

**SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
January 12, 2017**

The Board of School Trustees of the School City of Hobart met in regular session on January 12, 2017, 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  
Michael J. Rogers  
Dave Bigler  
Karen J. Robbins  
Donald H. Rogers  
Stuart B. Schultz  
Katelyn Knudson, HHS student representative

Administrators Present:

Peggy Buffington  
Ted Zembala  
Christopher N. King  
William J. Longer  
Jonathan Mock

Board Members Absent:

Rikki Guthrie  
Lillian Burnett, HHS student representative

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Butler indicated the Board met in a work session prior to the regular session and said no executive session meeting was held.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Terry Butler, President, called the meeting to order around 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:

Nancy Smith, Food Service Director  
Cindy Pindara, Hobart Middle School Cafeteria Manager  
Rhonda Crowley, Joan Martin School Cafeteria Manager  
Michelle Boyd, Liberty School Cafeteria Manager

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Michael Rogers moved that the Board approve the executive session and regular session minutes of December 15, 2016. Seconded by Karen Robbins. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Nay – No one. Abstain - D. Rogers and Bigler. Motion carried 4-0 in favor with two abstentions.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** President Butler said there were no financial reports.

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Jonathan Mock, Director of Human Resources and Compliance, presented the Personnel Report for the Board's consideration:

Homebound Teaching Contracts –

October 14/December 9, 2016: Regina Balash, all subjects, 2 hours per week, \$32.62 per hour

December 12, 2016/January 31, 2017: Elizabeth Ring, all subjects, 2 hours per week, \$42.42 per hour

Regular Contract –

Shari Tooley, Joan Martin School/teacher, December 12, 2016/June 1, 2017, 104 days, \$22,079.20 (previously on a temporary contract)

Extra Duty Contract –

Hobart Middle School/January 6-March 21, 2017: David Trinidad, 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball, \$2,749.00

Resignations –

Janna Adams, Ridge View School/student supervisor, effective December 16, 2016  
Brittany Collins, Joan Martin School/teacher, currently on unpaid leave, effective  
December 20, 2016

ECA Resignation –

Ashley Slater, Hobart High School/dance team sponsor, effective the end of 2016-2017  
season

Request for Leave of Absence (Extension)

Janie Thomas, Hobart Middle School/ELL instructional aide, unpaid leave, January 9  
through May 31, 2017

New Employee –

Daniel Rosenbaum, Service Center/maintenance specialist, effective January 3, 2017,  
\$21.08 with a yearly step increase to a maximum pay rate of \$22.14 at the fourth year  
anniversary and a 90-day probation period

Mr. Mock recommended approval and requested Board action.

Karen J. Robbins moved that the Board approve the Personnel Report as presented. Donald Rogers  
seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler.  
Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** William J. Longer administered the Oath of Office to the three re-elected  
school board members–Terry Butler, Michael Rogers, and Karen Robbins. He, Dr. Buffington, and  
the other Board members extended their congratulations to them. Mr. Longer indicated he would file  
the Oaths of Office in Crown Point.

**PROCLAMATION: School Board Recognition Month:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington read  
Proclamation No. 2017-1, which recognized the hard work that our school board members do and  
proclaimed the month of January as School Board Recognition Month. She thanked Board members  
for what they do for the school district and for our schoolchildren and said the proclamation would be  
emailed to employees and will be posted on social media. On behalf of the Board, Terry Butler  
thanked Dr. Buffington for the proclamation and noted Hobart’s Board members “want to do what’s  
best for the kids” not for recognition. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Butler thanked Dr. Buffington for  
the proclamation and for the caramel apples.

Proclamation No. 2017-1 as read by Dr. Buffington is listed below:

School City of Hobart  
Superintendent of Schools

Proclamation No. 2017-1  
School Board Recognition Month

WHEREAS, an excellent public education system is vital to the quality of life for  
all citizens and communities; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are committed to children and believe  
that all children can be successful learners and that the best education is tailored to the  
individual needs of the child; and

WHEREAS, school board members work closely with parents, educational  
professionals and other community members to create the educational vision we want  
for our students; and

WHEREAS, school board members are responsible for building and maintaining  
the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and

WHEREAS, school board members are strong advocates for public education  
and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and  
the public’s expectations to the district; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the public schools is to meet the diverse educational needs of all children and to empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever-changing world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim that the School City of Hobart proudly recognizes the dedication and hard work of its school board members and proclaims the month of January as School Board Recognition Month.

DATED this 12th day of January, 2017.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

Peggy Buffington, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**PRESENTATION: Healthier U. S. School Challenge:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington welcomed Nancy Smith, Food Service Director, to the meeting. She said that Mrs. Smith would be speaking about the Healthier U.S. School Challenge.

Mrs. Smith introduced three of her school cafeteria managers—Cindy Pindara, Hobart Middle School, Rhonda Crowley, Joan Martin School, and Michelle Boyd, Liberty School, and thanked them for coming to the meeting with her. Mrs. Smith told the Board that in July of 2009 she and the school cafeteria managers attended a USDA and IDOE School Nutrition Department meeting in which the Healthier U.S. Challenge was proposed and explained. She said they decided to participate in the program because they were already doing many of the items that were mentioned about teaching children to eat healthier, such as more fruit and vegetable selections with whole grains being added. In addition, the wellness policy that the Board had adopted supported the efforts of the Food Service Department. She noted the Early Learning Center did not qualify for the grant.

Mrs. Smith said there was outstanding cooperation from the school principals, teachers, coaches, and the technology department. She said that each school prepared a video speaking about the healthier choices that students and staff now had. The middle school's video was shown, and it was narrated by Miss Betty Funkhouser, physical education teacher. Nancy Smith said the grant process “continued on and on,” and whenever they thought they were done, something else was needed. The grant was initially denied because cakes were used at celebrations, and she said everyone was devastated by the denial. She and Dr. Buffington felt the district should appeal, which they did. Mrs. Smith said they collaborated with a couple of people they knew at the IDOE and the USDA and said the school corporation could teach students they could still have cake but in moderation. Because students are taught to make healthy choices for lunch and dinner, they could be taught to have moderation with their desserts. Dr. Buffington pointed out that a celebration without cake takes away from the celebration. Dr. Buffington noted the recent pizza party for the middle school athletes had “healthier” pizza and healthier cakes could be made for celebrations. The USDA notified Mrs. Smith that they had considered the district's appeal and were recognizing the school district at the bronze level.

Mrs. Smith and Dr. Buffington presented the cafeteria managers with plaques from the USDA for the district's participation in the Healthier U.S. Challenge. On behalf of the Board and Dr. Buffington, Dr. Buffington presented certificates of recognition to the cafeteria managers and Mrs. Smith for this accomplishment. Mrs. Smith will deliver the plaques and certificates to the cafeteria managers unable to attend the Board meeting. In addition, each school will receive a banner noting their bronze level designation. Mrs. Smith and the cafeteria managers shared some of the things being done in the cafeterias to get students to try different foods and to make healthier choices. She noted that the small monetary donation from the USDA was being used for the summer feed program and for the Technology Department.

In the discussion, the Board extended congratulations to Mrs. Smith and her staff. Mr. Butler noted kids take many of the things they learn in school home. He said he quit smoking because of one of his sons. He said the healthy meal choices the students are learning to do would be taken home and said his grandson buys his lunch every day at Joan Martin School. Dave Bigler appreciated that even though the Early Learning Center was not eligible to participate in the grant, Mrs. Smith included them in her initiatives. He thought that was a good age for the healthy choices to begin. Dr. Buffington and Mrs. Smith said all of the school cafeterias were now peanut free due to the number of students who are allergic to peanuts and peanut products. Their peanut butter was donated to the Hobart Food Pantry. Dr. Buffington said that each of the cafeterias have a pair of epi pens, and the cafeteria staffs have been trained on how to use them to assist students who have allergic reactions. Katelyn Knudson felt the Food Service Department's moderation of choices was appropriate because with more

stringent food selections, students would not eat in the cafeteria and would bring their own food from home. Nancy Smith noted that smoothies were doing very well at the high school. After meeting with the cafeteria managers, Mrs. Smith thought the Food Service Department would be participating in this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Mike Rogers complimented Mrs. Smith on everything she has done for her department and acknowledged the healthier menu choices for the kids. He said the students will share that information at home. It was noted that all of the school cafeterias were warm and inviting places for children to be.

President Butler thanked Mrs. Smith and the cafeteria managers for coming to the meeting, and he excused them from the meeting. No one remained in the audience.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION:** Terry Butler noted that the Board needed to reorganize for the 2017 calendar year by electing a president, vice-president, and secretary. He indicated he would open the floor for nominations for president and after a new president was elected, the newly elected president would continue with the Board's reorganization.

➤ Nomination for President –

Terry Butler opened the floor for nominations for President.

Karen Robbins moved that Terry Butler be nominated to serve as President of the Board. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

Mr. Butler called for any other nominations. There being no other nominations, Michael Rogers requested the nominations be closed, and Mr. Butler called for a vote.

Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Butler thanked the Board and extended his appreciation for their confidence in him.

➤ Nomination for Vice President –

President Butler opened the floor for nominations for Vice President.

Karen Robbins moved that Rikki Guthrie be nominated to serve as Vice President of the Board. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

President Butler called for other nominations, and there being none, he closed nominations for Vice President. He inquired whether Mrs. Guthrie was willing to serve, and he was told that she had agreed to do so. Mr. Butler then called for the vote.

Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

➤ Nomination for Secretary –

President Terry Butler opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Karen Robbins moved that Michael Rogers be nominated to serve as Secretary of the Board. Donald Rogers seconded.

There being no other nominations, President Butler closed the nominations. Mr. Rogers indicated that he was willing to serve as Secretary. President Butler called for the vote on the nomination.

Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Congratulations were extended to Mike Rogers.

➤ Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer –

Superintendent Peggy Buffington recommended the reappointment of Mrs. Dawn Powers and Mrs. Christine Martinez to serve as Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, respectively. Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Martinez are bonded separately from the blanket bond, which covers other employees. She noted, "They do outstanding work" and were hardworking and dedicated individuals. She was "honored they work here."

Michael Rogers moved that the Board appoint the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer as recommended by the Superintendent. Seconded by Stuart Schultz.

In the discussion, the Board noted Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Martinez do a good job, and Mr. Butler said they are moving through the IASBO training.

Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

➤ Appointment of School Board Attorney –

President Butler noted that currently, William Longer serves as Board attorney, and per Board policy, the Board appoints a school attorney at their annual organizational meeting. Mr. Butler asked Mr. Longer if he was willing to serve, and Attorney Longer indicated that he would be pleased to do so.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board appoint the School Attorney as presented. Stuart Schultz seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Butler thanked Mr. Longer for serving another year.

➤ Establishment of Regular Meetings –

President Butler indicated that Indiana Code establishes the parameters for regular, statutory and special meetings. The Board needed to reestablish the time and place of their regular meetings. Presently, meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Board Room at Hobart High School. Statutory meetings are set by statute or rule, and special meetings of the governing body shall be held on call by the Board President or the Superintendent of the school corporation. He asked if anyone wanted to change the time, place, and/or dates of the Board meetings, and there was no response.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board establish the parameters for regular, statutory and special meetings as follows: regular meetings to held on the first and third Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Board Room at Hobart High School with statutory meetings set by statute or rule, and special meetings to be held on call by the Board President or the Superintendent of the school corporation. Dave Bigler seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

➤ Board Compensation –

President Butler noted the maximum levels of compensation were established in accordance with I.C. 20-5-3-6, at \$2,000.00 plus a per diem rate not to exceed the rate approved for the City-County Council of Marion County. The per diem rate they receive is \$112.00. This rate applies to up to 21 regular meetings and 40 committee meetings. Currently, members of the Board of School Trustees receive \$2,000.00 annually plus \$100.00 for each regular session meeting attended. Board members do not receive per diem compensation for attending committee meetings. President Butler asked if anyone wanted to make changes. Since there were no responses, he called for a motion.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board establish Board Compensation as follows: \$2,000.00 annually plus \$100.00 for each regular session meeting attended. Seconded by Donald Rogers.

In the discussion, it was explained for the student representative that the Board could earn between \$4,000-\$5,000 annually. In addition, they could participate in the district's health insurance plan, but the Hobart Board has not ever done this. Karen Robbins noted that former Board member, Nancy Norris, once computed the Board's hourly rate to be around 25 cents per hour. Dr. Buffington commended the Board for their public service.

Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

➤ Board of Finance –

President Butler indicated Indiana Code requires the Board of Finance to organize yearly after the first Monday and on or before the last day of January by electing a president and



secretary. The Board of Finance meeting will meet on January 19. Per Board policy, the Board of Finance was the same as the regular Board and the officers were the same. That should be acknowledged in the Board minutes for this meeting by motion and as outlined in Board policy. Mr. Butler asked for any comments, and there were none.

Dave Bigler moved that per Board policy, the Board of Finance is the same as the regular Board and the officers are the same and will convene a Board of Finance meeting on the January 19th. Stuart Schultz seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

► Delegates and Appointments –

President Butler said he would make committee/delegate assignments at the January 19th meeting. The following is a list of committee/delegate assignments to be filled:

- Negotiations
- Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative (NISEC)
- ISBA Voting Delegate
- School City of Hobart Educational Foundation
- Board of Directors
- Insurance Committee
- Policy Committee
- Student Handbook Committee
- Hobart Park Board
- Student Representatives
- Facilities Naming Committee
- City's Redevelopment Commission (if applicable)

Mr. Butler asked Board members to let him know their choices for committee/delegate assignments, and Mrs. Schoon would email Board members the 2016 assignments tomorrow.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: 2017 Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements:** President Butler noted Board members received a recap of Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Statements for 2017 and the completed 2017 Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements for Michael Rogers, Stuart Schultz, and Peggy Buffington in their electronic meeting packet.

Karen Robbins moved that the Board accept the disclosure statements and have the Superintendent file the documents with the State Board of Accounts and the Lake County Clerk. Seconded by Dave Bigler. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT: IDOE 2016-2017 Formative Assessment Grant:** Dr. Peggy Buffington reviewed the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) 2016-2017 Formative Assessment Grant for grades K-10. She noted funding for students that participate in both Math and English/Language Arts was \$15.34 per student, and funding for students that participate in one content area only (English/Language Arts or Math) was \$7.67 per student. She indicated the grant was established by the Indiana Department of Education to assist with ISTEP testing. Debbie Matthys, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, filled out the request, and the funds will be used to offset the cost of the Pivot program.

Dr. Buffington asked the Board to accept the IDOE Formative Assessment Grant.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board accept the IDOE 2016-2017 Formative Assessment Grant. Seconded by Michael Rogers. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**OVERNIGHT STUDY TRIP REQUEST: Hobart High School Youth and Government Program:** Dr. Peggy Buffington reviewed information about this year's Youth and Government Program in Indianapolis. This year, 24 Hobart High School students are participating in the statewide program, which features a mock legislature and court. High school students from throughout the state who have an interest in public policy will attend. All Hobart students must sponsor a state bill that they write on their own. Students present and debate their bill in the state capitol and actually have the chance to do this in the Indiana Statehouse. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in the Supreme Court, Press program, or run for elected office. Hobart students have been successful

in being elected to state offices and placed on important state committees. In fact, Cade Tipold from Hobart High School is this year's governor. Dr. Buffington indicated that she was hoping for good weather while they are gone.

Students will travel by school bus, leaving on Friday, February 17, and returning on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Students will stay at the Indianapolis Hilton and be chaperoned by Colin May, high school teacher, and Sharon Tarry from the Hobart YMCA. In addition, many other chaperones work for the YMCA of Indiana.

Dr. Buffington asked the Board to grant permission for this year's Youth and Government Overnight Study Trip from February 17 through February 19, 2017.

Stuart Schultz moved that the Board approve the overnight academic study trip. Seconded by Karen Robbins. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

**RECOMMENDATION: Legacy Foundation Grant:** Superintendent Peggy Buffington reviewed the Legacy Foundation Grant for \$8,000.00 from the Maria Reiner Senior Citizens Trust of the Legacy Foundation. The award notification for the grant was included in the electronic meeting packet. Jonathon Mock, Director of HR and Compliance, helped prepare and submitted the grant. The purpose of the grant was to support the Senior Fun free events for senior citizens, such as the book club, theatrical productions, and choral and band concerts. These activities are highlighted in our *Focus on Education* newsletters, on the district's web site, and on social media.

Dave Bigler moved that the Board accept the Maria Reiner Senior Citizens Trust of the Legacy Foundation grant in the amount of \$8,000. Karen Robbins seconded. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington indicated that the senior citizens enjoy the student performances and support all of them. A bridge has been built between the senior citizens and the students who have a mutual respect for one another. She said the seniors are still talking about this year's performance of *Sound of Music*, know Cathy Nelson's daughter, and Dean Wolff's family who usually attend the Christmas Choral Concert.

**REPORT: Teacher Evaluation Category Aggregate Report:** As required by state statute, Superintendent Peggy Buffington reviewed the aggregate of teacher evaluations categories for 2015-2016 school year that was included in the electronic meeting packet. The evaluation categories for the district and for individual schools are as follows:

	Count	Percentage
District		
Effective	72	36%
Highly Effective	97	48%
*Not Applicable	32	16%
	201	
Early Learning Center		
Effective	2	18%
Highly Effective	6	55%
*Not Applicable	3	27%
Total	11	
Hobart High School		
Effective	29	46%
Highly Effective	22	35%
*Not Applicable	12	19%
Total	63	
Hobart Middle School		
Effective	19	40%
Highly Effective	25	52%
*Not Applicable	4	8%
Total	48	
Joan Martin Elementary School		
Effective	12	39%
Highly Effective	15	48%
*Not Applicable	4	13%
Total	31	

Liberty Elementary School		
Effective	4	17%
Highly Effective	18	78%
*Not Applicable	1	4%
Total	23	
Ridge View Elementary School		
Effective	5	28%
Highly Effective	10	56%
*Not Applicable	3	17%
Total	18	

\*No evaluation score due to retirement, resignation, leave of absence, etc.

Dr. Buffington did mention the increase in highly effective teachers, and she attributed this to the portfolio concept being added to the evaluation model. She indicated Hobart has excellent teachers. She noted that teachers who are ineffective or needs improvement were not eligible to receive funds. Terry Butler inquired whether the state has a report that shows the number of teachers in each of the evaluation categories, and Dr. Buffington indicated the school districts send the information to the state so she was sure there was one. Mr. Bigler noted that NISEC had four staff members who were in the ineffective or needs improvement categories. One of them quit and the other three are in improvement programs that were monitored by administrators. Dr. Buffington noted that the ISTEP grade teaching staff has a growth model as part of their evaluation model, and she said the teachers' portfolios show what was happening in their classrooms.

**AUTHORIZATION: 2016 Teacher Performance Grant:** Dr. Buffington asked the Board to authorize her to distribute the 2016 Teacher Performance Grant, and she recommended that highly effective teachers receive one dollar (\$1.00) more than effective teachers. Teachers who are ineffective or needs improvement are not eligible to receive funds. The total amount of the grant was \$159,818.55.

Michael Rogers moved that the Board authorize the Superintendent to distribute the 2016 Teacher Performance Grant, as presented. Seconded by Dave Bigler. Vote on motion: Aye – Robbins, D. Rogers, Bigler, Schultz, M. Rogers, and Butler. Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

In the discussion, Dr. Buffington was asked what the stipend amount would be, and she indicated it was around \$900.00, and she noted the grant also covered standard payroll deductions.

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

- ▶ School Information – weekly agendas from all the schools and Joan Martin's January newsletter.
- ▶ Upcoming Activities/Events – the latest list of upcoming activities/events. Dr. Buffington mentioned the follow activities/events:

January 10 – Hoops for a Cure – Coaches vs Cancer

January 16 – Hobart High School Band Concert

January 18 – School City of Hobart Job Fair for Substitute Teachers and Aides

January 19 – College Application 101, Lake Station-New Chicago Library

January 25 – Hobart High School Second Annual Wellness Fair and American Red Cross Blood Drive

January 31 – Hobart High School PSAT Score Night for Parents

February 2 – Showcase of Preschools, Early Learning

February 15 – Hobart Middle School PSAT Score Night for Parents

- ▶ Spring Fest and the Brickie Maker and Innovator Showcase – Dr. Buffington told everyone to mark their calendars for two upcoming School City of Hobart events: Spring Fest on March 17 and the Brickie Maker and Innovator Showcase on April 12.
- ▶ Go for Launch 2017! A Go for Launch 2017 workshop opportunity for high school students would be held on June 8 through 10 at Hobart High School from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Students will learn about human spaceflight and get personalized insight and feedback from experienced space and STEM professionals whose goals are to illustrate the numerous possibilities that exist in the world of STEM. Students will work with a real live astronaut for two or three full days, and they will learn skills needed to be successful in any venture that requires imagination, leadership, teamwork, and problem



solving skills. Dr. Buffington noted that Hobart graduate, Michelle Lucas, was one of the presenters. However, at this time, registrations were not going very well.

**COMMENTS:** From the administration, Peggy Buffington told the Board that the Hobart Educational Foundation's Harry Potter movie event was a success. Beth Black, Chad Kollross and Heidi Polizotto and many other people helped, such as Bill Longer who supervised and Chris King was the sole projectionist. People had a good time. The Food Service Department did a great job, and The Librarium sold butter brew that the kids really enjoyed. It was a well run event, and they already have ideas for next year. Dr. Buffington told the Board that there was a Ready NWI Workshop at the high school today with 104 representatives from many area school districts. The conference dealt with the usage of the Khan Academy and some of the presenters were from Hobart—Tim Krieg, Jill MacDonald, Chris King, and Dr. Buffington. She said everyone did a wonderful job, and she indicated that the CollegeBoard representative said Hobart was the #1 user of the Khan Academy in the state of Indiana. Ted Zembala wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Don Rogers for the cookies. He noted that Nancy Smith was vested in her grant, and he applauded her efforts to appeal the first decision to receive the grant. Chris King wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted he showed eight movies in 22 hours. Bill Longer noted the kids at the Harry Potter event had a good time, and he indicated that even if the HEF did not make any money from the event, it was successful. In addition to the movies, Mrs. Polizotto had several different contests during the evening, such as best costumes, a trivia contest, and different spells. Dr. Buffington said some of the students were shocked by the sound system in the theatre. She indicated there was security and said everyone had a great time. Jon Mock noted the Job Fair for substitutes would be held at the high school on January 18 from 3-5:00 p.m. He said the school district would be calling substitutes for NISEC. Dr. Buffington noted this was a recent decision from the Superintendents advisory group, which was a majority vote and not unanimous. She indicated there had been problems with the NISEC sub service securing substitutes, and school districts would end up having to find subs for their NISEC staff members.

From the Board, Karen Robbins thanked Coach Rogers for the cookies. She was sorry she was not able to attend the Harry Potter event, but she was not feeling well. She had not yet finalized the financial aspect of the movie event, but she thought HEF would make around \$1,500.00. She said for the holidays, Hobart Food Pantry and the Giving Tree assisted around 500 kids. Don Rogers thanked Dr. Buffington for the caramel apple and said it was healthy inside. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. Dave Bigler, the Board's NISEC representative, noted that NISEC was just going back to the old system for substitutes. He said the Managing Board values the Superintendents' opinions and read the Superintendents Report prior to their monthly meetings. Dr. Buffington noted that due to her Ready NWI meetings, she was not always able to attend the NISEC superintendents meeting so Jon Mock and Ted Zembala sometimes cover them for her. Dave Bigler noted that the school district was responsive to those needing assistance, tries to assist those who need help, and thanked those involved. He mentioned Mr. Butler's comment about Hobart being "the best kept secret" in Lake County. Stu Schultz thanked Don Rogers for the cookies, and Dr. Buffington for the gourmet apple. It was nice to see everyone, and he wished everyone a Happy New Year. Katelyn Knudson extended her appreciation for the cookies and apple. She told the Board that she did receive her acceptance to her first choice college in New Hampshire. She was told, "Hard work does pay off." The Board expressed their congratulations to her. She noted that Mrs. Torres was going to possibly assist her in negotiating for a larger financial package. Mike Rogers wished everyone a Happy New Year. He attended the Hoops for a Cure, said it was a good night, and won a bag. He complimented Nancy Smith for the great job she does and said she is very passionate about what she does. He noted she lives in LaPorte, and her husband helps with Spring Fest. Terry Butler noted that his son Brian was being inducted into the Hobart High School Hall of Fame as well as the Indiana State Wrestling Hall of Fame. His other son Dan would be coming with him. He was told to let them know about the details when they were firmed up. He noted the inclement weather adds to hectic times for the schools and their activities. Dr. Buffington noted that some of the parking lots still have slippery spots. Mike Rogers commented that the next four years were going to be difficult and thought the Board would have to keep in mind their purpose and to stick with it. Dr. Buffington told them there would be "interesting things ahead of you." There was discussion about the new incoming Superintendent of Public Instruction. She spoke at the IASBO conference, and she has been a teacher and an administrator in a public school setting. Because she was from the majority party, it was hoped that she would have an easier time than her predecessor. Ted Zembala indicated that she had been the Region 6 Director for IASBO, and he mentioned that Dennis Costerian was part of her transition team. There was discussion about the recently released school grades, and Karen Robbins noted there were no A schools in Lake and Porter counties. Terry Butler commented that there was a news article about Lake Central being the first school district to have some buses with seat belts, and he noted that Hammond has had buses with seat belts since 2007. Dr. Buffington noted that the next Board meeting was next Thursday. In addition, there would be a work session with Jim Elizondo present, and he will review financial data including tax rate information.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Butler adjourned the meeting around 8:37 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular session meeting is January 19, 2017.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

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Terry D. Butler, President

ATTEST:

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Michael J. Rogers, Secretary

Submitted for Approval: January 19, 2017