

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
April 3, 2025**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on April 3, 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:

Board Members:

Rikki A. Guthrie
Sandra J. Hillan
Frank Porras
Bradley Keehn
David W. Kostbade
Donald H. Rogers
Stuart B. Schultz
Kayla Davis, HHS student representative
Isis Fleming, HHS student representative

Administrator Present:

Peggy Buffington
Russell Mellon
William J. Longer

Administrators Absent:

Bob Glover
Christopher N. King
Jonathan Mock
Tim Krieg

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Rikki Guthrie called the meeting to order around 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Guthrie led everyone present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE: No one was in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bradley Keehn moved and David Kostbade seconded that the Board approve the executive session and regular session minutes of March 20, 2025. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Schultz, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: President Guthrie indicated there were no financial reports for the Board's consideration.

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

PERSONNEL: In the absence of Jonathan Mock, Director of Human Resources and Compliance, Superintendent Peggy Buffington indicated the Personnel Report and Personnel Report Addendum were included with 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. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Schultz, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contract for Extracurricular Services –

Hannah Lucas, Hobart Middle School/Tennis-JV girls, March 28/June 20, 2025, \$1,469.50

Contracts for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –

Joan Martin School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2024: Rachel Sieffert, Board game (third session), \$270.00

Liberty School, August 14, 2024/June 4, 2025: Brandi Panozzo, Crotchet second session, \$216.00

Extracurricular Club Duty Contract –

Joan Martin School, 2024-2025 School Year: Tiffaney Scott, Girls on the Run, \$1,350.00

Resignations –

Tracey Mitchell, Service Center/Transportation Department-bus aide, effective March 26, 2025

Brenda Velasco, Service Center/Transportation Department-bus aide, effective April 14, 2025

Krista Bunch, Veterans School @ Mundell/custodian, effective March 31, 2025

New Employee –

Kenneth Taylor, Hobart Middle School/Class I custodian, effective March 24, 2025, \$16.38 per hour with 90-day probation period

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

Monica Gonzalez, transferring to server/dishroom position at Joan Martin School, hours increased to 5, and pay rate remains the same \$12.67 per hour, effective April 1, 2025

Kelly Ingram, transferring to cashier position at Joan Martin School, hours increased to 5.5, and pay rate increased to \$14.25 per hour, effective April 1, 2025

Rhonda Soto, transferring to cashier position at Joan Martin School, hours increased to 6, and pay rate remains the same \$13.25 per hour, effective April 1, 2025

Requests for Leaves of Absence –

Kaitlynn Davis, Joan Martin School/teacher, FMLA, effective August 11/October 17, 2025

Jane Griffith, Hobart Middle School/teacher, FMLA, effective April 9/April 25, 2025

Sara Sanchez, ELC @ Geo Earle/food services, FMLA, effective April 7/June 2, 2025

Nancy Smith, Service Center/food services, FMLA, effective intermittent usage beginning March 12, 2025 up to 60 days

New Employee –

Hilda Gonzalez, Veterans @ Mundell/Class I custodian, effective March 25, 2025, \$16.38 per hour with a 90-day probation period

Termination –

Kelly Miller, Hobart Middle School/food services, effective April 2, 2025

RESOLUTION: National Volunteer Week: President Rikki Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the title of Resolution No. 2025-9 recognizing National Volunteer Week. Secretary Porras read the title of the resolution, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
“CELEBRATE SERVICE”

President Rikki Guthrie called for a motion and a roll-call vote.

Bradley Keehn moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-9 to recognize the dedication of volunteers in making a difference for students in the School City of Hobart, as well as in the community of Hobart. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

In the discussion, it was noted that National Volunteer Week will be April 20-26, 2025. Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation for all of those who volunteer and give of their time to the school district. Volunteers know the importance of giving back to the community, and she extended her thanks and appreciation to them all. President Rikki Guthrie mentioned that volunteers give of their time and talents, and she was appreciative of all they do. It was noted the administrators, teachers, and students appreciate everything that our volunteers do in our schools, as well as impacting the lives of those in our community.

Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Schultz, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-9, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
“CELEBRATE SERVICE”

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 through a presidential executive order; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of recognizing volunteers on an annual basis has continued to be widely recognized and endorsed by subsequent U. S. presidents, governors, mayors, and other respected elected officials; and

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to volunteer within their communities; and

WHEREAS, volunteers make a difference every day; and

WHEREAS, volunteers fill many roles by being listeners, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, volunteers share their strengths and skills, lend a hand by taking time to make things better for someone else, and take pride in reaching out to see others smile; and

WHEREAS, volunteers should be accorded high public esteem in appreciation for the work that they do and their dedication and commitment to the students of the School City of Hobart.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of April 20-26, 2025, be designated as *National Volunteer Week* – “Celebrate Service.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to appreciate the importance and recognize the service of volunteers within the School City of Hobart.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2025.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

RESOLUTION: Recognizing National Student Leadership Week: President Rikki Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the title of Resolution No. 2025-10 that recognized the week of April 24-30 as Hobart Student Leadership Week. Secretary Porras read the title, as follows:

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10
National Student Leadership Week

President Rikki Guthrie called for a motion and a roll-call vote.

David Kostbade moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-10 recognizing Hobart Student Leadership Week. Stuart Schultz seconded.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington mentioned that the HHS student representatives were great examples of the outstanding leaders at the high school, and she was proud of all of student leaders within the district. Dr. Buffington mentioned that she had given a BEOP to a second grader at Joan Martin School for making his own BEOP's and said it was very heart-warming to see the student's peers beginning to recognize others and learning about leadership. In addition, she mentioned that the student told her that he had not always been excellent on purpose. She asked him what happened, and he said that he decided to change his ways. She thought it was so important and BEOP's were a teaching example and a making difference. She noted that COVID had affected many students who did not have the opportunity to learn about leadership, and “What it looks like.” As part the agenda write up, it was mentioned that this was the fifth year that the Board had recognized student leaders within the school district.

Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Schultz, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-10, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10
National Student Leadership Week

WHEREAS, since its origin stemming from a Presidential Proclamation of Richard Nixon in 1972, National Student Leadership Week has been a national celebration of students sponsored by the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Student Council, and

WHEREAS, National Student Leadership Week is an annual theme-based week dedicated to recognizing and supporting the vital role of student leaders, and

WHEREAS, schools sponsor student leadership activities in order to provide students with vital experience in exercising a voice in matters of common concern, reconciling diverse interests, and selecting leaders, and

WHEREAS, student leaders are a positive influence on their peers, modeling good character and scholarship in and out of the classroom, and serve as change agents to improve the overall climate and academic performance levels of their schools, and

WHEREAS, student leaders do not automatically develop sound leadership skills and require trained, dedicated faculty advisers to help them develop the essential traits and characteristics of a leader and to provide the positive experiences necessary to expand their skills and foster their paths to becoming effective leaders;

WHEREAS, the support of school administrators and faculty, parents, and community members is necessary to help ensure the successful education of all emerging student leaders;

WHEREAS, National Student Leadership Week serves as an ideal time to bring attention to the important and integral contributions that student leaders and all student activities make in our nation's schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of April 24-30, 2025, be designated as Hobart Student Leadership Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges Hobart citizens to seek opportunities to recognize student leaders in our schools and support their training and activities as they prepare themselves for their future stations as leaders of our city, state, and nation.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2025.

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

RESOLUTION: Administrative Professionals Day: President Rikki Guthrie asked Secretary Frank Porras to read the title of Resolution No. 2025-11 recognizing Administrative Professionals Day on April 23, 2025. Secretary Porras read the title of the resolution, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11
Administrative Professionals Day

President Guthrie called for a motion and a roll-call vote.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2025-11 recognizing Administrative Professionals Day. Frank Porras seconded.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington commented about the district's administrative professionals and said they all have "a heart for kids and make the school district so much better." She mentioned that the administrative professionals make their respective administrator's jobs much more manageable, and they could not "live without them." She made some complimentary comments about working with Pat Schoon and noted she was privileged to work with her, and she also complimented the other administrative professionals at the Administration Office and those in the Business Office. Rikki Guthrie commented they were "the icing on the cake, and you can't have icing without the cake."

Vote on motion: Secretary Frank Porras called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Kostbade, Rogers, Keehn, Schultz, Porras, Hillan, and Guthrie. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 2025-11, as presented, displayed on the screens in the Board Room, and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11
Administrative Professionals Day

WHEREAS, administrative professionals make a difference every day; and

WHEREAS, every day administrative professionals support and listen to staff members, parents, and students; and

WHEREAS, administrative professionals lend a hand by taking time to make things better for someone else and taking pride in reaching out to see others smile; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that administrative professionals be recognized for their dedication and commitment to the students of the School City of Hobart.

WHEREAS, for many students the administrative professionals are the first employee they see each morning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that April 23, 2025, is designated as *Administrative Professionals Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that School City of Hobart expresses its appreciation to these employees and commends the work they do.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Trustees urges the entire community of Hobart to appreciate and recognize the administrative professionals within the School City of Hobart.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2025.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

Frank Porras, Secretary

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

➤ School Information – weekly agendas from all of the schools, and the April Monthly Activity Calendar from the Early Learning Center. There were no BricksCenter newsletters on March 23 and March 30.

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

April 7 – 11 – Week of the Young Child

Dr. Buffington hoped it would not rain on bubble day.

April 9 – Incoming Freshman Parent Night, HHS Great Hall, 5-7:00 pm

Dr. Buffington hoped all parents would be attending since the new diploma requirements would be presented.

April 11 – Freshman Orientation (morning at HMS including lunch and afternoon at HHS)

April 14- May 9 – ILEARN Test Window for Third to Eighth Graders

April 16 – Makers & Innovators Showcase, HHS Fieldhouse, 6-8:00 pm

Dr. Buffington noted this was one of her favorite events of the year.

COMMENTS: From the administration, Peggy Buffington told the Board it had been a busy week giving out BEOP's (**B**eing **E**xcellent **O**n **P**urpose). She mentioned the JAG program (Jobs for America's Graduates) at the high school and noted it was the first year for the program that was subsidized by the state. The program is a state-based, national non-profit that helps high school students of promise, especially those facing challenges, achieve graduation and prepare for post-secondary education or careers. Today, they did their own version of "Shark Tank." The students came up with some good ideas and did "pitch presentations" for them. She said their instructor has done a great job. She said staff and students came back rested from spring break, mentioned that the school year was "in the home stretch," and noted the importance for students not to let up and "to finish strong." Bill Longer expressed his thanks to Pat Schoon "for making him look good." He mentioned that he attended Mayor Huddleston's state of the city presentation, and he recognized Vicky Ladd with an "Unsung Hero" award from the city. Mrs. Ladd was a retired school bus driver. Mr. Longer commented that throughout the Mayor's speech he used the phrase "Hobart Has It," and then he listed what the city has noting Hobart has excellent schools throughout the address.

From the Board, Dave Kostbade enjoys hearing about the BEOP recognition along the competition, as well as the cheering for their peers. He reported the Hobart Football Boosters raised over \$7,000.00 at the Moose Lodge

bingo fundraiser and said it was a little less than they received previously. Don Rogers commented that his student neighbor told him twice that he had to wait a long time for his BEOP, and Mr. Rogers told him that Dr. Buffington was very busy. Dr. Buffington indicated that she used to visit the classrooms, but now because of the large number of BEOP's, each student's name was read over the PA system, and they come to the office and pick up their BEOP and have pictures taken. Brad Keehn complimented Pat Schoon on the great job she does and said that included the time when he was on the other side of the table. In addition, he noted that he has been impressed with the leadership of the student representatives and extended his appreciation to them for "their hard work." Kayla Davis, HHS student representative, told the Board she participated in the French students' trip European trip and just returned on Tuesday. She had a great time and enjoyed the trip and made some new friendships. She said our chaperones and the other chaperones and tour guides did a great job. Isis Fleming commented that the juniors were excited about their SAT scores and thought the extra work was worth their time. She concurred with the comments about Mrs. Schoon. She invited everyone to the girls tennis team's first match at Hobart on April 9 at 4:30 pm. Frank Porras remarked that Mrs. Schoon was always professional and does an excellent job. He mentioned that he had been watched the Mayor's podcast with Dr. Buffington as his guest, and he thought Dr. Buffington did a very good job explaining the referendum. Dr. Buffington explained that there were a few glitches, but everyone pivoted so it worked out well. Because of the glitch, she was not able to use her slide presentation, and they had to take electronic comments. It was noted that there were some great responses by Dr. Krieg, Mrs. Hillan, and a couple of others to some of comments/questions, and it was mentioned that some of them were not even Hobart residents. Brad Keehn noted that anyone who was really interested could do a simple Google search to find whatever information they were seeking. He mentioned that some people "just opposed to anything." Mrs. Hillan said she knew others were responding and only responded when someone made comments that were "just wrong and out of control." Dr. Buffington stated the importance of responding to correct any misinformation because if it is not corrected, "they will believe it is true." Sandi Hillan told the student representatives they were amazing and asked Isis if she went on the student trip. She did not but said Kayla kept in touch with her and updated what she was doing. Rikki Guthrie offered her compliments to Mrs. Schoon for the great job she does, extended her appreciation to her, and mentioned she deserved a BEOP. She was very pleased that Kayla enjoyed the trip to Europe, saw pictures on social media from the various sites they visited, and was glad she made new friends. She was glad that the Board was able to offer the students this opportunity. Isis mentioned some of the other spring sports that have begun and said the baseball team had won two games, and the softball team won their game with Chesterton. In addition, it was mentioned track would be starting within the next couple of weeks. Dr. Buffington mentioned that Russ Mellon just turned in a BEOP for Pat Schoon. Mrs. Schoon thanked everyone for the complimentary comments and Mr. Mellon for the BEOP.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guthrie adjourned the meeting around 7:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is April 17, 2025.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Frank Porras, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: April 17, 2025