

The regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District was held on Monday, February 28, 2011, with all members present. Also in attendance was Mr. Wayne Barker, Superintendent; Amy Dunwiddie, Corporation Secretary; Tom Gibson, Middle School Principal; Steve Thompson, Athletic Director; Brian Bohlender, Barton Coe Vilamaa; Jim Elizondo, City Securities; Julie Meitzler, faculty member; John Houlihan, Deb Pursley, Ann Reifsteck, Dorinda Coleman, and Jerry Petzel, Corporation Bus Drivers; Gene Biberstein, Denise Whetstone, Heath Schlagenhaut, Steve Harvey, Tim Cooley, B. K. Campbell, Glenn Ryan, Jack Wenger, Adam Ault, Steve Ault, and Tom Longenberger, interested patrons; and Jerry Battiste, News Banner representative.

President Frauhiger called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

President Frauhiger opened the meeting by recognizing Phillip Gerber for qualifying to participate in the state wrestling meet and Sam Walburn for qualifying to participate in the state swim meet. Both athletes placed respectively in their sports. President Frauhiger shared a thank you note from the Boys and Girls Club for transportation during the harsh weather.

Minutes for the Executive Session of February 14, 2011, were approved on a motion by Brent Hiday and seconded by John Vanderkolk. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes for the regular meeting of February 14, 2011, were approved on a motion by Kent Park and seconded by Daryl Elliott. The motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers for the period of February 15, 2011, through February 28, 2011, were approved on a motion by Daryl Elliott and seconded by Brent Hiday. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barker announced that the Executive Session scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> was canceled and will not be rescheduled.

Mr. Barker shared that Judy Emshwiller as agreed to serve as Director of Area 18 Career and Technical Education through June 30, 2011. A recommendation for replacement will be forthcoming in late May of 2011.

Mr. Bennett sent out "Request for Proposal" packets to area lawn care services. A recommendation for seasonal grounds care will be taken into consideration at the March 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Also included in the Business Manager report was a projection on General Fund revenue for 2011 based on the possible state budget that was released last week.

Mr. Barker announced that school will be in session through June 1<sup>st</sup> for students and June 2<sup>nd</sup> for teachers to make-up for lost weather days.

Mr. Barker shared a *Return on Investment Report* sent out by the Upper Wabash School Study Council ranking BHMSD as having the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest "per pupil expenditure" in the 24 school district study council. This places us in the best category of achievement and cost per pupil of any district in the study council.

Daryl Elliott, in his role as legislative liaison, updated the Board on the work of the General Assembly.

Jim Elizondo of City Securities presented the possible tax impact on property owners in the district if the building project is approved.

Athletic Director, Steve Thompson, shared research conducted with several turf companies and the results comparing a new grass field to a new turf field along with installation and maintenance costs associated with both options.

Brian Bohlender from Barton Coe Vilamaa presented a timeline and the bidding process for the new building projects. Concluding the above mentioned presentations, Mr. Barker encouraged the community to make their opinions known prior to the March 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting when a recommendation to proceed will be voted on. Board members welcomed input from the community.

Mr. Barker presented a timeline for implementing a one-route transportation system for the 2011-2012 school year. A recommendation will be forthcoming at the May 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

The Board approved the retirement request from Jim Brown as presented on a motion by Daryl Elliott and seconded by John Vanderkolk. The motion passed unanimously with appreciation for his 43 years of service to the district.

The Board approved the employment recommendation for Jacob Higgins as a volunteer middle school wrestling coach as presented on a motion by Kent Park and seconded by John Vanderkolk. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Kent Park and second by Daryl Elliott, the Board approved voiding eight (8) checks totaling \$67.25 according to State Statute (IC 5-11-10.5-2). The motion passed unanimously.

Future topics will include moving forward on the building projects, a timeline for transportation reorganization and a forthcoming retirement.

In final business of the evening, bus drivers, Ann Reifsteck, Jerry Petzel and Deb Pursley expressed their opinions concerning the one-route transportation system. Timing and discipline issues were discussed by the drivers and the Board. Patron, B. K. Campbell, expressed his concern with the transportation facility and the justification it has on student achievement. Several area patrons expressed their concern with the size, on-site fuel costs and liability insurance associated with a new transportation facility. Tom Longenberger expressed his confusion in regard to the presentation by Jim Elizonda of City Securities regarding the financing of the two projects. Gene Biberstein questioned whether interest was added into the total cost information making the final dollar amount a true figure. Mr. Barker and the Board appreciated the audience inquiries and provided solid feedback regarding the building projects while keeping the door open for additional public input.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. on a motion by Daryl Elliott and second by Kent Park. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES:

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