

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021**

PRESENT: Zachary T. Smith, Doris L. Gowan, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, 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 Regular Session at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on May 24, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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

PRESENTATION

“GROWING TO MEET THE FUTURE” PRESENTATION

Dr. Bruce Hibbard, Superintendent, stated that last year prior to the pandemic shut down we began the discussion regarding our need for facility renovation/expansion especially at Franklin Central High School. He shared that even with the challenges this past year, our district has an ‘A’ grade from IDOE and FCHS is ranked in the top 15% in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Dr. Hibbard stated that because our enrollment continues to increase significantly each year we are working to utilize every available space and are preparing our buildings to accommodate 1000 children per grade level. Dr. Hibbard shared that we redistricted our elementary schools last year, are finalizing a construction project at FC Junior High that will bring the building capacity to 2000 students and will begin a renovation project at Kitley Intermediate in a few months. He added that the core portion of FC High School was built 50 years ago and will need to be renovated soon. Dr. Chase Huotari, Chief Academic Office for Secondary, stated that while we are working diligently to address the enrollment growth, Edgewood Intermediate is at 93% capacity and will also need additional space in the near future. He conveyed that the newest portion of the High School was added in 2003 and not only does the oldest portion of the building need renovating as Dr. Hibbard stated, but we will also be needing both additional classroom space and room for new programs which accompany student growth as well. Dr. Huotari shared possible renovation scenarios for the FCHS campus. He stated that we are quickly outgrowing our facilities and conveyed that we have been researching the benefits of adding a Franklin Township Activity Center to the east of the FT Learning Center. He offered several options for the use of the proposed Activity Center, including theatre and band events, sport competitions, FC graduation, etc. Dr. Huotari also shared a sampling of like facilities throughout Central Indiana. Mr. Fred McWhorter II presented the financial impact of renovating and maintaining our facilities for the continually surging enrollment numbers. He shared that we have lost more than \$100 million dollars of revenue over the last 10 years due to the circuit breaker and we are the only School Corporation in Marion County that does have a referendum to offset the lost revenue caused by the property tax caps. Mr. McWhorter explained that we are planning to have facility improvement discussions with the Board and are investigating the possibility of adding a referendum question to the May 2022 election. He added that the additional revenue generated by a referendum will be used to renovate and maintain our aging

facilities and address the on-going enrollment growth. They entertained questions from the Board Members. Mr. Larry Walker asked if the proposed FT Activity Center would be open to the public for use to exercise. Mr. McWhorter replied that the intent of having the facility would be to allow the community to use it and it would be available for rent thus generating additional funds. Mrs. Foulk and Dr. Huotari added that their children participate in numerous sporting tournaments hosted at various Activity Centers throughout the state and feel that we are missing out on a substantial amount of income that would offset some of the cost. They also shared that they feel our parents would be very appreciative to stay near home and not have to travel to other sides of town for these competitions. Ms. Downer asked how we got here and stated that she feels we need a Strategic Plan to set goals for the district, etc. Dr. Hibbard replied that we have a Playbook (Strategic Plan) that provides us with the information to adequately make decisions on the future of the School Corporation. Mr. McWhorter noted that none of the high school renovation plans are set in stone and shared that, for example, he recently met with the Performing Arts folks to discuss the area that will be designated for their department and told them that they will have input for the configuration of the space. Mrs. Gowan asked how the current and projected renovations will be addressing the increasing enrollment. Mr. McWhorter replied to her question stating that reconfiguring the elementary schools last year allowed us more immediate space at each of those buildings; at the Intermediate level we are planning for 1500 students per building and will begin construction on the addition to Kitley in a few months; FCJH is currently at 106% capacity and will be at 85% with the completion of the new wing this fall; and the high school's enrollment is currently at 3500 students which is why there is an immediate need to add space at that location. Dr. Huotari added that we can adjust by utilizing the larger spaces throughout every period of the day, but we will definitely need more gym space to accommodate 4000 students. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of building a Student Activity Center. Mr. McWhorter assured the Board Members that there will be on-going discussions pertaining to renovation projects and funding the expenditures as the year progresses. President Smith conveyed that this has been a good initial discussion. Mr. McWhorter added that the community is welcome to visit the 'Growing to Meet the Future' link on our FTCSC website for more 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. The motion passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting – April 26, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-57)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-58)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-59)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-60)
- F. Fundraisers
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal (Exhibit No. 21-61)

Dr. Toni Stevenson, Chief Academic Officer for Elementary, congratulated and introduced Mrs. Ashley Nicoson as the new Administrative Intern at Adams Elementary School. The Board Members and Administrators congratulated her on her new assignment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Downer reported that Central Nine has been looking at their budget for next year to address various increased expenditures related to COVID and have also been working on the proposed construction project. She stated that they are wrapping up another successful school year and was happy to share that the students have worked very hard to receive their certifications. Ms. Downer added that enrollment in the Adult Education classes has seen a decrease and she encouraged anyone who might be interested in one of the numerous class offerings to enroll. Mr. Walker stated that he looks forward to the Taste of Central Nine Event held each fall and asked her to be sure and share the date of the event with the Board Members when it is determined. Ms. Downer agreed to do so and invited the Board Members to visit the house constructed by the students that is currently on the C-9 property.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith thanked Mr. McWhorter for presenting the "Growing to Meet the Future" information to the FT Education Foundation Board at their recent meeting. He conveyed that most everyone was very excited to learn of the potential improvements to our school campus. He shared that Ms. Sarah Puckett is the 2021 Elisabeth Good Fellowship recipient of \$1500. President Smith also shared that 14 scholarships totaling \$15,964 were awarded to select seniors at last week's Senior Awards Program. He stated that in celebration of the Foundation's 25th anniversary, they are organizing a community art project in conjunction with our schools showcasing school and community pride by creating an exterior art feature/project. He added that there will be more information to come. President Smith invited everyone to save the date of Saturday, July 31st for the Fast Flash and Back-2-School Bash. Mrs. Foulk asked Mr. Smith if there was any feedback from the Foundation Board Members regarding Mr. McWhorter's presentation. President Smith stated that several of the members were very enthusiastic about the plans and while they don't currently have children attending our schools, they would like to see our community continue to thrive.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

President Smith reported that in early May the Legislature voted to override Governor Holcomb's veto and give themselves more authority to intervene when the state's chief executive declares an emergency. He also noted that they will reconvene in the fall to address the U.S. Census Bureau data pertaining to redistricting items. He added that there will be no need for any further report until the next session begins in January 2022.

ACTION ITEMSAPPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE C-9 BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that Dr. William Kovach, Central Nine Career Center Executive Director, shared a presentation at the April Board Meeting outlining the proposed C-9 Building Project which has a total cost of \$4.75 million. He shared that all nine participating school corporations will be absorbing the cost of the project with our portion being \$924,350. Mr. McWhorter recommended the Board's approval of the building project and the use of Rainy Day Funds as payment for FTCSC's portion of the project. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. Walker asked Ms. Downer, C-9 Board Representative, for her thoughts on the proposed project. Ms. Downer replied that she feels that they did a very nice job evaluating their needs, maximizing the current space and being conservative in their decisions. President Smith asked if she knew whether or not the other eight participating school corporations will be voting in favor of the project. Ms. Downer replied that they have had positive feedback from all nine school corporations regarding the proposed project. There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the C-9 Building Project carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-62)

APPROVE SOLIANT CONTRACT

Dr. Sharon Kight recommended approval of the Soliant Contract that was included in the meeting documentation. She shared that the contract is a short term contract to cover a maternity leave from August 16, 2021 through November 6, 2021. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve the contract. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-63)

APPROVE DISTRICT HANDBOOKS FOR 2021-2022 FOR ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Toni Stevenson and Dr. Chase Huotari presented the District Handbooks for Elementary, Intermediate, Junior High and High School for 2021-2022 and recommended approval. Dr. Huotari noted that there were a couple of recent revisions to both the Junior High and High School handbooks regarding work permit requirements and our discrimination policies. He conveyed that the updated versions are labeled as version 'B' in the Board Meeting packets. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve then handbooks and Mr. Walker seconded. President Smith thanked Dr. Huotari for addressing the revisions on such late notice this afternoon. There being no additional comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the handbooks carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-64)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard stated that in four (4) days another school year will be ending and we are thrilled that our children got to attend in-person for at least a portion of the school year. He added that he feels everyone will be ready to return to a normal school schedule next year.

Dr. Hibbard reminded the Board Members that they should be on-site on Tuesday, June 1st at 9:30 a.m. for the early graduation ceremony with the second ceremony scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Walker congratulated the Girls' Varsity Softball Team for winning the Marion County Tournament and the Hoosier Crossroads Conference. He wished them well in the State tournament.

President Smith shared that he recently attended an Open House at the Franklin Road Public Library and was informed of the numerous resources that they offer to our Township during the school year. He also noted that they continue to support our teachers, students and families with various educational and entertaining programs during the summer months as well.

President Smith thanked the Board Members for attending the FC Senior Awards night on May 17th and conveyed that it was a wonderful evening celebrating the hard work of our graduates.

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.


APPROVED


Zachary T. Smith, President


Doris L. Gowan, Vice President


Dawn A. Downer, Secretary


Kelly L. Foulk, Member


Larry J. Walker, Member