

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, JUNE 21, 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, Fred McWhorter and Kent Pettet

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 June 21, 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. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Foulk seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

President Smith opened the floor for comments from the community.

Yvonne Metcalfe, 8014 Cork Bend Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46239, stated that she has several questions for the Board pertaining to educating our students: 1) Do we require students to wear masks and to be fully vaccinated? 2) Do we use CRT and/or SEL learning in our classrooms? 3) Is gender confusion being pushed on our children? and 4) What is covered in our American History classes? Ms. Metcalfe added that she currently homeschools her children. President Smith replied that we would be happy to answer her questions following the conclusion of the Board Meeting. Dr. Chase Huotari spoke with Ms. Metcalfe after the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting – May 24, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-65)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-66)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-67)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-68)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 21-69)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Downer reported that at the last Central Nine Governing Board Meeting they received a summary of the closing school year. She shared that the students earned over 5100 college credits which is quite an accomplishment given the restrictions of COVID. Ms. Downer added that the decision regarding mandatory masks for next year has not been made yet. She also shared a review of the partnership they have with Vincennes University that allows students to earn college credits in several areas: Auto Collision, Criminal Justice, Diesel, Landscape, Precision Machining, Visual Communications, Dental, Veterinary and CNA. Ms. Downer noted

that she will forward the information to the Board Members. Mr. Walker asked if they are at capacity at Central Nine. Ms. Downer replied that this has been an unusual year and they were down 200 students, but that their enrollment for 2021-22 has already increased by 100 students. She shared that the recently approved construction project will allow for increased enrollment numbers by adding space for the most popular areas such as welding and will allow for various existing areas to be re-purposed. (Exhibit No. 21-70)

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith stated that he was unable to attend the most recent FTEF meeting, but Mrs. Diana Miller-Wilson has provided an update. He shared that they reviewed their by-laws and the year-end financial documents for tax purposes. He reminded everyone to save the date of Saturday, July 31st for the Fast Flash and Back-2-School Bash. President Smith also noted that they are busy planning the Golf Fore Kids event scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021.

POLICY REVISIONS – 1ST READING

Dr. Kent Pettet referred the Board Members to their copies of the three (3) School Board Policies that were included in their packets: Policy A275 – ‘School Wellness’, Policy G375 – ‘Community Use of School Facilities’, and Policy H175 – ‘The Schools and Governmental Agencies’. He gave an overview of the policies and asked if the Board Members had any questions. He stated that these revisions were due to changes made during the recent Legislative Session and we will have a few more policies that need revised at the July meeting. Dr. Pettet noted that the revisions to the ‘School Wellness’ Policy were reviewed and approved by Mrs. Betsey Willard, Child Nutrition Director, Ms. Jill Britt, Human Resources Director and Ms. Catherine Horning, Health Services Supervisor. President Smith asked Dr. Pettet to correct Policy A275 to include FTCS in the first paragraph. Dr. Pettet thanked him for bringing it to his attention. There were no additional comments or questions from the Board Members. (Exhibit No. 21-71)

ACTION ITEMS

ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING FORM OF THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that the Board has gone through the necessary notification process regarding the Kitley Intermediate Building Project and we are funding it through a lease financing. He explained that since the building is currently subject to a financing lease we are amending that lease to include the Building Project. Mr. McWhorter recommended the Board adopt the Resolution approving Form of Third Amendment to Lease as presented in the meeting documentation. Mrs. Foulk motioned to adopt the resolution. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-72)

ADOPT RESOLUTION REAPPROVING BUILDING CORPORATION

Mr. Fred McWhorter II referred the Board Members to their copies of the Resolution Reapproving the Building Corporation that was included in the Board meeting packet. He shared that in order for the Building Corporation, which is a not-for-profit Indiana Corporation, to issue tax-exempt bonds, the IRS requires that the School Board approve the Building Corporation and authorize it to issue tax-exempt bonds on behalf of the School Corporation. Mr. McWhorter added that the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Building Corporation state that the members serve 3-year terms, therefore, they are meeting on June 28th to approve member replacements, resignations, re-approval of some current members and to vote on officers. He shared the updates to the current Holding Corp. roster: Gloria Jean Kitley and Richard Horen will remain, Greg Schiller will be removed, David Ostheimer and Richard Reasoner will be replaced by Judy Shore, Dr. Walter Bourke and Scott Sullivan. Mr. McWhorter recommended the Board adopt the Resolution Reapproving the Building Corporation. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. Walker asked what the term is for a Building Corporation member. Mr. McWhorter replied that they are on a 3-year cycle. President Smith asked for confirmation that the Holding Corporation cannot approve any items unless they have been presented and approved by the School Board first. Mr. McWhorter replied that he is correct. There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion carried 4/0/1 with Mrs. Foulk, Mrs. Gowan, President Smith and Mr. Walker voting in favor and Ms. Downer abstaining. (Exhibit No. 21-73)

APPROVE TRANSPORTATION CENTER ADDITION

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that our enrollment has increased over 1,300 students and we have had to increase our bus fleet to 92 buses. He stated that as our enrollment grows so does the need for additional buses as well as personnel to operate and maintain them. Mr. McWhorter conveyed that our current Transportation Center is too small for the increase in numbers of buses and employees. He gave an overview of the proposed addition to the Transportation Center and recommended approval of the \$1.5 million project. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. Walker asked if we have enough land for the expansion. Mr. McWhorter replied that we do, but it will need to be reconfigured. Ms. Downer stated that while she agrees that we need additional space, she asked if we have discussed moving it to a larger location. Dr. Hibbard replied that moving the two existing gas tanks would be a huge expense, but we have discussed the option of moving our Maintenance and Facilities Building which is in close proximity of Transportation if needed. President Smith asked if we plan to use Rainy Day Funds to pay for the addition and what is the completion timeline. Mr. McWhorter replied that we do plan on using Rainy Day Funds and it should take roughly 18 months to complete. Mrs. Foulk commented that she totally agrees with the expansion and feels that they have been great stewards of their existing accommodations. Mr. Steve Shaw, Assistant Transportation Director, was in attendance and added that their current space does not allow them to have full staff meetings so they are forced to use one of the gymnasiums or the auditorium at FCHS which is not time efficient. There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the Transportation Center Addition passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-74)

APPROVE AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2021-2022

Dr. Sharon Kight referred the Board to their copies of the Audiology Services Agreement for 2021-2022 that was included in meeting documentation and recommended approval. She explained that the agreement is between FTCSC and Monica Gallien who offers audiology services to our students. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the agreement. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-75)

APPROVE INDIANA DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM APPLICATION (ARLINGTON ELEMENTARY)

Dr. Sharon Kight apologized to the Board and stated that this item was for information purposes only and should not have been posted on the agenda.

APPROVE XELLO CONTRACT

Dr. Chase Huotari recommended approval of the Xello Contract that was included in the Board meeting information. He conveyed that it is a 3-year contract for grades 6-12 that provides us with a digital platform that allows students to explore their interests as it relates to post-secondary options. Dr. Huotari added that our Guidance Counselors and Administrators have spent several months exploring College and Career Readiness options and are excited to have chosen Xello for our students. He noted that the software will upload into Skyward, our new Student Information System. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the Xello Contract and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mrs. Foulk asked if it will have the capability to make a 4-year plan. Dr. Huotari replied that it will be able to. President Smith inquired about funding the software and if it will be offered to students in lower grades as well. Dr. Huotari replied that we will be using CARES Act funds to pay for it and if it proves successful, we will make it available to our younger students. Mr. Walker asked how we plan on communicating the program to our families. Dr. Huotari replied that we plan to have the software and instructions ready to communicate prior to the September 3rd e-Learning Day. There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-76)

APPROVE FCJH FIELD TRIP (AUG. 6-7, 2021)

Dr. Chase Huotari recommended approval of the field trip for the Franklin Central Junior High Junior Thespian students to attend the 2021 Leadership Retreat on August 6-7, 2021, at Merrillville High School in Merrillville, Indiana. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve the field trip. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-77)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Dawn Downer stated that she thought we not only ‘live streamed’ the Board Meetings, but also videoed them to post for future viewing. Mrs. Foulk replied that the Board voted to give the public access to view the meeting ‘live’ and then listen to the audio at a later date. Ms. Downer conveyed that she feels it is not the same experience as viewing the meeting. Mr. McWhorter stated that Mr. Tyler Knight is currently out of town, but he will ask him to gather the video recording information and share it with the Board. Ms. Downer made a motion to have the ‘live streaming’ of the meeting recorded to be posted on the website. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and stated that she is a visual learner and feels it will be beneficial for others as well. Mrs. Foulk stated that she would like to get Tyler’s opinions before voting on the motion. Mr. Walker shared that he would like to get the cost prior to voting on it. President Smith asked if we could agree to wait to make the decision until we get the additional information and cost from Tyler. Ms. Downer agreed to table the motion until the July Board Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard shared that we had over 90 participants at the June 17th meeting to share our ‘Growing to Meet the Future’ information. He noted that following the meeting we had several people tour Franklin Central High School to view the structure and the numerous areas that need renovated. Dr. Hibbard conveyed that while the building is clean the original structure was built 50 years ago and we need additional space to accommodate the continuing increase in enrollment. He invited everyone to view the updated version of the presentation by going to our website and clicking on the ‘Growing to Meet the Future’ link, followed by the ‘Media/Communications’ bullet point.

Dr. Hibbard stated that news travels fast as Todd Livesay, Director of Transportation, is on vacation, but just texted him to thank the Board Members for supporting and approving the addition to the Transportation Center.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Walker stated that he thought commencement went very well and that the students and families were excited to be on campus instead of having to travel downtown.

President Smith shared that he felt that the commencement ceremony was more personal than in other years.

Ms. Dawn Downer thanked everyone for their hard work in planning and setting up for this year’s commencement. She stated that she thought it was fabulous and she thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students toss their caps in the air.

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

APPROVED


Zachary T. Smith, President


Doris L. Gowan, Vice President


Dawn A. Downer, Secretary


Kelly L. Foulk, Member


Larry J. Walker, Member