

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021**

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

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 April 26, 2021. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

REGULAR MEETING

President Zachary Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He led a moment of silence for the victims of the mass shooting at the FedEx Facility on April 15th and other recent tragic events around the world. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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

PRESENTATION

CENTRAL NINE CONSTRUCTION PRESENTATION

President Smith introduced Dr. William Kovach, Director of Central Nine Career Center. Dr. Kovach shared that shortly after he was hired in July of 2019, he had a facilities studies done to address the needs of the increasing enrollment. He stated that the Career Center's current enrollment is 1150 with 20% of those students from Franklin Central. Dr. Kovach gave an overview of the proposed construction project which includes additional classrooms, a multipurpose space, a new welding building, and renovations to the current welding space as well as additional restrooms. He noted that the total cost of the project is \$4.8M which will be divided by the participating School Corporations and based on the student enrollment from each school district. He added that FTCSC's portion will be \$1,092,300. Dr. Kovach asked if there were any questions or comments. Mrs. Foulk asked if the \$4.8M is for the construction of the new buildings or does it include renovations to the existing facility. Dr. Kovach responded that the total cost includes the construction of additional restroom facilities and renovations to the current manufacturing classrooms. Mr. Walker inquired as to when the construction will begin. Dr. Kovach replied that the earliest they could begin is December, but most likely not until January or February. Mr. McWhorter asked if the price of the project includes the 'soft cost' items. Dr. Kovach shared that those items will be covered by funds already in the C-9 budget. Mr. McWhorter informed Dr. Kovach and the Board that we intend to pay cash for our portion which will save us nearly \$120,000 in interest fees. Dr. Kovach explained that he will be asking for the Central Nine Governing Board's approval of the project at their May meeting and if approved, he will be recommending approval of the project by each of the participating School Corporations at their June Board Meetings of which he needs six of the nine to vote in favor of the project. President Smith thanked Dr. Kovach for the presentation. Dr. Hibbard also thanked him for attending the meeting and for sharing the project information.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

President Smith asked for a motion to approve the following list of Consent Agenda Items. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the items and Mrs. Gowan seconded. President Smith asked Mr.

McWhorter to explain, for the public, the rationale behind the increase in salary and ESSER Grant Stipend recommendations that are included in the Personnel Report. Mr. McWhorter stated that by law, the teachers cannot receive a pay increase unless we go through the bargaining process which will begin after the new school year starts and normally does not conclude until mid to late September. He added that there are several employee groups not affected by the contract negotiations that have starting dates of July 1st, the beginning of the school year or January 1st and in an effort to try and reduce the amount of rate changes for all employees at the same time, we are recommending the Board's approval of a 3% raise for administrative and non-bargaining (classified) staff for the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school years. Mr. McWhorter noted that the state legislature has approved a 4.6% and a 4.3% increase in the school funding formula for the next two years thus providing us with a positive direction towards negotiating the teachers' contract in a few months. Mr. McWhorter also stated that we are recommending approval of a \$2,500 Professional Development Stipend for teachers and administrators who completed additional training this past fall and winter to provide instruction during COVID, virtual learning, and/or will complete additional training on Skyward, the new Student Information System. He shared that the stipends will be paid from the \$7.5M round 3 ESSER (Cares Act) grant dollars and certain classified staff who work on the SIS system will be eligible for the stipend as well. Dr. Hibbard conveyed that we are very appreciative of the Legislature and the work they did in securing additional funds for public education for the next two years as it will allow us to offer a significant pay increase to our teachers. There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 1. Special Board Meeting – March 8, 2021
 2. Project Hearing – March 15, 2021
 3. Regular Board Meeting – March 15, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-45)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-46)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-47)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-48)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 21-49)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal (Exhibit No. 21-50)

Dr. Kent Pettet, Chief People Officer, congratulated and introduced each of following newly approved Administrators and their families.

- Mr. Matt Nysewander, new Principal at Arlington Elementary School
- Mrs. Hilary Huff, new Assistant Principal at Kitley Intermediate School
- Mrs. Nichole Webb, Early Learning Coordinator at Wanamaker Early Learning Center

The Board Members and Administrators congratulated them on their new assignments and wished them the best in their new endeavors.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

President Smith noted that due to Ms. Downer's absence, there will not be a Central Nine Report this evening. He stated that the previous C-9 Construction Project Presentation was sufficient.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith stated that the Franklin Township Education Foundation has had a very busy month. He shared that the Grant Committee selected FCHS and Adams Elementary to receive building grants of \$1500 each and that seven (7) other grants were funded for a total of \$6000. He also stated that the Scholarship Committee selected 14 FCHS students to receive over \$15,000 in scholarships. President Smith extended his congratulations to the graduates of Franklin Central's Class of 2021. He added that he feels Mrs. Dianna Miller-Wilson is doing a wonderful job.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

President Smith reported that the Legislature is currently recessed, but will reconvene in the fall to address the U.S. Census Bureau data resulting in redistricting matters. He stated that the big news of the session was the projection that the state will have nearly \$2 billion more in revenue available over the next two (2) years which resulted in a funding increase for K-12 public education. President Smith added that a portion of the funding will be directed to the Teachers' Retirement Fund. He asked Mr. McWhorter to share his thoughts on the approved state budget. Mr. McWhorter offered a summary of the increased funding and conveyed that school corporations will need to be careful not to spend the CARES Act dollars on yearly expenditures as these are non-renewing funds. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

ACTION ITEMS

AWARD BUNKER HILL ROOFING PROJECT

Mr. Fred McWhorter II recommended the Board's approval of the bid from Nu-Tec Roofing in the amount of \$156,000 plus allowances for partial replacement of the roof at Bunker Hill Elementary. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. McWhorter shared that the bid came well below the budgeted amount and we plan on using the excess dollars to repair the elevator at Bunker Hill. He added that Nu-Tec has done work for us in the past and we were happy with the results. Mrs. Foulk remarked that while she was glad to see the roof being replaced, she is ecstatic that we are using the excess funds to repair the elevator. There being no additional comments or questions, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the Bunker Hill Roofing Project carried 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-51)

AWARD CTEC ROOFING PROJECT

Mr. Fred McWhorter II recommended the Board's approval of the bid from Nu-Tec Roofing in the amount of \$128,000 plus allowances for replacement of the roof at the CTEC Building. He shared that the bid is well below the budgeted amount. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the CTEC Roofing Project. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-52)

APPROVE BASHOR CHILDREN'S HOME AGREEMENT

Dr. Sharon Kight asked for the Board's approval of the agreement with Bashor Children's Home that was included in the meeting documentation. She shared that one of our students is receiving services from the group home which is run by the Methodist Church. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the agreement and Mrs. Gowan seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-53)

APPROVE SIOP TRAINING

Dr. Lynlie Schoene recommended the Board's approval of SIOP Training for 35 of our teachers from CAL Solutions as outlined in the attached agreement. She explained that we feel this training will be very beneficial as we are welcoming more multilinguals in our schools each year. She added that we intend to use CARES Act funds to cover the cost of the training. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the agreement and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mrs. Foulk asked how we plan on selecting the attendees. Dr. Schoene replied that our ELL teachers are providing a list of teachers that they work closely with and we will be asking the Principals for suggestions as well. Mr. McWhorter shared that the program will provide training for our staff to be able to train their colleagues. President Smith asked by what date the funds will need to be used and which grade level teachers will be receiving the training. Dr. Schoene replied that these funds will need to be spent by December 2023 and during this session we will be training teachers from Grades 4-12. There being no further discussion, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the SIOP Training from CAL Solutions passed 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-54)

APPROVE TEXTBOOK RENTAL FOR 2021-2022

Dr. Toni Stevenson, Dr. Chase Huotari and Dr. Sharon Kight presented the Student Textbook Rental Fees for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Stevenson noted that the fees include

consumable items as well and she recommended approval from the Board. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve and Mrs. Foulk seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-55)

APPROVE SKYWARD SOFTWARE CONTRACT

Mr. Tyler Knight referred the Board Members to their copies of the Skyward Software Contract that was included in their packets and recommended approval. He stated that as discussed at an earlier meeting, we are outgrowing our current student information system (Infinite Campus) and feel that Skyward will better meet our needs. Mr. McWhorter shared that while we understand that the initial cost is high, we are using CARES Act funds to pay for it and feel that it will save us nearly \$100,000 over time. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the contract. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. (Exhibit No. 21-56)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard stated that even though it has been a challenging school year, we are nearing the end with only five (5) weeks remaining. He thanked the staff for remaining focused on our students' education while entertaining the ever-changing CDC and Marion County Guidelines.

Dr. Hibbard noted that the Franklin Central High School Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Walker welcomed a Boy Scout that was in attendance and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Camdon Love came forward and stated that he was from Troop 499, attends Greenwood Christian Academy, and he is here as a requirement for one of his badges. The Board Members thanked him for attending and wished him well.

President Smith congratulated our Chief Operating Officer, Mr. McWhorter and our Director of Business, Mrs. Porter, for their work in keeping our Business Office running smoothly and according to Indiana law. He shared that during the recently exit interview with the Indiana State Auditors, they had nothing but praise for our organization and the timely manner in which they received the requested documents. Mr. McWhorter thanked him and stated that Mrs. Porter does a wonderful job along with Dr. Kight, Dr. Schoene and Mrs. Willard who are in charge of the federal funds.

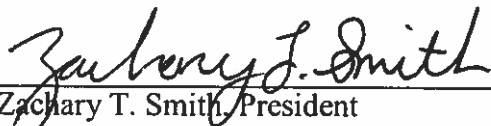
President Smith thanked all of the Board Members, Administrators and guests for attending the Softball Field Naming Event held on April 14th. He stated that it was a wonderful evening to honor Coach Kathy Stricker and her numerous accomplishments over the past 40 years.

President Smith stated that the School Corporation is continuing to thrive with numerous events such as the football clinic held this past weekend, the basketball 3-point contest sponsored by CBS, and the five performances of the musical *Grease* which were all sold out.

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary T. Smith, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President

ABSENT

Dawn A. Downer, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Larry J. Walker, Member

