

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 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, 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 August 23, 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.

Tara Stephens, 7628 Hartington Place, Indianapolis, IN, stated that as a parent of a South Creek Kindergarten student, she is trying to figure out the correct procedure for expressing her concerns to the School Board. She conveyed that she sent an e-mail message to each Board Member today regarding the facemask policy, but has not received a reply. Ms. Stevens stated that while she understands that these are challenging times, she would greatly appreciate the School Corporation consider a mandatory facemask policy for students 12 years old and younger.

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. Executive Session – July 26, 2021
  - 2. Regular Board Meeting & Public Hearing – July 26, 2021
  - 3. Board Work Session – August 16, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-101)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-102)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-103)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-104)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 21-105)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal (Exhibit No. 21-106)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that Central Nine is monitoring the COVID situation very closely and shared the following statistics: 126 situations since the start of school, 40 have returned, 86 still out (of those 13 positive cases). They have had 74 new situations this week with a total of 18 positives this semester. She also shared that the IT Class is remote learning until August 31<sup>st</sup> due to virus protocols. Ms. Downer reported that the staff at Central Nine has been working on their Vision Items: Empower, Support and IMPACT with Integrity, Motivation, Professionalism,

Adaptability, Communication and Teamwork. She shared their Mission Statement: To engage, support, and empower students by providing active, career-based learning in an experiential environment and stated that their goals are listed on their website. Ms. Downer also reported that the pre-enrollment count shows an increase of 24 students this year with Franklin Township having an increase of 9 students from last year and Center Grove and Perry Township having increased as well. President Smith asked Ms. Downer if she knows why the other townships are seeing an increase in C-9 enrollment. She replied that they are looking for alternative learning avenues for their students.

#### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith shared that at the August 20<sup>th</sup> Education Foundation Meeting Mr. McWhorter gave an update regarding the township's enrollment growth and the various options being discussed for addressing the significant increase. He stated that Mrs. Dianna Miller-Wilson, Director, reported on the success of the recent Fast Flash held July 31<sup>st</sup>. President Smith noted that there are still openings to participate in the Golf Fore Kids event planned for September 17<sup>th</sup> at Southern Dunes Golf Course and more details will be coming soon pertaining to the fall grants. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

#### POLICY REVISIONS – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Dr. Kent Pettet referred the Board Members to their copies of the School Board Policy that was included in their packets: Policy D250 – 'Teacher Appreciation Grant'. He stated that there are no revisions to the policy this year, but we are required to renew it annually. There were no questions or comments. (Exhibit No. 21-107)

#### ACTION ITEMS

#### APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH ACTON ELEMENTARY GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS PROJECT

Mr. Fred McWhorter II asked for the Board's approval to proceed with the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project at Acton Elementary. He explained that the HVAC equipment at Acton Elementary needs replacing and under the ESSER3 Grant, we have been granted permission to address the air-quality at the school. Mr. McWhorter noted that the proposal is included in the Board meeting documentation. Mr. Walker motioned to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. Walker asked if some of the HVAC issues were addressed when the school re-opened in 2016. Mr. McWhorter replied that changes were made to the ventilators in each classroom and with this project those items will be updated and/or replaced. President Smith asked if we are planning to address these same issues at other schools. Mr. McWhorter replied that we are planning to do the same at Bunker Hill and Arlington Elementary. Ms. Downer asked for a list of how we have spent the ESSER funds in the last year and a half. Mr. McWhorter stated that the items should be listed on the website. There being no further questions, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-108)

#### BOARD POLICIES – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING & APPROVAL

Dr. Kent Pettet recommended approval of the four (4) School Board Policies that were included in their packets: Policy A300 – 'Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy', Policy B225 – 'Board Meetings', E100 – 'Adoption of Curricular Materials', and Policy E225 – 'College and University Programs'. He added that there have not been any changes to the policies since last meeting. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve the policies. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-209)

#### APPROVE MOU WITH HAMILTON CENTER, INC. FOR 2021-2022 SY

Dr. Sharon Kight referred the Board Members to their copies of the MOU with Hamilton Center, Inc. that was included in the Board meeting documentation and recommended approval. She stated that it is the renewal for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the MOU and Mrs. Gowan seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-110)

APPROVE CONTRACT FOR PSYCH SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 SY

Dr. Sharon Kight recommended approval of the Contract for Psych Services for the 2021-2022 school year that was included in the packets. She shared that we were unable to hire a School Psychologist because there were not any applicants. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the contract and Mrs. Foulk seconded. Mr. Walker inquired as to where we search for suitable applicants. Dr. Kight replied that we generally look on the DOE website, but they did not have any applicants and she added that there is a shortage of school psychologists nationwide. There being no additional questions, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the Contract for Psych Services passes 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-111)

APPROVE MOU WITH APPLIED BEHAVIOR CENTER FOR AUTISM

Dr. Sharon Kight referred the Board Members to their copy of the MOU with Applied Behavior Center for Autism that was included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval. She explained that this is an experimental, one-year contract for children 3-6 years of age and whom live in our township. She continued stating that ABC will provide services to children who become eligible to enroll in our schools. Dr. Kight noted that the agreement was drafted by our attorneys. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mrs. Foulk thanked Dr. Kight for researching such an option and asked how many students will currently be impacted by the service. Dr. Kight replied that there are currently three (3) students receiving their services. Ms. Downer asked for clarification that the children are already attending ABC. Dr. Kight replied that is correct and the three students attending ABC would like to attend our schools. She added that there will be a step-back initiative to transition them into regular school programs. There being no further questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-112)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Dawn Downer expressed her concerns with the e-mail response distributed today with the notation 'strongly encouraging facemasks' which she feels contradicts the back-to-school plan that was voted on in July indicating that 'facemasks are optional' and social distancing should be 3-feet. Ms. Downer stated that she feels we are sending conflicting messages to our parents and not adhering to the social distancing recommendations. President Smith stated that while we did approve the back-to-school plan, we also gave the Administration the authority to make any necessary changes for the health and safety of our students and staff. Dr. Hibbard noted that on the day of the July Board Meeting most of the school districts were leaving the facemask wearing up to parents' choice and since that time they are now recommending wearing them. A discussion followed. Ms. Downer asked that we post the raw COVID quarantine numbers and positive cases so there is transparency for our families. President Smith noted that Dr. Pettet has been posting the data on Dashboard. Dr. Pettet conveyed that if the numbers are less than 5% it is not posted on Dashboard.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard commented that on a positive note David Simpson with The Table Group will be here this week offering two days of Professional Development for our administrators and we have invited a group of Franklin Central students to participate on the third day. Dr. Hibbard added that Larry Ainsworth will be administering four days of training next week to a select group of teachers regarding Common Formative Assessments 2.0.

He reminded the Board Members that Friday, September 3rd is our first Professional Development Day for staff and is a scheduled e-learning day for our students.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Kelly Foulk stated that she is super excited to hear that we are beginning Professional Development again and loves that we are involving the students.

Mrs. Foulk conveyed that the Wall of Fame event was very nice and the recipients were well deserved of the honor. She added that Dr. Chase Huotari and Mr. Eric Kellison did a great job organizing the event and presenting the awards.

Mr. Larry Walker shared that FC's Football season is beginning this Friday against Roncalli High School.

President Smith echoed Mrs. Foulk's compliments of the Wall of Fame Event. He shared that he thought it was a wonderful celebration for the honorees, their families and attendees.

President Smith thanked the Administration for sharing the valuable information at the recent Board Work Session held on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

President Smith stated that the Administration will be organizing visits to each of the schools and asked the Board Members to send their preferences to Dr. Hibbard or Mrs. Laker.

President Smith stated that the Work Session previously scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> has been changed to September 20<sup>th</sup> to receive information and to discuss the Tentative Agreement with the FTEA (Franklin Township Education Association).

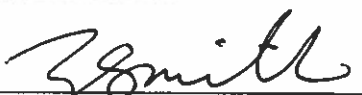
President Smith thanked the Administration for inviting him for their visit to Slate Run Elementary in New Albany, Indiana. He shared that as we are looking at building a new elementary school, it would save a considerable amount of time if we could copy an existing schools' architecture plan. President Smith added that the group was very impressed by the layout of the school and their principal was very accommodating in answering our questions, etc. He noted that if there is a future visit to the school, there will be an opportunity for other Board Members to attend.

Mrs. Dee Dee Gowan commended the Administration for making their decisions based on our data and expressed her appreciation for their hard work and dedication to our students.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

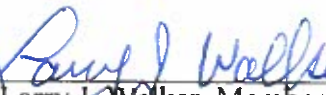
#### APPROVED

  
Zachary T. Smith, President

  
Doris L. Gowan, Vice President

  
Dawn A. Downer, Secretary

  
Kelly L. Foulk, Member

  
Larry J. Walker, Member