

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND PROJECT HEARING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**

PRESENT: Zachary T. Smith, Doris L. Gowan, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Bruce Hibbard, Jill Britt, Chase Huotari, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Kent Pettet, Lynlie Schoene and Toni Stevenson

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 March 8, 2021. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

President Zachary Smith called the Special Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

CONSIDER JOINT RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO BILLS HARMING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Bruce Hibbard stated that the Franklin Township Education Association (FTEA) asked for our support in opposing HB1005 which increases the funding for private schools resulting in a decrease of funding for public schools. He recommended the Board's approval of the Joint Resolution in Opposition to Bills Harming Our Public Schools that was included in the meeting documentation. Ms. Downer motioned to approve the resolution. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-30)

KITLEY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PROJECT AND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

President Smith stated that this is the first of two (2) Public Hearings regarding the proposed Kitley Intermediate School Project and that the public will be allowed to speak regarding the project following the information shared by Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, Attorney, Ms. Jane Herndon with Ice Miller and Mr. Brock Bowsher with BakerTilly Municipal Advisors.

Ms. Jane Herndon explained that pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5, whenever a school corporation proposes to enter into a lease agreement and/or issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds, the school corporation is required to hold two Public Hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds and enter into such lease agreements. Mr. McWhorter stated that the second Hearing is scheduled for March 15, 2021 and added that we have published the Hearing notifications in the newspapers as well as on our website as required by law. He shared that our enrollment continues to increase every year and this project will address the need for additional classroom and cafeteria space as well as repairs and improvement to the existing facility. Mr. McWhorter gave an overview of the proposed project and conveyed that with the additional space, Kitley Intermediate's building capacity will increase to 1500 students. He noted that the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$17.4M. Mr. Brock Bowsher gave an explanation of the School Corporation's existing annual debt service/lease rental payments and increments. He also offered a summary of financing and repayment options for the proposed project and shared that the funding for the project will not increase the residential tax bills.

President Smith opened the Public Hearing for anyone who wished to speak regarding the proposed Kitley Intermediate School Project. There were no comments. He thanked Ms. Herndon, Mr. Bowsher and Mr. McWhorter for the information. President Smith stated that the second Public Hearing for the proposed project will be held on March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. He closed the Hearing at 6:27 p.m. (Exhibit No 21-31)

DISCUSSION OF CARES ACT GRANT MONEY

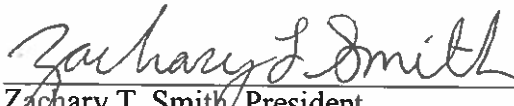
President Smith opened the Discussion of CARES Act Grant Money at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that in the past few days the federal government approved the third stimulus package totaling \$1.9 trillion and as we look forward to receiving the funds from the second stimulus package, we are eager to address several options to enhance the educational needs of our students while assuring that our facilities are complying with the health and safety guidelines. He referred the Board Members to their copies of the list of items that the Corporation has purchased or been reimbursed for pertaining to the COVID-19 crisis that was included in their packets. Dr. Chase Huotari shared information regarding Mastery Connect. Mr. Tyler Knight offered several reasons for purchasing Skyward, a student information system, as our current system is becoming very expensive and inadequate for our needs. Dr. Toni Stevenson stated that we intend to offer bus transportation this year for Summer School to accommodate the projected increase in enrollment numbers due to the challenges of COVID-19. Dr. Sharon Kight shared that we intend to hire an additional Mental Health Counselor due to the increase in demand. Mr. McWhorter summarized the various other expenditures which included salary reimbursement during the stay-at-home mandate and HVAC projects to address health guidelines. Ms. Downer convey that she would like to see the breakdown of salary expenditures by department. Mr. McWhorter replied that he would be glad to gather the information and forward it to the Board. Ms. Downer expressed her concern with the students who have fallen behind because of the non in-person learning during the past year. Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Huotari assured the Board Members that we are prepared to increase the support time for students once school begins in the fall and the need is outlined. President Smith thanked the Administration for the information and conveyed that it is very helpful. Ms. Downer stated that she also appreciates the information which was shared. (Exhibit No. 21-32)


ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary T. Smith, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President

Dawn A. Downer, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member

ABSENT

Larry J. Walker, Member