

RECORD OF 2024 BUDGET HEARING

BOARD OF EDUCATION FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

A budget hearing was held on September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for which notice was given in accordance with the law for the purposes of presenting the proposed 2024-2028 School Bus Replacement Plan, the 2024-2026 Capital Projects Plan and the 2024 Budget and receiving public input regarding these items.

The following members of the Board of Education were in attendance:

Dawn A. Downer
Kelly L. Foulk
Doris L. Gowan
Zachary Smith Howard
Larry J. Walker

President Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, stated that per State law we have posted and advertised the proposed 2024 budgets as required. He shared that we have had a balanced budget for the last 6 years and it is our intent to continue that record, but added that it will become increasingly more challenging due to the loss of the property tax waiver. He also noted that the current tax rate is the 2nd lowest in the past 45 years and 2024's will be even lower. Mr. McWhorter conveyed that the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) and the Legislature controls the process and noted that the DLGF must approve each of the budgets. He added that the revenue for each student follows them and with the additional funding for school vouchers that was passed this year, many students are choosing to attend non-public schools. He stated that vouchers for non-public schools will receive more Indiana tax dollars than public schools next year. Mr. McWhorter presented the 2024 School Bus Replacement Plan. He noted that we are wanting to replace 6 buses next year and need to purchase 2 additional ones due to our enrollment growth, but DLGF will only allow us to purchase 5. Mrs. Foulk asked if we could appeal with them to purchase the additional buses. He replied that we plan to ask since we are opening a new school and redistricting many of our students. Mr. McWhorter gave an overview of the 2024-2026 Capital Projects Plan and outlined the various projects for 2024 which include replacement of a maintenance vehicle, purchase of a box truck with lift gate, student and staff computers, software and licenses, several HVAC controls for various buildings, etc. He explained the different Budget Funds (Education Fund, Debt Service Fund, Operations Fund and Rainy Day Fund) and shared that we believe that the estimated overall 2024 school tax rate of 1.1300 will be the lowest property tax rate in School Corporation history. Mr. McWhorter added that we do not plan on issuing any additional bonds in 2023, as we are waiting to see the effects of the Circuit Breaker Caps. President Howard asked when we will lose the waiver. Mr. McWhorter replied that possibly in 2024, but for sure in 2025. He also shared that most every other public school corporation in Marion County has passed an Operating Referendum to offset the reductions and supplement their budgets. Mr. McWhorter commented that clearly because we do not have these additional funds, we are doing more with less.

He welcomed any additional questions or comments from the Board Members. President Howard thanked Mr. McWhorter for the informative presentation. (Exhibit No. 23-94)

HEARING OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2024 BUDGET


President Howard invited comments from the community members pertaining to the budgets. There were no public comments.

Mr. McWhorter noted that the Board Members will be voting on the proposed budgets at the October 23rd Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

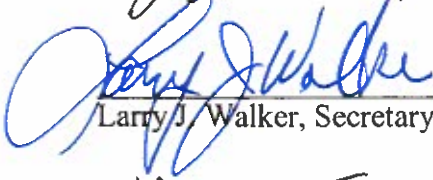
APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Larry J. Walker, Secretary



Dawn A. Downer, Member



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



**MINUTES OF A HEARING ON LEASE AGREEMENT
(FCHS Addition/Renovation Project)
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Doris L. Gowan, Larry J. Walker, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Bruce Hibbard, Jill Britt, Chase Huotari, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, 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 Special Session at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on September 25, 2023. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

President Zachary Howard called the Hearing to order at 6:33 P.M.

HEARING ON LEASE AGREEMENT (FCHS ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT)

President Howard shared that the next item on the agenda is for the Board to hold a Lease Hearing in connection with the proposed construction project and following the presentation there will be an opportunity for the public to make comments regarding the project. He noted that notice of the Lease Hearing was published as legally required. Mr. McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Mr. Erik Long, as an Attorney with Ice Miller, serving as our Bond Counsel. Mr. Long stated that pursuant to Indiana Code 20-47-3, before a school corporation may enter into a lease agreement with a nonprofit building corporation, the school corporation must conduct a hearing regarding the execution of the proposed lease. He conveyed that the Preliminary Determination Hearings were held in May and June and this Hearing is to approve the financial portion of the FCHS Addition/Renovation Project. Mr. McWhorter gave an overview of the project and stated that a representative from Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors could not be in attendance this evening so he will present the finance options. He outlined the Corporation's existing annual debt service/lease rental payments and increments and gave a summary of the proposed financing options. Mr. McWhorter added that the Multi-School Building Corporation approved the resolutions pertaining to the Lease Agreement during their meeting this afternoon. (Exhibit No. 23-95)

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE LEASE AGREEMENT

President Howard opened the Hearing for public comments regarding the proposed Lease Agreement. There were no public comments.

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT

Mr. Erik Long recommended the Board's approval of the Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Lease Agreement (Exhibit A) that was included in the meeting documentation. Mr. McWhorter noted that we will be using the Wanamaker Early Learning Center Building as collateral for this bond issue. President Howard asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-96)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ASSIGNING CONSTRUCTION BIDS & CONTRACTS

Mr. Erik Long recommended approval of the Resolution Assigning Construction Bids and Contracts (Exhibit B) that was included in the meeting documentation. President Howard asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-97)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING NINTH SUPPLEMENT TO MASTER CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING & ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Mr. Erik Long recommended approval of the Resolution Approving Ninth Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Issuance of Bonds (Exhibit C) that was included in the meeting packets. President Howard asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-98)

President Howard thanked Mr. Erik Long for attending the meeting and assisting with the Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

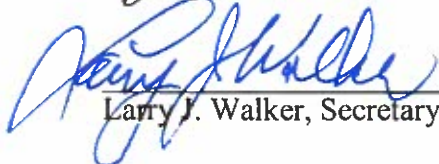
APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Larry J. Walker, Secretary



Dawn A. Downer, Member



Kelly L. Foulk, Member

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Doris L. Gowan, Larry J. Walker, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Bruce Hibbard, Jill Britt, Chase Huotari, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, 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 September 25, 2023. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

REGULAR MEETING

President Zachary Howard called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:44 P.M. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

President Howard 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 carried 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting – August 28, 2023
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 23-99)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 23-100)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 23-101)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 23-102)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 23-103)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that the Central Nine Governing Board met last week. She was happy to announce that they are fully staffed for the 2023-24 school year and they are beginning to look for an additional welding instructor for next year so they can accommodate more students by adding another class. Ms. Downer shared that Central Nine's College Day was a success with representatives from over 30 colleges and trade schools in attendance. She conveyed that Dr. Kovach's evaluation has been completed and everything seems to be going well at C-9. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Howard stated that the Franklin Township Education Foundation Board of Directors met on September 19th at which time they voted on the revised job description and salary for the Executive Director's position. He added that the job will be advertised soon and they are ready to begin their search. He reminded everyone that the 27th annual Golf Fore Kids Golf Outing at

Back 9 is September 29th from 11am-3pm. President Howard also shared that applications for the Fall School Grants & Ben Schuman Science Grant began on September 20th and will be accepted through October 18th at midnight. There were no questions or comments.

POLICY REVISIONS – 1ST READING

Mr. Jeff Murphy referred the Board Members to their copies of the five (5) School Board Policies that were included in their packets: Policy C100 – Admission to the Corporation (Legal Settlement), Policy F225 – Fundraising and Crowdfunding, Policy F325 – Debt Management Policy, Policy F350 – Reserve and Liquidity Policy, and Policy H250 – School Library Material Removal Request Procedure. He summarized the policies. Mr. McWhorter stated that Policy F325 and Policy F350 were recommendations of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors. President Howard asked if Policy H250 (School Library Material Removal Request Procedure) was similar to other school districts. Mr. Murphy replied that it is very similar to school districts throughout the State. There being no additional questions, Mr. Murphy shared that we will bring these policies to the October 23rd Board Meeting for 2nd reading and approval. (Exhibit No. 23-104)

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (FTEA) FOR 2023-2025

Mr. Jeff Murphy referred the Board Member to their copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Franklin Township Education Association (FTEA) for 2023-2025 that was included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval. He stated that the changes to the CBA were highlighted at the Special Meeting on September 19th. He thanked the members of the Bargaining Committee and recognized Mrs. Katie Cadle, Association President, and Mrs. Julie Doty, FTEA Negotiation Chairperson, for their efforts in the negotiations process. Mr. Murphy also thanked the teachers that attended both the Special Meeting and tonight for showing their support. Ms. Downer made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-2025 and Mrs. Foulk seconded. Mrs. Foulk commented that she really appreciates the extra time and effort the committee took in finalizing the agreement. She stated that while we would love to offer more to our hardworking teachers, we also need to live within our means. She thanked them for all they do for our students. President Howard thanked the committee and everyone involved for their creative efforts and openness during bargaining. There being no additional comments, President Howard called for the vote. The motion to approve the CBA for 2023-2025 carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-105)

APPROVE HUMANUS AGREEMENT

Dr. Sharon Kight shared that we are still experiencing difficulty with hiring qualified personnel for the Special Education Department and we are currently short two teachers at the Junior High and one at Kitley Intermediate. She referred the Board Members to their copies of the Humanus Agreement to assist in filling those positions and recommended approval. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the Agreement. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-106)

APPROVE FCJH DEVELOPMENTAL READING CURRICULUM ITEMS

Dr. Chase Huotari referred the Board to their copies of the FCJH Developmental Reading Curriculum Items that were included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval. He explained that while the new textbooks and programs for the 2023-24 school year were previously approved, these items were mistakenly omitted. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion to approve the curriculum items carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-107)

APPROVE FCJH FIELD TRIP

Dr. Chase Huotari recommended approval for the FCJH Junior Thespians to travel to Marion, Indiana, on January 19-21, 2024 for the Indiana Thespians State Conference. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the field trip. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-108)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard wished our FC Girls' Soccer Team good luck as they play Brownsburg this evening.

Dr. Hibbard extended his appreciation to our teaching staff for all their hard work during the first nine weeks of school.

Dr. Hibbard wished everyone a happy Fall Break and stated that he hoped they all get some much needed rest.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Walker was happy to announce that the FC Football Team beat Noblesville this past week and stated that we had a terrific turnout for the Homecoming Parade.

President Howard shared that it was fun to attend the Homecoming Parade and game.

President Howard reminded the Board Members that we are scheduled to visit FCHS and Arlington Elementary tomorrow and that the visits will resume after Fall Break.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

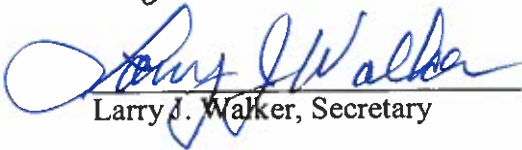
APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Larry J. Walker, Secretary



Dawn A. Downer, Member



Kelly L. Poulk, Member

