

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

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

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 February 12, 2024. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

REGULAR MEETING

President Zachary Howard called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Howard called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

President Howard opened the floor for comments from the community.

1. Nicole Trojanowski, 7214 Stones River Dr., stated that she feels that our teachers are doing amazing work with the students. She added that their salaries are lower than the surrounding school districts and she is fearful that they will be leaving Franklin Township Schools for that reason. Ms. Trojanowski conveyed that she works in the communications field and feels the teachers should be involved in the conversations for choosing the next superintendent. She asked the Board to consider including the teachers in the process.

2. Nicole McMahon, 8903 Hornady Ct., shared that she is a lifelong resident of Franklin Township and feels that it is very important that the Board include all stakeholders when hiring the new superintendent. She stated that if there is not any transparency or communication to gain feedback from everyone, then the community will hesitate to support the Administration in future endeavors such as an Operating Referendum. Ms. McMahon asked the Board to value everyone's input throughout the hiring process.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

President Howard asked for a motion to approve the following list of Consent Agenda Items. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve the items and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Regular Board Meeting – January 8, 2024
  - 2. Board of Finance Meeting – January 8, 2024
  - 3. Executive Session – January 22, 2024
  - 4. Executive Session – January 30, 2024
  - 5. Executive Session – February 6, 2024
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 24-14)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 24-15)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 24-16)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 24-17)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 24-18)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal (Exhibit No. 24-19)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that the Central Nine Governing Board met last Thursday and things are going well. She shared that they already have two applicants for the welding instructor position for next school year. Ms. Downer also shared that the building project is progressing nicely and they are staying within budget. She noted that to date, the projected enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is consistent with this year. There were no comments or questions from the Board Members.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Howard introduced Ms. Stephanie Rigler, the new Franklin Township Education Foundation Executive Director and Mr. Ryan Donovan, the current Foundation President. Mr. Donovan was excited to announce that their first Monte Carlo & FC Wall of Fame Event on February 9<sup>th</sup> was a huge success as they brought in over \$65,000, giving them a profit of over \$33,000. He shared that they have several additional events planned for the coming year.

Dr. Hibbard and the Board Members thanked both of them for their efforts in planning a very special event.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

President Howard reported that this is Week 6 of the 2024 Legislative Short Session and he attended the Statehouse Day for Board Members last week. He shared that the Indiana School Board Association tracks bills pertaining to education and with the short deadline this year, the bills will have to pass out of the second chamber by March 4th in the House and March 5th in the Senate. President Howard reminded the Board that the session concludes on March 14, 2024. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE CHILD NUTRITION MEAL PRICES FOR 2024-2025 SY

Due to Mr. McWhorter's absence, Mrs. Kaitlin Porter, Business Director, referred the Board Members to their copies of the Child Nutrition Memo that was included in their packets and recommended approval of the increased meal prices for the 2024-2025 school year. She explained that there has not been an increase to the meal prices for two years and it is necessary due to the approximately 20% increase of the goods we purchase to meet the nutritional needs of our students. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve the increased prices and Ms. Downer seconded. Ms. Downer asked for confirmation that it is necessary to adjust our prices because the federal reimbursement dollars for Free Lunches has increased over the past months. Mrs. Porter confirmed her statement. There being no additional questions or comments, President Howard called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 24-20)

APPROVE FCHS FIELD TRIP

Dr. Chase Huotari recommended approval for the FCHS Business Professionals of America to stay overnight in downtown Indianapolis to compete in the BPA annual State Leadership Conference on March 10-12, 2024. He added that there will be 22 FC students participating in the conference. Ms. Downer made a motion to approve the field trip. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 24-21)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard thanked Mr. Ryan Donovan and the Franklin Township Education Foundation for a wonderful Monte Carlo & FC Wall of Fame Event on Friday evening. He stated that the evening was not only successful but also great for the school district as it brought together Teachers, Administrators, Board Members and community members.

Dr. Hibbard shared that we have 22 school days until Spring Break and reminded everyone that Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, is a virtual learning day.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Walker congratulated the newly appointed IMPD Chief of Police, Chris Bailey. He shared that he and his family live in Franklin Township and his children attend our schools.

President Howard stated that the FTEF Monte Carlo Night was a great event and congratulated the well-deserved 2024 FC Wall of Fame Inductees: Susan Tomlinson, Earlene Cougill, and John Rockey.

President Howard was also excited to congratulate his favorite NFL Team, the Kansas City Chiefs, on winning the 2024 Super Bowl yesterday.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

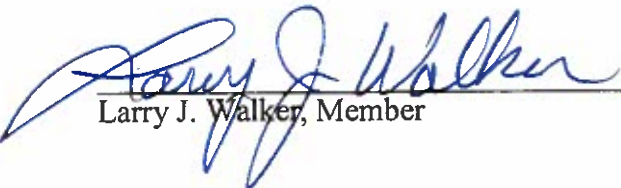
APPROVED

  
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Zachary Smith Howard, President

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Dawn A. Downer, Vice President

  
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Doris L. Gowan, Secretary

  
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Kelly L. Foulk, Member

  
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Larry J. Walker, Member

