

**MINUTES OF PROJECT HEARING AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
HEARING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

PRESENT IN PERSON: Doris L. Gowan, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Bruce Hibbard, Jill Britt, Chase Huotari, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Kaitlin Porter, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson

PRESENT REMOTELY: Zachary T. Smith

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met in Special Session at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on November 22, 2021. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

Vice President Doris Gowan called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

FCHS REFERENDUM PROJECT HEARING AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

Vice President Gowan welcomed everyone to the Project Hearing and stated that if anyone is interested in speaking at the Hearing there is a sign-up sheet on the table. She also noted that the Notice of this Preliminary Determination Hearing was published as legally required in the Indianapolis Star and Indianapolis Business Journal. She asked Mr. Erik Long, Bond Counselor with Ice Miller, to proceed with the Hearing. Mr. Long stated that this is the first of two (2) Public Hearings regarding the proposed FCHS Referendum Project with the second hearing scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2021. He added that pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5, a school corporation must hold two public hearings and adopt a resolution to preliminarily determine to issue bonds or enter a lease for a project which has a total project cost in excess of a non-controlled project. Mr. Long shared that these resolutions establish the maximum financial terms for the proposed projects.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, stated as we have previously discussed, our enrollment has increased by over 1800 students in the last five years and will only continue to increase due to the amount of new housing developments currently under construction and scheduled for Franklin Township. He noted that this year alone we have grown by 494 students which is 400 more than any other Marion County School Corporation. Mr. McWhorter shared that we have continued to accommodate the influx of new students by reconfiguring our elementary schools, adding onto FC Junior High, preparing for renovations at both of the Intermediate Schools and building a new elementary school. He conveyed that all of these construction projects have been and will be funded under the current property tax cap. Mr. McWhorter stated that tonight's focus is on the High School and its aging facility. He presented an overview of the proposed project to renovate Franklin Central High School as well as address various building issues at each of our six (6) elementary schools and added that we cannot afford to fund these projects without passing a referendum. He shared that FTCS has the lowest residential tax bill in all of Marion County and we are the only School Corporation in Marion County that does not have a referendum. Mr. McWhorter noted that we currently have 3200 students enrolled at Franklin Central with the building capacity of 3500. He added that following renovations the building will be able to accommodate 4500 students. Mr. Brock Bowsher with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors gave an explanation of the School Corporation's existing annual debt service/lease rental payments and increments. He also offered a summary of the financing and repayment options for the proposed projects. Mr. Bowsher stated that the proposed \$.21 construction referendum will generate enough funds to renovate Franklin Central High School and address various structural needs at the six (6) elementary schools. Mr. McWhorter conveyed that we have held several informational meetings regarding the proposed FCHS referendum project and have met with community members, PTA Groups, the Chamber of Commerce, and each of our school building staffs to present the need for the proposed projects. He added that the information has been very well received and the response has been very positive.

Vice President Gowan opened the Public Hearing for anyone who wished to speak regarding the proposed FCHS Referendum Project.

Dianna Miller-Wilson, Monte Gardner & Ryan Donovan, representing the Franklin Township Education Foundation stated that their Board of Directors has voted unanimously to support the FCHS Referendum Project as a means to continue to support the education of the FTCSC students.

Derek Sutton, 7050 Stones River Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46259, had three questions regarding the FCHS Referendum Project: 1) What if the referendum fails? 2) What is the bottom line for the taxpayers? and 3) Why can't we minimize the project by eliminating some of the extra items and focus solely on the academic needs? Mr. McWhorter responded that we cannot afford to make the needed repairs to FCHS without additional funding and if the 2022 referendum fails we will be forced try another referendum and will most likely be facing higher interest rates. He continued stating that for an average home worth \$190,000 in Franklin Township the annual tax impact would be \$186 or \$15.50 per month and we will have a tax calculator on our website so everyone will be able to figure the exact impact on their monthly and annual property taxes. Dr. Chase Huotari, Chief Academic Office for Secondary, shared that most of the items in the renovation plan address the aging infrastructure while bringing our currently outdated 1974 instructional spaces up to 2022 thus allowing our students the opportunity that will ready them for successful careers. Dr. Bruce Hibbard added that the plans for the renovation were devised by our High School Leadership Team.

There being no additional comments, Vice President Gowan thanked everyone for the information and stated that the second Public Hearing for the proposed project will be held on December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (Exhibit No 21-150)

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Gowan adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary T. Smith, President

Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Dawn A. Downer, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Larry J. Walker, Member

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

PRESENT IN PERSON: Doris L. Gowan, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Bruce Hibbard, Jill Britt, Chase Huotari, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Kaitlin Porter, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson
PRESENT REMOTELY: Zachary T. Smith

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on November 22, 2021. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

REGULAR MEETING

Vice President Doris Gowan called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:48 P.M. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Gowan called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. President Smith asked to amend the agenda with the addition of Action Item 'C': COVID-19. Mrs. Foulk amended her first motion to include the additional item. President Smith seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Vice President Gowan opened the floor for comments from the community. There were no comments.

Dianna Miller-Wilson, Monte Gardner & Ryan Donovan, representing the Franklin Township Education Foundation presented the School Corporation with a check for \$30,000 to fund two (2) bilingual libraries and materials for \$20,000 and \$10,000 to be used to support the Conscious Discipline implementation in grades K-8. The Board Members and Administrators thanked them for the wonderful donation and for supporting our students and staff.

Deanna White, 7436 Stones River Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46259, expressed her concerns with events that she has been told are happening at Franklin Central Junior High and some of our other schools. She stated that the Administrators should be aware that students are vaping, selling drugs, fighting, etc. and she feels it is partially due to the fact that there aren't enough lockers for the students therefore, they have their backpacks on them all day. Ms. White shared that she doesn't understand why we built onto the Junior High and are not using the extra lockers. She also expressed her opinions with having to travel to other school corporations for club sporting events and would like to have a facility in our district to support such competitions. Ms. White added that we should advertise the Board Meeting dates to the parents as it seems we are not communicating very well with them. Dr. Chase Huotari replied that the newly installed lockers were backordered for awhile and it is their intention to redistribute lockers to the students in January. The Board Members thanked her for her comments.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Gowan asked for a motion to approve the following list of Consent Agenda Items. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve the items and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Edgewood Int. & New Elem. School Project 1st Hearing – October 18, 2021
 - 2. GO Bonds Additional Appropriation Hearing – October 25, 2021
 - 3. Edgewood Int. & New Elem. School Project 2nd Hearing – October 25, 2021
 - 4. Regular Board Meeting – October 25, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-151)

- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-152)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-153)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-154)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 21-155)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal (Exhibit No. 21-156)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that the Central Nine Governing Board met on November 11th at which time they had a Veterans ceremony as well as a presentation outlining the Work Based Learning Program. She conveyed that it was wonderful to hear that the students are continuing to go to school while holding down a job. Ms. Downer stated that Central Nine continues to follow the Johnson County COVID guidelines which states that facemasks are not required, but highly encouraged. She shared that their Open House is scheduled for December 8th and even though they are unfortunately not serving dinner this year, Board Members are always welcome to attend. Ms. Downer also added that they approved a pay increase for substitute bus drivers from \$13 per hour to \$18. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith thanked Mr. Tyler Knight for orchestrating the remote access to the meeting. He reported that the Franked Township Education Foundation met on November 19 and voted on the following new Executive Committee Officers for 2022: Ryan Donovan, President; Amanda Smith, Vice President; Kim Lyon, Secretary; and Scott Donovan, Treasurer. President Smith also thanked outgoing 2021 President, Monte Gardner and Secretary, Rebecca Cribbs, for their hard work during this past year. He commented that they both did a wonderful job supporting the Foundation and are dedicated to helping the students and staff of FTCSC. He also shared that the Foundation Board had a planning retreat earlier in the month and will be moving to bi-monthly meetings. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE RESOLUTION REGARDING TENNIS COURTS WARRANTY ISSUES

Mr. Fred McWhorter II recommended approval of the resolution regarding the tennis court warranty issues that was included in the meeting documentation. He stated that the resolution allows the School Corporation to hire Church Church Hittle & Antrim to file legal proceedings against Precision Construction & Contracting for unsatisfactory work on our Tennis Court Complex. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-157)

APPROVE IP PHONE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

Mr. Tyler Knight stated that our current Cisco IP Phone System needs to be upgraded and due to recent licensing changes that will increase the cost significantly, we explored other options. He conveyed that investing in a cloud-first approach for voice and communications is the best solution for our staff and students. Mr. Knight referred the Board Members to their copies of the GoToConnect contract that was included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Foulk seconded. Mr. Walker asked about licensing costs. Mr. Knight replied that the cost will not increase as we hire additional staff. Mrs. Foulk asked if this system will be compatible with our current school security system. Mr. Knight stated that it will integrate with the security system used by our school police. Mr. McWhorter remarked that per new legislation, our 911 phone calls will be required to have more specific location information and this system will meet that criteria. There being no additional questions, Vice President Gowan called for a vote. The motion to approve the GoToConnect contract passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-158)

COVID-19

Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the COVID-19 plan changes made by the Administration on November 8, 2021. President Smith seconded the motion and added that it will include

giving the Administration the ability to change the protocols if conditions warrant it with approval at the following Board meeting once any changes occur. There being no questions or comments, Vice President Gowan called for the vote which carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels over the holiday weekend. He conveyed that he hoped everyone gets some much needed rest.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice President Gowan shared that the new Dual Language Program will begin next year at Thompson Crossing Elementary consisting of two Kindergarten classes using a 50-50 model with Spanish as the partner language. She stated that each class will have 50% native English speakers and 50% native Spanish speakers. Vice President Gowan added that parents will be receiving details regarding a Parent Information Night currently planned for January and hosted by the Dual Language Council.

Vice President Gowan wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Foulk shared that she and Mrs. Gowan recently attended the Representation Matters Ceremony held at Franklin Central and she is quite proud that our School Corporation is taking part in the program which highlights our diversity.

Mrs. Foulk stated that we recently completed our school building tours and conveyed that she thought all of them were wonderful and very educational. She added that it was nice to see our students and teachers and all the great work that is happening in our schools.

President Smith thanked the Franklin Central High School staff for hosting an amazing Open House on November 8th and stated that it was wonderful to have not only our curricular items showcased, but also the extra-curricular choices available such as various clubs, sports, music and the arts. He thanked the Board Members for their attendance and the Administrators for sharing information regarding the Growing to Meet the Future proposal. Mr. McWhorter noted that they received several positive comments from the parents during the Open House regarding the proposed projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Gowan adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

APPROVED


Zachary T. Smith, President

Doris L. Gowan, Vice President


Dawn A. Downer, Secretary


Kelly L. Foulk, Member


Larry J. Walker, Member

