

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
April 15, 2021**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on April 15, 2021, in the Board Room at Hobart High School, 2211 East Tenth Street, Hobart, Indiana.

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

Board Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington
Ted Zembala
Christopher N. King
William J. Longer
Jonathan Mock
Tim Krieg
Bob Glover

Board Member Absent:

Lauren Cicillian, HHS student representative

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

CALL TO ORDER: Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 7:02 p.m.

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

AUDIENCE: Jennifer Williams, Joan Martin School parent, was in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Karen Robbins moved that the Board approve the work session, executive session, and regular session minutes of April 1, 2021. Frank Porras seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ted Zembala, Business Manager, presented the following for the Board's consideration and recommended approval:

► Vouchers for April 15, 2021 – Kelsey Black, HHS student representative, read the accounts payable voucher summary, as follows:

School Education Fund \$458,405.18
Operating Referendum Fund \$106,081.24
School Operations Fund \$887,945.16
Construction Fund 700 \$62,728.00
School Lunch \$98,209.33
Textbook Rental Fund \$7,482.07
Self-Insurance Fund \$548,038.59
Community Gifts and Donations \$35.00
Building Brickies \$26.40
Hobart Educational Foundation \$661.00
Formative Assessment Grant \$450.00
SAFE Supporting Addiction Free \$2,800.00
Secured School Safety Grant \$100,000.00
Partnership for Success Initiative \$3,134.05
High Ability + Identification Prog 2018/19 \$5,692.50
Department of Natural Resources \$4,411.75
Title II Part A \$6,390.00
Fed Stimulus-18003 Ed Stabilization Relief \$1,110.56
Clearing Accounts \$377,198.30
Self-Insurance Clearing \$1,858.50
Clearing/Flexible Benefits AF \$52,877.09
Credit Card Fee Clearing \$1,537.08

for vouchers totaling \$2,727,071.80 with no transfers. The March payroll distribution by the school corporation's treasurer was \$1,540,048.33.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve payment of the vouchers for April 15, 2021. Seconded by Sandra Hillan. Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

In addition, the Board received copies of the following monthly budget reports, dated March 31, 2021, in their electronic Board packet: Analysis by Object, Estimated Revenue by Account, Summary of Balances by Account-Object, and Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

► Application for Payment No. 22 - Hobart High School Natatorium –
The Pangere Corporation, App No. 13 – \$10,741.41

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board approve the Application for Payment for the Hobart High School Natatorium as presented. Donald Rogers seconded.

Vote on motion: Stuart Schultz indicated that he incorrectly voted “no” on the motion. President Butler cleared the voting block and called for a re-vote. The vote was as follows: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

In discussion, Dr. Buffington told the Board that the project was at the end of the punch list, and the project should be finalized with a few more payments. Dr. Buffington was asked about the remediation efforts at Veterans School. She indicated that they were still investigating and relooking at the situation said she would update the Board in the near future.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: There were no comments from the audience on the listed agenda items.

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

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Karen Robbins seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

The approved personnel items are as follows:

Contract for Extracurricular Services (Club Duties) –
Jessica Evans, Liberty School/Book club, 20 hours, August 20, 2020/June 10, 2021, \$500.00

Retirement Resignation –
Maureen Tobin, Hobart Middle School/teacher, effective June 10, 2021

Request for Leave of Absence –
Michele Hendrix, Hobart Middle School/custodian, FMLA, effective March 24 through April 21, 2021, tentatively

Extra Duty Resignation –
Amber Carlberg, Hobart High School/varsity cheer, effective April 6, 2021

Extra Duty Contacts –
Hobart High School/Baseball, March 15/June 19, 2021:
Steve Higgins, boys JV (50%), \$1,491.50
Kyle Jenkins, boys JV (50%), \$1,491.50
Bobby Wineland, boys 9th grade, \$2,982.00
Hobart High School/Track, February 15/June 3, 2021:
John Kappes, girls assistant varsity, \$4,026.00

New Employees –
Custodial Staff:
Lisa Drwal, Class I floater (hours will vary), effective April 26, 2021, \$13.72 per hour and probation period waived

Michael Lind, Class I floater (hours will vary), effective April 26, 2021, \$13.72 per hour and probation period waived

RESOLUTION: Recognizing Teachers: Resolution No. 2021-16 was presented for the Board's consideration and recognized Teacher Recognition Day on May 5, 2021. Superintendent Peggy Buffington noted the resolution recognized National Teacher Day and was done each year. She said "hats off" to all of the teachers for their extraordinary efforts during the pandemic and the difficult circumstances because of it. She was "proud of all their efforts all the time, but especially this year." It was noted that all of our teachers were appreciated for everything they have done and are doing for their students.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read Resolution No. 2021-16, aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16
NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

WHEREAS, great teachers make great public schools; and

WHEREAS, teachers work to open the minds of their students to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

WHEREAS, a strong, effective system of free public school education for all children and youth is essential to our democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, much of this country's progress can be attributed to qualified and dedicated teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value the community places on public education; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for this dedication and commitment to educating their students; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 5, 2021, be designated *National Teacher Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to recognize and appreciate the impact of teachers on our lives.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2021.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

President Butler requested Board action and roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-16. Rikki Guthrie seconded. Vote on motion: Secretary Rikki Guthrie called roll on the vote, as follows: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Nay – No one. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

In the discussion, the Board expressed their appreciation to the teaching staff for all that they have done under extraordinary circumstances. It was noted there would be special treats for the staff.

RESOLUTION: Recognizing School Nutrition Employees: Resolution No. 2021-17 was presented for the Board's consideration and recognized the School Nutrition Employees on May 7, 2021. Superintendent Peggy Buffington noted this was another group of extraordinary employees who have been preparing and serving meals for students who were not able to attend school, and even throughout the whole summer last year, they provided meals for students. She said they worked “double duty”, and she appreciated everything they had done. She expressed her kudos to Nancy Smith, Food Service Director, and indicated the food service department will be continuing the federal summer feed program this summer.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-17, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL NUTRITION EMPLOYEES
School Lunch Hero Day

President Butler requested Board action and roll call vote.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolutions No. 2021-17. Seconded by Stuart Schultz.

In the discussion, the Board expressed their appreciation to the food service department for all that they have done for students, and it was noted that the food service staff would receive treats on their recognition day.

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

Resolution No. 2021-17, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, presented and adopted, is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL NUTRITION EMPLOYEES
School Lunch Hero Day

WHEREAS, nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and

WHEREAS, Hobart’s food service department is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the district’s students; and

WHEREAS, the staff who prepare and serve school meals help nurture our students through their daily interaction and support; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 7, 2021, be designated *School Lunch Hero Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School City of Hobart expresses its deep appreciation to these valuable employees and commends their good work on behalf of our students.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2021.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

RESOLUTION: Recognizing School Nurses: Resolution No. 2021-18 that recognized School Nurse Recognition Day on May 12, 2021, was presented for the Board’s consideration. Superintendent Peggy Buffington indicated that the school nurses were another extraordinary group of people who have performed above and beyond. Even with COVID-19, the school nurses conquered many obstacles and persevered in doing their jobs “to keep the school environment safe.” Dr. Buffington indicated that in addition to their regular duties, they oversee the COVID Clinics that are in each of the schools and attended

BinaxNOW training so they would be able to administer COVID tests. She extended her appreciation to Jamie Noel, Coordinator of Student Health Services, for all that she has done and noted that she and Jon Mock speak with her on a regular basis. Dr. Buffington was “very proud of them” for all that they have done to keep our students healthy and safe.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read Resolution No. 2021-18 aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18

SCHOOL NURSE DAY

WHEREAS, school nurses juggle a complex array of medical and social issues;

WHEREAS, for some students, the school nurse may be the only health care professional they see; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse interacts with other professionals such as teachers, doctors, administrators, school counselors, social workers, and coaches, as well as parents of students; and

WHEREAS, school nurses rise to the challenge and are healers, comforters, mentors, trainers, and role models; and

WHEREAS, school nurses focus on students, create healthy schools, are advocates, and are indispensable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that May 12, 2021, be designated *School Nurse Day*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the entire community of Hobart to recognize and appreciate the impact of school nurses on our students’ lives.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2021.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

BY _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

President Butler requested Board action and roll call vote.

Rikki Guthrie moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-18. Frank Porras seconded.

In discussion, Rikki Guthrie expressed her appreciation to Jamie Noel and her staff for making “a big difference.” Frank Porras commented that the athletic trainers were instrumental in working with the coaches and athletes during their respective sports season this school year. He extended his thanks to him, too. Dr. Buffington thanked Mr. Porras for mentioning Mr. Leto and noted that she had recognized him and his assistant trainer on their special recognition day. She indicated Mr. Leto was “an extraordinary athletic trainer” and was doing “a great job for us.”

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

RESOLUTION: Recognizing National Student Leadership Week: Dr. Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2021-19 that recognized the week of April 18-24, 2021, as “Hobart Student Leadership Week” and to celebrate the national theme of "Leadership Unlimited." Dr. Buffington indicated that this was a new recognition resolution for the Board’s consideration. She noted that at the beginning of the school year, all students were charged to be leaders. She said that Courtney Gill, sponsor of the National Honor Society, forwarded her information about National Student Leadership Week and noted that the National Honor Society wanted to recognize student leadership at the high school by contacting all of the clubs’ sponsors to recognize the leaders in their respective clubs. Dr. Buffington expressed her appreciation

to the club sponsors for nurturing leadership among the students in their clubs. She told the Board that the student leaders had been invited to a special breakfast next week to celebrate their leadership and will be given certificates of recognition.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-19 aloud, as follows:

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19
National Student Leadership Week

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

Karen Robbins moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-19 recognizing Hobart Student Leadership Week. Rikki Guthrie seconded.

In discussion, the Board offered their congratulations to the student leaders and appreciated that they were being recognized. Dr. Buffington noted that waffles were being served at their breakfast.

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

Resolution No 2021-19, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, presented and adopted, is as follows:

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19
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 students 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 18-24 be designated as Hobart Student Leadership Week and celebrate the national theme, "Leadership Unlimited."

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 15th day of April, 2021.

School City of Hobart
Board of School Trustees

Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

RESOLUTION: Recognition of 2021 Winter Athletes at Hobart High School: Dr. Peggy Buffington presented Resolution No. 2021-20 for the Board's consideration. The resolution pertained to the recognition of the winter season's student athletes. She indicated that usually the athletes were invited to the Board meeting to be recognized, but due to COVID protocols/regulations, the athletes would not be present. She said the presentation would be done the same as it was for the fall athletes and said that Sarah Ramos had prepared a slide presentation showing the Certificate of Recognition for each athlete being recognized. The Board viewed the slide presentation on screens in the Board Room.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-20 aloud, as follows:

School City of Hobart

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20

A Resolution Pertaining to the Recognition of the
Hobart High School Winter Athletes

President Butler requested Board action and roll call vote.

Sandra Hillan moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-20 recognizing the fall athletes. Frank Porras seconded.

In the discussion, the Board offered their congratulations to all of the winter athletes. Kelsey Black was congratulated for her cheerleading recognition. Don Rogers commented that Devin Wible, a wrestler who went to state was not recognized. He was told that the slide presentation had been updated, as had the certificates for those who competed at the state level in their respective sports. Mr. Rogers noted that Devin had been the team's scorekeeper before he was called upon to step in as a replacement wrestler. Terry Butler indicated this spoke well of the wrestling program that someone who was not a "first-string wrestler", stepped in when called upon and performed very well and advanced to the state competition. He noted that Coach Cook was building his program and thought he was "doing an outstanding job."

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

Resolution No 2021-20, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, presented and adopted, is as follows:

School City of Hobart

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20

A Resolution Pertaining to the Recognition of the
Hobart High School Winter Athletes

Whereas, the Board of School Trustees annually recognizes outstanding student athletes at the end of each season; and

Whereas, due to COVID-19 rules/regulations in force and as enacted by the Governor of Indiana, it is not possible to have in-person recognition at this time, and

Whereas, the coaches and athletes persevered under unprecedented practice and play conditions due to COVID-19; and

Whereas, the coaches and athletes participated with gratitude and a humble, yet competitive spirit; and

Whereas, the Board of School Trustees would like to take this opportunity to recognize this year's winter athletes for their outstanding accomplishments; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board expresses their sincere appreciation to our outstanding winter sport athletes during the stressful times of their competitions;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board thanks the student athletes for their outstanding performances this past winter.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2021.

Board of School Trustees
School City of Hobart

Terry D. Butler, President

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

Peggy Buffington, Superintendent

The athletes that were recognized in the slide presentation are as follows:

- ◆ Athletic Training – Ashley Montalvo, Academic All-Conference
- ◆ Basketball –
 - Boys –
 - Max Jancich, Academic All-Conference and Second Team All-Conference
 - Quentin White, First Team All-Conference
 - Girls –
 - Asia Donald, First Team All-Conference
 - Ariah Rivera, Academic All-Conference
 - Lexi Williams, Academic All-Conference and Second Team All-Conference
- ◆ Cheerleading –
 - Kelsey Black, Academic All-Conference
 - Mary Daw, Academic All-Conference
- ◆ Swimming –
 - Boys Diving –
 - Ethan Ferba, First Team All-Conference and Diving State Qualifier
 - Girls Diving –
 - Alivia Ahner, First Team All-Conference Diving
 - Sydney Arias, All-Conference Honorable Mention
 - Girls Swimming –
 - Alivia Ahner, Academic All-Conference, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay
 - Julianne Hunt, Academic All-Conference
 - Zoe Johnston, All-Conference Honorable Mention 100 Breast
 - Delaney O'Brien, Academic All-Conference, Second Team All-Conference 50 Free Relay, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free, and All-Conference Honorable Mention 100 Free
 - Ana Tepavceвич, Academic All-Conference, Second Team All-Conference 100 Breast, 200 Medley Relay, and 200 Free Relay
 - Emma Wright, First Team All-Conference 50 Free, 100 Free, 100 Back, Second Team All-Conference 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, and Swimming State Qualifier
- ◆ Wrestling –
 - Owen Gniadek, All-Conference Honorable Mention
 - Conner Johnson, First Team All-Conference and Academic All-Conference
 - Caeden Jones, Second Team All-Conference
 - Jonny McGill, Second Team All-Conference
 - Jayson Mejia, Second Team All-Conference
 - Gavin Miller-Lane, Second Team All-Conference
 - Alex Pickett, First Team All-Conference

Donovan Ruiz, First Team All-Conference
Tyler Schammert, First Team All-Conference
Jacob Simpson, First Team All-Conference and Wrestling State Qualifier
Jaden Skimehorn, All-Conference Honorable Mention
Trevor Triana, All-Conference Honorable Mention
Tyler Turley, First Team All-Conference
Devin Wible, First Team All-Conference and Wrestling State Qualifier
Madelynn Slicker, Manager, Academic All-Conference

RESOLUTION: Lease for Union Street Property: Attorney William Longer presented Resolution No. 2021-21 for the Board's consideration. The resolution pertained to authorizing the execution of a lease for the agricultural acreage on the Union Street property. He contacted the farmer, Russ Harders, who had farmed the property in 2020 from the former owner. Mr. Harders was interested in leasing the property and offered \$1,300.00 per acre for the 13 tillable acres beginning on May 1, 2021, for the 2021 farming season. Mr. Longer indicated that the resolution approved his actions in dealing with Mr. Harders and also authorized the Superintendent to execute the lease agreement for the acreage. In addition, the resolution authorized the Superintendent to extend or renew current lease terms or to secure replacement tenants for the residential and agricultural parcels.

Mr. Longer recommended that the Board adopt the resolution.

Secretary Rikki Guthrie read the title of Resolution No. 2021-21 aloud, as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2021-21

A Resolution Authorizing Lease of Real
Property Owned by the School City of Hobart

President Butler requested Board action and roll call vote.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-21, as presented. Seconded by Karen Robbins.

In discussion, Terry Butler indicated he talked with Mr. Longer before the meeting, noted that if the acreage was not leased, the school district would still have to maintain the property, and thought the lease was a good option.

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

Resolution No 2021-19, as displayed on the screens in the Board Room, presented and adopted, is as follows:

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 2021-21

A Resolution Authorizing Lease of Real
Property Owned by the School City of Hobart

WHEREAS, the School City of Hobart has acquired real property located south of Hobart High School on Union Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees previously determined that it is in the best interest of the School City that the acreage continue to be managed as agricultural land until such time as the parcel is needed for school purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Trustees authorized the Board Attorney to negotiate lease terms for the acreage; and

WHEREAS, a tenant has been obtained, fair rental value determined, and a Lessee obtained for the tillable acreage for one year commencing May 1, 2021 for a price of \$1,300.00; an amount which equals or exceeds the rental for the 2020 growing year; and

WHEREAS, the tenant Russell Harders, farmed the land in 2020 and is familiar with it, and was offered the opportunity to continue to farm the acreage in 2021 as a show of good faith in connection with the negotiated purchase of the land from Mr. Hrezos; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart, that the actions of the Board Attorney are approved and the Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute a lease agreement for the acreage described.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon expiration of the current lease terms for the residential or agricultural parcels acquired from Mr. Hrezos, the Superintendent is authorized to extend or renew the current lease terms, or to secure replacement tenants therefor.

Dated this 15 day of April, 2020.

School City of Hobart Board of School Trustees

By: _____

Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

REPORT: Brickie Virtual School: Dr. Peggy Buffington reported to the Board that she was exploring the possibility of opening a virtual learning school for K-12 students for the 2021-2022 school year called Brickie Virtual School. She explained that there are currently 890 E-Learning students in the district, and their parents may be interested in continuing virtual learning for their student(s) for the coming school year. She noted that the elementary schools were at 85-90% in-person learning and said the majority of E-Learners were at the high school. She said there are families who may be health comprised or just do not want to send their student(s) back to in-person schooling. Dr. Buffington indicated that the district was encouraging virtual learning, but it was being offered as an option to those families who would not be returning to in-person schooling. She indicated the virtual school would be for online learners only and would provide separate online instruction in a class setting for remote students only. Certified school district teachers would use the school district's curriculum and technology that is aligned with state academic standards, and high school students can earn a Core 40 Diploma or an Academic Honors Diploma entirely online. (Some secondary classes may only be available in-person, and parents would be required to provide transportation for their student to them. This would also be true for the required lab experiences for coursework in of some classes.) Dr. Buffington noted that parents have saved over \$1,000,000 by their students participating in the Hobart University Program. The Brickie Virtual School would be a very viable option for parents who would be choosing online education elsewhere or at charter schools. Participants in the virtual school would be committing to enrollment for at least the first semester, and class enrollments would be the determining factor as to whether a class would be offered. Dr. Buffington told the Board that school personnel would soon be calling the 890 online learning families making them aware of the Brickie Virtual School and asking them to go online to review all of the information and to complete the application if they were interested in the program. She noted that the deadline to apply is April 28 so staffing for the program can be done. In addition, Dr. Buffington indicated that registration for all students was open for the coming school year. Usually, registration was done closer to the beginning of the coming school year. The link for the Brickie Virtual School was included in the electronic meeting packet.

Elementary students, kindergarten through fifth grade, would receive daily instruction from certified school district teachers in core (mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies) and foundational elective content areas. The participation will be by live interactions with teachers and peers on a daily basis via internet-based video conferencing technology (Zoom, Google Meets, etc) and the Canvas learning management system. Secondary students, grades 6-12, would receive instruction via an online curriculum with the same core area subjects as the elementary students. Since the program was housed in an online format, students would be able to access lessons and coursework at any time, day or night, from any internet access location. Under the guidance of school district certified teachers, students would be able to work at their own pace as they work through their coursework material. Each course would have various units, modules, lessons (live and recorded), assignments and assessments. Teachers would have office hours in which students would have to set a one-on-one progress meeting.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington was asked what the amount of reimbursement for the program would be. The last amount she had heard was 100% but noted that 85% was better than nothing. Dr. Buffington noted that a couple of area school corporations were talking about offering virtual classes and becoming open-enrollment school districts. With the drop in enrollment/ADM, this would be an option to keep Hobart students in Hobart and possibly bring back students doing online education with other school districts/programs. She said that there were still many budget unknowns with federal funding. She was asked about the one semester requirement and if a student was not functioning well with the online classes. Dr. Buffington indicated that multiple interventions would be tried, but if those failed, they probably would let the student return to in-person classes. It was noted that a number of athletes this year had been E-Learners. Dr. Buffington was asked if they would be able to be E-Learners through the proposed virtual school, and she indicated they could. She reiterated that the best option for students was being in school and noted that the middle school was a busy place because of the additional students who returned for the second semester. President Butler hoped there would not be a resurgence of the coronavirus. He appreciated all of the work that had gone into the plans for the virtual school and noted the unsettling times. Dr. Buffington noted “the unchartered waters”, and she indicated she would have to register the program as a new school if the enrollment was sufficient to operate the program. That was the reason for calling it the Brickie Virtual School.

RECOMMENDATION: Summer School Additions: Superintendent Peggy Buffington noted that the Board had approved summer school recommendations at their March 18 meeting, and she wanted to add some virtual learning options in English/language arts and math in grades one through eight that would include some fun activities that would align with state standards on the allowed summer school course offerings. She indicated that the classes would be dependent on enrollment. She cited an example of a fun learning activity as doing a treasure hunt, and then having the students write an essay about what happened with the treasure hunt. Finding teachers for the regular summer school program can be difficult, but she hoped that teachers would submit proposals for a virtual class that would not necessarily meet every day but would include learning activities for students so they could have fun doing them. Dr. Buffington indicated that the school district was working with the city to put together a combined summer activities/events calendar for the community.

During the Updates/Announcement/Reports, Don Rogers indicated that the Board had not approved the additional summer school additions. President Butler then requested Board action.

Donald Rogers moved that the Board approve the summer school additions, as presented. Rikki Guthrie seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Schultz, Porras, Rogers, Hillan, Guthrie, Robbins, and Butler. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

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

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

April 13 – Jermaine Galloway, Tall Cop Virtual Presentation, HHS Great Hall, Door 1, 6-7:30 p.m. (Parents attend in person. No children allowed due to the content of the presentation.)

Dr. Buffington indicated the presentation was for parents only because it was a drug presentation about what kinds of drugs are in the community and over the counter items that parents needed to be aware of. Mr. Galloway will be in Hobart and Northwest Indiana for a couple of days next week providing additional training work in drug prevention.

May 4 – E-Learning Day – Primary Election Day; and

Sixth Grade Orientation, Hobart Middle School at 7:30 a.m.

May 15 – Junior-Senior Prom, 5:00 p.m. at Hobart High School. Dr. Buffington told the Board that Lake County was in yellow again this week, and she would be submitting a plan for the prom to the Lake County Board of Health for their consideration. She indicated that she was proud of the high school’s student leaders and their sponsors for the acceptance of all of the conditions involved. One of conditions was that the prom had to be free for those attending. She indicated when the meetings first began; students thought they would be negotiating with her about the prom, but she explained to them that would not be the case because there were rules that had to be followed and told them she would be complying with them. The prom will be at the high school and will use

the district's catering service for their meal, and the National Honor Society will be paying for the food for the dinner. She said the students have been very understanding and want students to attend. There will be three different eating times. Social distancing and wearing masks will be required, except when eating and for their prom picture. A red carpet Grand March will be held in the gym, dining in the Great Hall, and dancing in the Fieldhouse. Kelsey Black said she was excited about the prom and having some kind of normalcy and noted the same was true for the other students. Sandi Hillan thanked Dr. Buffington for giving the students the opportunity to have a prom and that her daughter will be able to attend.

June 10 – HHS 2021 Senior Parade, 5:30 p.m. (Rain Date – June 11 @ 5:30 p.m.)

Dr. Buffington told the Board that the Senior Parade was such a success last year, they are having one this year, too.

June 13 – Graduation, 6:00 pm in The Brickyard. Dr. Buffington noted it was too early for definitive information, and Covid-19 protocols for the event will depend upon the protocols/rules in effect at that time, which will determine the number of people who can attend.

COMMENTS: From the audience, Jennifer Williams, a parent of a Joan Martin School first grader, spoke to the Board about her concerns about the pick-up procedure at Joan Martin School and felt it needed “some type of control.” This is her first year at Joan Martin School, but she noted that the pick-up process at the ELC worked very well. At Joan Martin, even though students are released by grade, the students just run out to the cars, and she experienced seeing a student almost being hit today. She only saw the SRO and two faculty/staff people there to supervise. In addition, she said with people wearing masks, she thought a student could be tricked into going with a stranger. Dr. Buffington thanked Mrs. Williams for sharing her concerns. She commented that the protocol at Joan Martin had been good and was not aware of any changes, but she assured Mrs. Williams that she would look into the situation tomorrow. President Butler thanked her and noted that they would “find out where the breakdown” was. It was noted that Liberty uses placards for their car riders, too. Dr. Buffington indicated that something must have changed, and they would “get back to where it should be.” She told Mrs. Williams that she wanted her to feel that her child was safe, as every child should be safe, and thanked her for her comments.

From the administration, administrators extended birthday wishes to Tim Krieg. Ted Zembala enjoyed the slide show recognition for the winter athletes. Tim Krieg echoed the previous comments, noted that he assisted with the Freshman Orientation and said it was “nice to connect with the eighth graders.” He said the JROTC was to be congratulated. Dr. Buffington apologized for forgetting to tell the Board that the JROTC had their annual inspection and received a score of 999 points out of 1,000. That was the highest score Hobart's JROTC Program had received, as well as being the highest score in the country. She met with the Commander before he told the cadets their score and Lt. Col. Buhmann had her meet with cadets before they received their score. She told them how proud everyone was of them, and noted the outstanding service they provide to their school and community. Karen Robbins extended the appreciation of the Hobart Food Pantry for their outstanding fundraiser this year and noted it certainly made a difference for them. Mr. Butler commented for the audience that student groups/clubs do service and giving back to the community. Bob Glover noted that one of the varsity baseball pitchers “threw a perfect game against Westville.” He indicated that he was researching information with Tom Martin and Dwight Matthys, but he thought it might be a first for the high school's baseball program.

From the Board, Board members wished Dr. Krieg happy birthday. Stu Schultz extended his thanks and appreciation to everyone for the great jobs they have done “year in and year out.” Frank Porras commented that one of his daughter's missed senior activities because she participated in track, and he was pleased that there will be a prom and some activities for the seniors. Don Rogers extended congratulations to the winter athletes and thanked them and everyone who assisted them in pulling off a great winter sports season, and he thanked Dr. Buffington for making it possible. Sandi Hillan expressed her appreciation that her daughter would be able to wear her purple prom dress that has been in a closet since last year. She extended her congratulations to the winter athletes for their dedication to their respective sports and complimented the athletes for persevering and adapting to all the changes caused by the coronavirus rules/guidelines. The same was true for all of the students whether they were in-person or E-Learners. She extended her “kudos” for the seniors being able to do some special activities, too. Kelsey Black thanked everyone for all they do, especially all of her teachers who have worked very hard to make their classes, as normal as possible, for the E-Learning and in-person students every day. She extended her “kudos” to all of them for “making it look effortless.” President Butler explained for the audience member that a former Board member brought the idea of student representation back from a national convention. He explained that Kelsey was one of two student representatives that serve on the Board for one year. They can participate in discussions and offer their opinions about subjects being discussed, but they cannot vote or attend executive sessions of the Board. He indicated that the program has worked out very well, and the Board appreciated their insights

and perspectives. The students also learn about the operations of the school district. Mrs. Williams noted that she remembered Kelsey from the Board meeting that was held in the Great Hall before the school year began. Kelsey extended her congratulations to the JROTC and Lauren Cicillan, who was not present, as well as to her other friends who are in the program. She noted they were very deserving of the recognition. Dr. Buffington noted that Lauren had a tennis match today, which was why she was absent this evening. In addition, Kelsey extended her congratulations to one of her JROTC friends who was surprised to receive her cord today. Rikki Guthrie expressed her appreciation to all of the individual work groups that have been recognized this year. She appreciated that the Board recognized their hard work and noted that it takes everyone to get things done, and this especially true this year with the pandemic. If needed, she was available to chaperone or help with the prom. Karen Robbins extended her appreciation to all of the school district's employees for the work that they do. She extended congratulations to Bob Glover and said she was "glad to have you on board." Terry Butler commented that everyone was trying to make things as normal possible under the circumstances and commented that the students were adaptable, "much better than adults." Pat Schoon told the Board that the Administration Office had received their first call about what elementary district the Cressmoor subdivision was in. The person was planning to be in their home in August. She was asked about the Eagle Creek Subdivision, and she said that there have some calls for them, also. Don Rogers reflected back to the Board meeting where the district's Protect Brickies Plan was presented in the Great Hall before school started. There were many unknowns, but amazingly, with the school year almost over, the school district has successfully stayed open. Even though there were some tough times, the district exceeded expectations, and everyone worked together to make it happen. Sandi Hillan thanked Mrs. Williams for coming to the meeting and sharing her concerns. Jennifer Williams commented that she felt older children adapted better to E-Learning than the younger ones. She shared some personal information and said her child was happy to be in school and able to see and interact with the classroom teacher. Dr. Buffington commented that the teaching staff uses the district's curriculum which includes a social-emotional component. She commented about the length of time her child was on the school bus. Terry Butler noted that his grandson is "first on in the morning and last off in the afternoon."

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular session meeting is May 5, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

By _____
Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

By _____
Rikki A. Guthrie, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: May 6, 2021