry Butler asked the audience whether they wanted the resolutions on the agenda read in full or whether only having the secretary read the titles was okay with them. Everyone was in favor of only having the titles of the resolutions read aloud.

Secretary Sandra Hillan read the title of Resolution No. 2024-29 aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29

RECOGNIZING THE BRICKIES FROM THE START PROGRAM

President Terry Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Stuart Schultz moved and Frank Porras seconded that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-29 recognizing the Brickies from the Start Program.

In the discussion, the Board thanked the Brickies from the Start staff who were present at the meeting, and they extended their appreciation to them for everything they do for the district's youngest Brickies.

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

President Butler invited audience members to stay for the remainder of the meeting, but he excused anyone who needed to leave. Bradley Keehn remained the audience.

Resolution No. 2024-29, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29

RECOGNIZING THE BRICKIES FROM THE START PROGRAM

WHEREAS, National Parents as Teachers Day was started by the Parents as Teachers National Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and

WHEREAS, educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness, which impacted their classroom performance, and research showed that greater parent involvement is a crucial link in the child's development and ability to learn new skills, such as reading and writing; and

WHEREAS, the first Parents as Teachers Day was declared in 2001, and it was decided that the day would be celebrated by offering support to the community by spreading awareness about early childhood programs and encourages Parent Teachers Organizations and parents to come together to support children in their educational and well-being endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Brickies from the Start Program of the School City of Hobart represents the ideals of the National Parents as Teachers that is dedicated to taking a holistic approach to strengthening families; and

WHEREAS, the Brickies from the Start Program offers services to families with children from birth to kindergarten, assists children in the transition to kindergarten, strengthens families by empowering parents as their child's first and best teachers, and advocates every day for families so every child in every neighborhood can thrive; and

WHEREAS, the broad goal of the day is to prevent child abuse and neglect, increase parental knowledge of early childhood development, improve parenting practices, increase children's school readiness and success and help states develop and implement home visiting programs that improve the health and well-being of families with young children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that November 8, 2024, be celebrated as National Parents as Teachers Day; and that the Brickies from the Start Program be acknowledged for the work with families to support children from birth to kindergarten.

DATED this 16th day of October, 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Sandra J. Hillan Secretary

RESOLUTION: Month of the Young Adolescent: Superintendent Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2024-28 for the Board's consideration and recommended its approval. She noted the resolution designated October as the Month of the Young Adolescent, and she mentioned because of school activities, including a Halloween dance and fall break week next week, the middle school did not wish to attend the Board meeting this year. She said many good things were happening at the middle school, such as the PTLW (Project Lead The Way) exploratory programs. She applauded the staff at the school for all the do for their students and noted the students at that level "do quirky things."

Terry Butler asked the audience member if he wanted the total resolution read aloud or was only reading the title was satisfactory. He replied just reading the title was okay.

Secretary Sandra Hillan read the title of Resolution No. 2024-28 aloud, as follows:

Resolution No. 2024-28
Month of Young Adolescent

President Terry Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Frank Porras moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2024-28 recognizing October as the Month of the Young Adolescent. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the votes, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Absent: Robbins and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-28, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

Resolution No. 2024-28
Month of Young Adolescent

Whereas, October is the Month of the Young Adolescent, an annual international collaborative effort of education, health, and youth-focused organizations initiated by the National Middle School Association, and

Whereas, in history, society has lacked an adequate understanding of youth during their transition period between childhood and adolescence, and as a result, young people often have been "growing up forgotten," and

Whereas, during the period of early adolescence, specifically between ages 10-15, young people leave childhood and progress toward full adolescence, making major decisions about their values, standards, attitudes, and personal beliefs, and many of these decisions impact their behavior throughout their lives.

Whereas, the issues that are brought to the forefront during the Month of the Young Adolescent deserve year-round attention and commitment to ensure the well-being of all young adolescents such as:

- The importance of parents being knowledgeable about young adolescents and being actively involved in their lives;
- The understanding that healthy bodies plus healthy minds equal healthy young adolescents;
- The realization that the education young adolescents experience during this formative period of life will determine the future for all citizens; and
- The knowledge that every young adolescent should have the opportunity to pursue his or her dreams and aspirations, and post-secondary education should be a possibility for all.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of School Trustees acknowledges October as the Month of the Young Adolescent.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

CONSIDERATION: Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for Budget Year 2025: Robert Glover, Business Manager, presented Resolution 2024-30 that would transfer funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. He noted approval of the transfer of funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund was built into the advertised budget and said the amount was 16.27% of the Education Fund revenue. He said the budget was advertised higher for protection so if the state's student funding comes in higher, the school district may receive extra monies in the middle of the year that could adjust the percentage rate. Mr. Glover noted the transfer was "critical to maintaining the Operations Fund budget."

President Terry Butler asked Attorney William Longer if it would still be acceptable to only read the title of the budget resolutions the Board would be considering. He indicated that it was "as long as people present understand" the resolution, and the presenter explains the purpose of the resolution.

Brad Keehn, audience member, indicated he understood the resolution, and Sandra Hillan was asked to read the title of Resolution 2024-30 aloud, which she did, as follows:

RESOLUTION 2024-30 TO TRANSFER AMOUNTS FROM THE EDUCATION
FUND TO THE OPERATIONS FUND

President Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Stuart Schultz moved and Donald Rogers seconded that the Board approve Resolution 2024-30 as presented. Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the votes, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Absent: Robbins and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Resolution 2024-30, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2024-30 TO TRANSFER AMOUNTS 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, HEA 1009 required the governing body of each school corporation to establish an education fund for the payment of expenses allocated to student instruction and learning under IC 20-42.5, and

WHEREAS, HEA 1009 required the governing body of each school corporation to establish an operations fund for the payment of expenses that are not allocated to student instruction and learning under IC 20-42.5, and

WHEREAS, HEA 1009 requires that distributions of tuition support be received in the education fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Trustees authorizes the Treasurer of the School City of Hobart to transfer an amount up to \$5,756,966 (fivemillion seven hundred fifty-six thousand nine hundred sixty-six dollars) from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, to reimburse the operations fund for expenses that are not allocated to student instruction and learning under IC 20-42.5 for the budget year 2025.

This resolution was duly made, seconded and adopted this 16th day of October 2024.

President, Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

RESOLUTION: Form 4 Resolution of Appropriations and Tax Rates: Business Manager Robert Glover presented Form 4 Resolution of Appropriations and Tax Rates Resolution 2024-31. Mr. Glover indicated the resolution included the budget that was approved for advertisement at the budget presentation meeting that included the budgeted appropriations, tax rates, and levies. He noted the amounts were projected higher to protect these areas, as had been done in previous years.

Secretary Hillan read the title of Resolution 2024-31 aloud, as follows:

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES
Ordinance/Resolution Number: 2024-31

President Butler called for Board action and a roll call vote.

Frank Porras moved that the Board approve the Resolution of Appropriations 2024-31. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the votes, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Absent: Robbins and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Resolution 2024-31, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION: Adoption of the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan: Business Manager Robert Glover presented the Resolution 2024-32 for the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan for the Board's consideration for approval and adoption. He said that Mat McKee, Director of Transportation, prepared the plan, and he extended his appreciation to him for applying for and receiving a grant for his department. It was noted the cost of buses has increased due to inflation.

Secretary Hillan read the title of Resolution 2024-32 aloud, as follows:

Resolution 2024-32
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE YEAR 2025 BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

President Butler asked for Board action and a roll call vote.

Donald Rogers moved that the Board approve the Resolution No. 2024-32 to adopt the year 2025 Bus Replacement Plan. Stuart Schultz seconded.

In the discussion, President Butler explained to the student representatives that years ago there were several different funds, including one for transportation. The state legislature then changed to two funds, Education Fund and Operations Fund. The transportation costs are now included in the Operations Fund, but school districts are still required to file bus replacement plans. In addition, he noted that years ago buses were replaced every eight years, then the state changed it to ten years, and now it was up to twelve years. It was mentioned that Hobart was not a large district mileage-wise compared to some of the area school districts. Mileage of a bus was kept in mind when preparing the bus replacement plan. President Butler commented that the school district notified the state last year giving the required three-year notice for ending transportation services. It was noted the school district “can’t have deficit spending” and “spending more than what comes in.”

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

Resolution 2024-32, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION: Budget Reductions for the Year 2025: Business Manager Robert Glover presented the Budget Reduction Resolution for Year 2025 for the Board’s consideration. The resolution noted that the advertised budget for the 2025 calendar year may not be funded from funds on hand and revenues to be received, so the Board was authorizing the appropriation and/or operating balance reductions in all funds to meet the new Line 1 of each of the funds as determined by the Department of Local Government Finance. He noted the Debt Service Fund tax rate should be under \$0.80 so that the Board would be able to consider and finalize plans that have been discussed.

Secretary Hillan read the title of Resolution 2024-33 aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
HOBART, INDIANA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33

President Butler requested Board action and a roll call vote.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the Budget Reduction Resolution, Resolution No. 2024-33. Donald Rogers seconded. Vote on motion: Secretary Sandra Hillan called roll on the votes, as follows: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Absent: Robbins and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2024-33, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
HOBART, INDIANA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that since the year 2025 advertised budget in the amount of \$55,630,031.00 may not be funded from funds on hand and revenues to be received, the Board of School Trustees authorizes appropriation and/or operating balance reductions to the Education Fund, Operations Fund, Debt Service Fund, Rainy Day Fund, Referendum Exempt Operating Fund, and the Referendum Debt Exempt Capital Fund in amounts sufficient to meet the new Line 1 of each of the funds in the 2025 Budget as determined by the Department of Local Government Finance of the State of Indiana.

Dated this 16th day of October 2024.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

OVERNIGHT/EXTENDED STUDY TRIP: State Thespian Convention: Dr. Peggy Buffington presented a request from Cathy Nelson, HHS theatre teacher, for 30-40 high school theater students in grades 9-12 to attend the State Thespian Convention at Avon High School, in Avon, Indiana. She noted there was a last-minute change in the place of the convention from the original information that was published with the agenda. The group will travel in School City of Hobart activity buses or a school bus and will leave Hobart on Friday, January 24, and return on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Mrs. Nelson will be in charge, and presently, there will be five staff and/or production team members attending and two parent volunteers, if needed, who are approved volunteers. In addition, Dr. Buffington commented that she was always aware of weather conditions at this time of the year and asked that she be authorized to cancel the trip due to inclement weather conditions, as has been done in the past.

Board action was requested.

Frank Porras moved that the Board approve the overnight student trip for high school theatre students to attend the State Thespian Convention at Avon High School in Avon, Indiana, and the Superintendent is authorized to cancel the trip in case of inclement weather conditions. Seconded by Stuart Schultz. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor. (Because the place of the convention was not changed in the motion portion of the write-up, Pat Schoon, recording secretary, verbally corrected the

place of the convention from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, to Avon High School in Avon, Indiana, before the motion as made.)

Isis Fleming noted that she has attended the convention before, and she thanked the Board for approving the request and appreciated the opportunity for the theatre students to compete again this school year.

RECOMMENDATION: Updated Student Textbook/Program Costs and Curricular Fees, 2024-2025:

Dr. Peggy Buffington told the Board that the original Curricular & Digital Curriculum Fees for 2024-2025 was based on projected enrollment figures that were needed in planning for curricular needs for this school year. She noted a couple of areas where the spring enrollments did not meet their expected projections. She indicated this year's Curriculum and Digital Curriculum Fees were updated after ADM day. She noted that ADM and enrollment are two different numbers and do not match one another. In addition, she mentioned that the fall ADM was usually greater than the February ADM.

Dr. Buffington noted that she along with Dr. Tim Krieg, Director of Secondary Education, Mrs. Lori Anderson, Director of Elementary Education, and Mr. Chris King, Director of Technology, worked on updating textbook costs and fees in grades K-12. After many hours of making cuts to existing fees to cover the expenditures needed with the state's underfunded revenue for "free textbooks," the revised schedule was completed. State law authorizes a per pupil reimbursement allocation of approximately \$151.88, and this is not enough monies even after cuts were made, which is very evident at the high school level. The enrollment used for the projected costs was 3,899 based on Skyward counts in May of this year. Dr. Buffington noted that orders for curriculum needs were based on those Skyward numbers. The October enrollment was 3,921 that was 22 students higher than the initial projections. Dr. Buffington mentioned that the total enrollment includes special education students placed by the special education cooperative (NISEC).

Dr. Buffington indicated the Elementary Actual Difference was \$25,811.99, the HMS Actual Difference was **-\$24,583.14**, the HHS Actual Difference was **-\$75,393.16**, and the Actual Cost Difference for Grades K-12 was **-\$74,074.31**. Dr. Buffington mentioned that next year the elementary cost difference probably will not be in the green because ESSER funds were used to purchase laptops for kindergarten students. ESSER funds are no longer available, and next year, those laptops are due for replacement. It was noted that the difference in these costs would come out of the Education Fund. Sandi Hillan commented about the costs of textbooks, especially at the high school level, that are needed for special curricular areas and how expensive they are. Dr. Buffington said they have Cengage adoptions for some areas at the high school because they offer online textbooks. There was some discussion about these kinds of needs and their costs, and it was shown that the reimbursement was used up quickly. Dr. Buffington said she used to wonder why the state didn't offer free textbooks and noted that when they decided to attempt to do this, they never consulted the school districts to survey the actual costs involved to put a plan in place.

Dr. Buffington recommended the adoption of the fees for the 2024-2025 school year associated with this report so that it may be filed with the state when the appropriate data was requested from the Indiana Department of Education, and she requested Board action.

Sandra Hillan moved and Donald Rogers seconded that the Board adopt the fees for the 2024-2025 school year associated with the report to be filed with the Indiana Department of Education. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

CONSIDERATION: Trademark License Agreement with Marissa Madrigal dba RMP Creations:

Superintendent Peggy Buffington highlighted a proposed new trademark license agreement with Marissa Madrigal dba as RMP Creations for a royalty fee of 10%, payable quarterly. The term of the agreement is for two years effective October 16, 2024, through October 15, 2026. She mentioned that Mrs. Madrigal was a teacher at the high school and was interested in using the Yohan logo on products that her business sells.

Board action was requested.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board approve the trademark license agreement with Marissa Madrigal dba RMP Creations and authorize the superintendent to sign the trademark license agreement, as presented. Seconded by Frank Porras. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

CONSIDERATION: Trademark License Agreement with Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.: Dr. Peggy Buffington highlighted a proposed renewal trademark license agreement with Ohiopyle Prints for a royalty fee of 10%, payable quarterly. The term of the agreement is two years effective November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2026. A question was raised as to where their products are sold, and it was noted at CVS, Walgreens, Meijer, and Target.

Dr. Buffington requested Board action.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the trademark license agreement with Ohiopyle Prints and authorize the superintendent to sign the trademark license agreement, as presented. Seconded by Donald Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Porras, Rogers, Schultz, Hillan, and Butler. Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

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

Fall ADM Report – Dr. Buffington highlighted the Fall ADM report with the Board. She noted that special education students assigned outside school of our district affected the district’s ins and outs. She commented there was a substantial drop in enrollment during COVID. Because of this when returning to in-person schooling after COVID, unregistered families were called in an effort to increase enrollment. Enrollment went back up but declined the following year. This year, kindergarten enrollment is down 32 students, and the enrollments in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade are now under 300. Families are using vouchers, and the district was down 148 students due to school choice. A significant number of the students attend online schools where there is less accountability, and they are in a casual setting in their homes. In addition, some of the school choice students return to the district after the ADM count because of discipline issues and/or other situations that the school does not want to deal with. Chris King pointed out to Board members that in tracking a cohort, they should do so on a diagonal, rather than up and down. Dr. Buffington mentioned that our virtual school was for students with disciplinary problems or those not doing their work in the regular school setting.

Dr. Buffington indicated this year ADM was down 35 and said it could have been much worse. She pointed out the difficulty of trying to prepare a budget not knowing what funding our ADM would generate. For many years, the district’s enrollment was around 4,000, and she felt this was a good number for the district. She was studying options that would bring in more students “to sustain the programs we offer.”

School Information – weekly agendas from the Early Learning Center, Veterans Elementary, Hobart Middle School, and Hobart High School.

Upcoming Activities/Events – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington highlighted the upcoming activities/events, as follows:

October 16 – All Test Day @ Hobart High School, dismissal @ 12:45 pm

October 17 – All Pro Dad Chapter Meeting @ Hobart Middle School, 5:00 pm

Dr. Buffington commented that the chapters have been successful and were hoping for continued growth. She noted that the SRO’s and Debbie Matthys went through the All Pro Dad curriculum training.

October 21-25 – Fall Break – Dr. Buffington mentioned that everyone was ready for the break.

October 22-24 – City of Hobart Parks & Recreation Department, Fall Break Camp for Kindergarten – Fifth graders @ Robinson Lake, 9:00 am/2 pm

October 26 – Bingo Night Fundraiser for HHS Athletics, Hobart Moose Lodge, Doors Open @ 5:00 pm and Bingo Starts @ 7:00 pm

October 28 – November 1 – **Red Ribbon Week**

(Monday – wear bright colors, Tuesday – wear tie dye, Wednesday – wear pj’s, Thursday – wear red for Red Ribbon Week, and Friday – E-learning day)

November 13 – Hobart Educational Fundraiser, *Harvest Homecoming* at County Line Orchard, 5:00 – 8:00 pm // It was noted that tickets were available in case anyone needed any.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Peggy Buffington noted that it has been a busy time and everything was going well. She told the Board about a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) visitation. She noted there were representatives from PLTW and school districts from throughout the state were here to see our programs in action. The visit began at Joan Martin School, then to the middle school, and ended up at the high school. It was a varied group with some wanting to know how to start a program, some have not been successful, and others were interested in expanding programs. Dr. Buffington advocates for helping and sharing with other school districts for everyone’s betterment. She said they wanted to visit “to see what we do”, and Chris King commented that the PLTW staff took pictures of the PLTW original banner at the middle school because no one knew what the original banners looked like. Dr. Buffington said the visit went great, and she was very proud of Chris King, Tammy May, and the classroom teachers and their students, and she expressed her thanks and appreciation to them. She thanked Chris King and Tammy May for all that they do and mentioned Mr. King takes care of the technology, and Ms. May keeps track of which teachers need training. As a side bar, Dr. Buffington told the Board that the district began with the PLTW engineering program in 1999, and because of its success, they offered the school district the bio-medical program at the high school. She noted that one of the first educators to embrace PLTW curriculum was the late Bob Galliher, a middle school teacher. Dr. Buffington thanked Dr. Tim Krieg and Ms. Lori Anderson, curriculum directors, for their work with the curriculum, state standards, and mapping and said it was a team effort. Bill Longer made a couple of observations. The quality of the schools in a community are of great importance, and Hobart’s schools offer so much to its students. In addition, the early childhood program was an investment in the community and would

save resources later on with social services and court system because the recipients of the program will be successful as students and individuals. Tim Krieg told the Board that he had been at a workshop where met someone who knew about Hobart and its successes because of Dr. Buffington's leadership. He said the person was continuing their education because they wanted to be a leader like her. Dr. Krieg was thankful for her leadership.

From the audience, Brad Keehn expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work with the curriculum and getting all the puzzle pieces in order and aligned with the costs involved. He commented that his family moved to Hobart in 2015 because of the schools. He was thanked for coming to Hobart.

From the Board, Frank Porras extended his congratulations to Charlie Ganske, noted his hard work, and wished him good luck. In addition, he congratulated a high school wrestler for his off-season accomplishments this year. He said he has had a couple of great seasons prior to this year's upcoming season. He was looking forward to the bingo fundraiser at the Moose Lodge, suggested getting there early, and was going to be donating his money like Don Rogers does. Don Rogers extended his congratulations to Charlie Ganske and noted his accomplishments were impressive. He wished Dr. Buffington, "Happy Bosses Day." Stu Schultz mentioned all the "great things happening, as usual." Kayla Davis liked the PLTW visitation. She was in Mr. Schultz' class at the time, and he keeps the class engaged while having fun. She expressed her congratulations to Charlie Ganske and noted he has worked hard for this accomplishment. Ms. Davis mentioned that it has been busy. Isis Fleming offered congratulations to Charlie Ganske and noted that he was "a great individual," and his accomplishment was "well-deserved." She spoke about the Mayor's Youth Council and what was happening, and she expressed her appreciation for the education she has received. Sandi Hillan noted the Month of the Young Adolescent and expressed her appreciation to the middle school teachers because she knows it is "a tough job" working with middle schoolers. She noted the commitment for the PLTW program and commented "nothing compares" to it. Dr. Buffington noted that the program meets the state's science standards and said that Tammy May and Lori Anderson worked diligently in matching standard modules. Mrs. Hillan commented on the ADM numbers and pointed out that it was important for parents to know that unlike public schools, charter schools do not have to hire licensed teachers. She noted the importance of the education and training of licensed teachers. Terry Butler inquired whether the district still had the Metaman, and Dr. Buffington responded he was in the EMT room. In addition, she mentioned that the Bio-medical students use the Anatomage Table in their study of anatomy and medical diseases. Mr. Butler extended his congratulations to Chris King and the Technology Department, noted their importance to the district, and said that they don't always get the recognition they should. He told Brad Keehn that he will soon get to see what it is like on the other side of the table from the audience. Mr. Butler indicated he would like to have Red Skelton's version of the Pledge of Allegiance played at a Board meeting before the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:38 p.m.

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

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Sandra J. Hillan, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: November 7, 2024

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
 Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
 Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
 Generated 10/10/2024 12:02:07 PM

Ordinance / Resolution Number: 2024-31

Be it ordained/resolved by the **Board of School Trustees** that for the expenses of **SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART SCHOOL CORPORATION** for the year ending December 31, **2025** the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of **SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART SCHOOL CORPORATION**, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the **Board of School Trustees**.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Board of School Trustees	School Board	10/16/2024

Funds				
Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0022	REFERENDUM FUND - EXEMPT OPERATING - POST 2009	\$2,865,087	\$2,828,095	0.2460
0061	RAINY DAY	\$300,000	\$0	0.0000
0180	DEBT SERVICE	\$8,849,775	\$11,168,405	1.0258
0287	REFERENDUM DEBT FUND - EXEMPT CAPITAL - POST 2009	\$1,782,375	\$2,874,080	0.2500
3101	EDUCATION	\$32,458,945	\$0	0.0000
3300	OPERATIONS	\$9,373,849	\$5,443,754	0.5000
		\$55,630,031	\$22,314,334	2.0218

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
 Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
 Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
 Generated 10/10/2024 12:02:07 PM

Name		Signature
Terry D. Butler	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Terry D Butler</i>
Rikki A. Guthrie	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sandra J. Hillan	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sandra J Hillan</i>
Frank Porras	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Francisco Porras</i>
Karen J. Robbins	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Donald H. Rogers	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Donald H Rogers</i>
Stuart B. Schultz	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Stuart B. Schultz</i>

ATTEST

Name	Title	Signature
Sandra J. Hillan	<i>sect.</i>	<i>Sandra J Hillan</i>

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to issue debt after December 1 and before January 1

Yes No

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31

Yes No

Resolution 2024-32

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE YEAR 2025 BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

This resolution is adopted by the Board of Trustees of the School Corporation below:

School Corporation Name: **School City of Hobart**
County: **Lake**

WHEREAS, A School Bus Replacement Plan has been established; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is required under IC 20-40-18-9 to adopt a plan for the School Bus Replacement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the plan date and place below:

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024
Meeting Location: Hobart High School Board Room, 2211 E. 10th ST., Hobart, IN

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees that the plan entitled "Bus Replacement Plan" this resolution, and is adopted as the Board of Trustees' Plan with respect to the School Bus Replacement Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to the Department of Local Government Finance as required by IC 20-40-18-9.

Adoption Date: : Wednesday, October 16, 2024

AYE

NAY

Donald H. Payne

Stuart B. Schuch

Francisco Ponce

Sandra J. Hillan

Tony D. Butler

Attest: *Sandra J. Hillan*

Sandra J. Hillan
Secretary of Board of School Trustees

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Complete details of the Bus Replacement plan may be seen by visiting the website of this unit of government at the following address: www.hobart.k12.in.us.

Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of School City of Hobart that the proper officers of School City of Hobart will conduct a public hearing on the year 2025 proposed Bus Replacement Fund Plan pursuant to IC 20-40-18. Following the public hearing, the proper officers of School City of Hobart may adopt the proposed plan as presented or with revisions.

Public Hearing Date: October 3, 2024

Public Hearing Time: 7:00 PM

Public Hearing Place: Hobart High School Board Room, 2211 E. 10th ST., Hobart, IN

Taxpayers are invited to attend the meeting for a detailed explanation of the plan and to exercise their rights to be heard on the proposed plan. If the proposed plan is adopted by resolution, the resolution will be submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance as per IC 20-40-18-9(d).

**SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN
FOR THE YEARS 2025 - 2029**

Pursuant to IC 20-40-18, School City of Hobart does hereby submit to the Department of Local Government Finance the following School Bus Replacement Plan for the five (5) year period 2025 through 2029. This plan is based upon the presumption that the minimum useful life of a school bus is not less than twelve (12) years.

**SECTION I
Replacement Cost of Bus/Vehicle During Specific Year**

	Bus Description	Corp ID Number	Type of Bus/Vehicle per DOE "TN"	Owned or Leased	Estimated Replacement Costs				
					2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
1	INTER/2007	1	C	O	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS
2	INTER/2013	2	C	O					
3	INTER/2021	3	C	O					
4	INTER/2007	4	C	O	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS	\$ 142,000		
5	INTER/2006	5	C	O	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS	KEEP SUB BUS		
6	INTER/2017	6	C	O					
7	INTER/2021	7	C	O					
8	INTER/2014	8	C	O			\$ 142,000		
9	INTER/2012	9	C	O					
10	INTER/2023	10	C	O					
11	INTER/2021	11	C	O					
12	INTER/2014	12	C	O			\$ 142,000		
13	INTER/2020 LIFT	13	C	O					
14	INTER/2011 LIFT	14	C	O	\$ 167,000				
15	INTER/2008	15	C	O	\$ 142,000				
16	INTER/2016	16	C	O					\$ 142,000
17	INTER/2020	17	C	O					
18	INTER/2024	18	C	O					
19	INTER/2015	19	C	O				\$ 142,000	
20	INTER/2015	20	C	O				\$ 142,000	
21	INTER/2016	21	C	O					\$ 142,000
22	INTER/2022	22	C	O					
23	INTER/2024 LIFT	23	C	O					
24	INTER/2016	24	C	O					\$ 142,000
25	INTER/2017	25	C	O					
26	INTER/2014	26	C	O		\$ 142,000			
27	INTER/2013	27	C	O		\$ 142,000			
28	INTER/2024	28	C	O					
29	INTER/2020	29	C	O					
30	INTER/2017	30	C	O					
31	INTER/2020	31	C	O					
32	INTER/2020	32	C	O					
33	INTER/2021	33	C	O					
34	INTER/2020	34	C	O					
35	INTER/2009	35	C	O					
40	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2013	40	A	O					
41	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2012	41	A	O				\$ 100,000	
42	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2016	42	A	O					
43	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2022	43	A	O					
44	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2018	44	A	O					
45	ACTIVITY CHEVY/2010	45	A	O		\$ 100,000			
46									
Replacement Cost Totals					\$ 309,000	\$ 384,000	\$ 426,000	\$ 384,000	\$ 426,000

Note: Additional sheets may be added if necessary.

SECTION II
JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL BUS PURCHASES, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, AND/OR EARLY BUS REPLACEMENT

1. Pursuant to IC 20-40-18-9(2)(A), if the School Corporation is seeking to acquire or contract for transportation services that will provide for additional school buses or buses with a larger seating capacity as compared to the number and type of school buses from the prior school year, explain for each additional bus and the circumstances of the demand for increased transportation services within the School Corporation.

(Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

2. Pursuant to IC 20-40-18-9(4), if the School Corporation is seeking to replace an existing school bus earlier than twelve (12) years after the existing school bus was originally acquired or requires a contractor to replace a school bus, explain for each bus the circumstances for that need.

INTER 2011 LIFT Bus 14 - rust and high mileage

(Attach additional sheets if necessary.)