

RECORD OF 2022 BUDGET HEARING

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

A budget hearing was held on September 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for which notice was given in accordance with the law for the purposes of presenting the proposed 2022-2026 School Bus Replacement Plan, the 2022-2024 Capital Projects Plan and the 2022 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 T. Smith
Larry J. Walker

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, stated that per State law we have posted and advertised the proposed 2022 budgets as required. He presented each budget plan. Mr. McWhorter reminded the Board that the Bus Replacement Plan is now a five (5) year plan. He shared that with our increased enrollment we intend to purchase two (2) new buses and replace nine (9) of our existing buses due to age. Mr. McWhorter summarized the 2022-2024 Capital Project expenditures included in the proposed plan. Ms. Downer stated that she assumed we refer to the Facility Study Book for planning purposes and asked if there is any project that might have been an emergency that is not listed. Mr. McWhorter assured her that we update the Facility Book yearly and reassess the facility needs. He added that items listed for 2023 and 2024 are certainly not set in stone. Mr. McWhorter gave an overview of the 2022 Budget and shared that Franklin Township has the lowest tax bill in all of Marion County due to the fact that all of the other school corporations have passed referendums. He stated that as our enrollment continues to climb we are doing our best to utilize our tax dollars, but there are substantial facility repairs that will require additional funds and for those reasons we will be seeking a Construction Referendum in May 2022. He entertained questions and comments from the Board Members regarding the 2022 Budget. There were no questions. President Smith thanked Mr. McWhorter for the great and informative presentation. (Exhibit No. 21-118)

HEARING OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2022 BUDGET

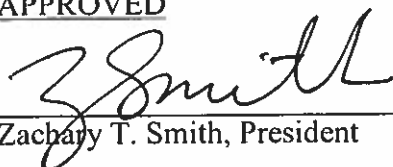
President Smith invited comments from the community members pertaining to the budgets. There were no public comments.

Mr. McWhorter noted that the Board Members will be voting on the proposed budgets at the October 25th Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED


Zachary T. Smith, President


Doris L. Gowan, Vice President


Dawn A. Downer, Secretary


Kelly L. Foulk, Member


Larry J. Walker, Member

RECORD OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS HEARING

BOARD OF EDUCATION FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

A General Obligation Bonds Hearing was held on September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for which notice was given in accordance with the law for the purposes of discussing and receiving public input on the school corporation's preliminary determination to issue bonds for the construction and/or renovation of a school building.

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

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

President Zachary Smith called the Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated that the public will be allowed to speak regarding the project following the information shared by Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, Attorney, Ms. Jane Herndon with Ice Miller and Mr. Brock Bowsher with BakerTilly Municipal Advisors.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that under Indiana law whenever a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. He shared that we are currently tracking over 1000 different parcels being developed in our township and as we have already experienced significant enrollment growth in our schools, that number will continue to increase over the next few years. Mr. McWhorter conveyed that for those reasons we are looking to expand our Transportation Facility and purchase additional buses. He noted that the maximum GO Bond amount is \$3 million dollars.

Mr. Brock Bowsher gave a presentation regarding the School Corporation's existing annual debt service/lease rental payments and increments. He also offered a summary of financing and repayment options for the proposed project and shared that the funding for the project will not increase the residential tax bills.

(Exhibit No. 21-114)

President Smith opened the floor for public comments regarding the proposed project. There were no comments.

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT RESOLUTION

Ms. Jane Herndon recommended the Board's approval of the Project Resolution (Exhibit A) that was included in the meeting documentation. She stated that the estimated cost of the project is \$3 million dollars. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-115)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY BOND RESOLUTION

Ms. Jane Herndon recommended the Board's approval of the Preliminary Bond Resolution (Exhibit B) that was included in the meeting documentation. Mr. Walker motioned to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-116)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION

Ms. Jane Herndon recommended the Board's approval of the Reimbursement Resolution (Exhibit C) that was included in the meeting documentation and explained that this resolution allows the School Corporation to be reimbursed for expenditures which may occur prior to receiving the bond proceeds. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-117)

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary T. Smith, President



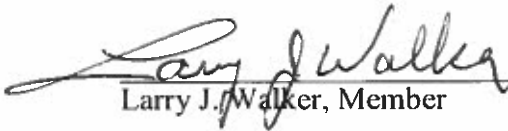
Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Dawn A. Downer, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Larry J. Walker, 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 27, 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 September 27, 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 6:38 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.

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. Foulk seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting – August 23, 2021
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 21-119)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 21-120)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 21-121)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 21-122)
- F. Fundraisers
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal

Dr. Kent Pettet introduced Mr. Jeff Murphy as his replacement for Chief People Officer. He stated that as our School Corporation continues to grow he has been performing two jobs, Chief People Officer as well as handling all communications. Dr. Pettet added that Mr. Murphy, current Principal at Thompson Crossing Elementary, will begin as Chief People Officer and he will now be able to focus solely on communications as the Chief Communications and Public Relations Officer. Mr. Murphy introduced his family and thanked the Board Members for allowing him this opportunity.

Dr. Toni Stevenson, Chief Academic Officer for Elementary, introduced Mrs. Crystal Livesay as the new principal at Thompson Crossing Elementary, Ms. Carol Bongfeldt as the new Assistant Principal at Thompson Crossing Elementary and Ms. Torrie Smith as the new Administrative Intern at Bunker Hill Elementary. Mrs. Livesay, Ms. Bongfeldt and Ms. Smith introduced their family members and thanked Dr. Hibbard, the Administrators, and Board Members for giving them the new opportunity to serve the students and families of Franklin Township.

The Board Members congratulated all of the newly assigned Administrators.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that everything at Central Nine is progressing well. She shared that to date they have had 273 students absent due to COVID with 263 of them returning to school and they currently have one teacher out as well. She also shared that they are now requiring facemasks and have changed the social distancing rules to follow Johnson County Guidelines. Ms. Downer reported that at their last meeting the Diesel Service Technology students were showcased and it was wonderful to see the students as they have not been attending due to the COVID restrictions. She added that the C-9 construction project has had a few delays due to the work shortages, etc. Ms. Downer shared that the good news is they are fully staffed this year. She noted that they recently received a visit from Indiana's Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, who toured the Career Center and stated that she was impressed with all of the great programs we have to offer the students and community. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Smith reported that the Golf Fore Kids event held on September 17th was a tremendous success and they want to express their appreciation to the Administrators for their participation. He shared that the Fall Grants will open after Fall Break and the "Thankful for Teachers" initiative will kick-off in November. There were no questions or comments from the Board Members.

ISBA CODE OF ETHICS

President Smith stated that he put the ISBA Code of Ethics on the agenda for Board discussion. Mrs. Dee Dee Gowan shared that besides being a School Board Member she is a lawyer and feels it is healthy both professionally and personally to understand and reflect on the principles outlined to govern an organization. President Smith conveyed that he feels it is important that the Board Members reaffirm their understanding of the ethics and move forward as a cohesive, five member group. President Smith and Mrs. Gowan read the ISBA Code of Ethics. (Exhibit No. 21-123)

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE ISBA CODE OF ETHICS SIGNING STATEMENTS

President Smith referred the Board Members to their copies of the form of acknowledgement statement which was attached to the ISBA Code of Ethics. He asked the Board Members to sign the statements in understanding of the Code of Ethics and asked for a motion to approve the signed statements. Mr. Walker motioned to approve the statements and Mrs. Foulk seconded. Ms. Downer stated that while she does not have an issue with signing the statement, she asked how the Board intends to address any item(s) that violates the Code. President Smith replied that if one of the Board members is suspected of a violation, he and Mrs. Gowan will investigate the allegation, contact the Board member, and work to resolve the situation. There being no further discussion, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-124)

COVID-19

President Smith stated that our COVID-19 protocols changed in early September following Governor Holcomb's mandates and asked for the Board's approval of these changes and to give the Administration authority to continue adjusting our COVID-19 protocols as needed. President Smith motioned to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. Mr. Walker shared that he has received some questions from parents regarding the mask requirements. President Smith replied that we are approving it this evening because the Governor's policy changes do not coincide with our Board Meetings. Mr. Walker suggested that the Administration distribute a uniform response to the Board Members to be forwarded to parents with questions or concerns. Ms. Downer asked for clarification that the change was only for facemasks and does not include social distancing. Mr. McWhorter replied that she is correct. There being no additional questions, President Smith called for the vote which passed 5-0.

AUTHORIZE EDGEWOOD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PROJECT & NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT & PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

Mr. Fred McWhorter II shared that our enrollment has increased by 521 students this year and with the continual growth our goal is to prepare our buildings to accommodate 1000 students per grade level. He noted that the previously approved project to add onto Kitley Intermediate will go to bid this week with construction beginning in a few months. Mr. McWhorter conveyed that Edgewood Intermediate is nearing capacity and we would like to add onto that building as soon as possible. He shared a presentation outlining the potential construction project at Edgewood Intermediate School and the construction of a new elementary school to be built on our existing property at Thompson and Senour Roads. Mr. Brock Bowsher with BakerTilly Municipal Advisors presented the financial options for funding the projects and repayment options. He shared that he received word today that our School Corporation has achieved an AA- rating which is one of the highest school ratings in Indiana. Mr. McWhorter asked for the Board to authorize the Edgewood Intermediate School Project, the New Elementary School Project and Preliminary Determination Hearings. He also noted that these projects will be done under the current property tax cap. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-125)

BOARD POLICIES – 2ND READING & APPROVAL

Dr. Kent Pettet recommended approval of the School Board Policy that was included in their packets: Policy D250 – ‘Teacher Appreciation Grant’. He added that there have not been any changes to the policy since last meeting. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the policy. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-126)

APPROVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (FTEA) FOR 2021-2023

Dr. Kent Pettet referred the Board Member to their copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Franklin Township Education Association (FTEA) for 2021-2023 that was included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval. He shared that Mrs. Julie Doty, FTEA Negotiation Chairperson, is in the audience and conveyed that he was very excited to be able to finalize the contract in such a timely manner and added that he appreciates the hard work provided by both sides. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the contract and Mrs. Gowan seconded. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-127)

APPROVE SCHOOL CALENDARS

Dr. Kent Pettet recommended approval of the School Calendars for 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 that were included in the Board Meeting packets. He stated that the District Calendar Committee used information gathered from a recent survey and followed the same structure as we are currently using. Dr. Pettet thanked the Committee for their work on the calendars. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve the calendars and Mrs. Gowan seconded. President Smith also thanked the Calendar Committee for adding e-learning days around various holidays to allow families more time for travel, etc. There being no additional comments, the motion passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-128)

APPROVE FIBER PROJECT BID

Mr. Tyler Knight referred the Board Members to the information regarding the Wide-Area Network Fiber Project Bid that was included in the meeting documentation and recommended approval of the bid to Zayo Group. He summarized the cost of the project which includes various discounts and shared that we will be using ESSER funds to cover the cost of the construction. Mr. Knight added that we have worked with them in the past and were happy with the results. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. Mrs. Foulk asked if we are allowed to change vendors once the contract is completed. Mr. Knight replied that it is a 10-year contract and changing vendors would be an option, but not really recommended. Ms. Downer asked if the Board Members could receive a list of what the ESSER funds are being used for and feels that it is important that we use them to enhance academic support for our students. Mr. McWhorter replied that the list of expenditures is on our website and is up-to-date.

There being no additional questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the Fiber Project Bid carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-129)

APPROVE BASHOR CHILDREN'S HOME AGREEMENT

Dr. Sharon Kight referred the Board Members to their copies of the Bashor Children's Home Agreement that was included in the packets and recommended approval. She explained that this student is a resident of Franklin Township and we are responsible to pay for their care at Bashor Children's Home. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve the Agreement. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-130)

APPROVE SOLIANT HEALTH CONTRACT

Dr. Sharon Kight recommended approval of the Soliant Health Contract that was included in the meeting documentation. She stated that we are in need of an additional Speech-Language Pathologist who can assist with the increased caseloads due to our escalating enrollment numbers. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve the Contract and Mrs. Foulk seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Smith called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-131)

APPROVE FCHS BAND TRIP TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA (MARCH 20-25, 2022)

Dr. Chase Huotari asked for the Board's approval for the FCHS Bands to travel to Orlando, Florida, on March 20-25, 2022 to perform at Universal Studios. He added that this trip was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 and is a great opportunity for our students. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve the trip and Mrs. Gowan seconded. Mr. Walker jokingly asked if the Board Members could attend as chaperones. Dr. Huotari replied that they could, but they would be responsible to pay the same fees as the students. There being no additional comments, President Smith called for the vote. The motion to approve the FCHS Band Trip passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 21-132)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard stated that he was relieved for our staff who have been working so hard these past few weeks that we are just four days away from Fall Break. He added that they deserve a much needed rest since they have been dealing with COVID related issues for the last couple of years.

Dr. Hibbard conveyed that he is excited to have Dr. Kent Pettet working full-time on communications and public relations and congratulated both he and Mr. Jeff Murphy on their new assignments. He added that Mr. Murphy will be able to focus on getting our schools fully staffed as it has been a challenge these past few months.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Walker thanked the Superintendent and the Leadership Team for promoting our talented staff members to various new positions.

Mrs. Kelly Foulk stated that we covered a lot of items this evening and she thanked the Administration for their vision in preparing our School Corporation to accommodate the enrollment growth. She also thanked the Contract Negotiations Team for another successful contract which positively impacts the education of our students.

President Smith thanked the Legislators for approving additional funds for public education and the Administration for the salary increase for our teachers and staff.

President Smith stated that he has been very impressed with the staff in each school during the recent school visits and feels they are doing a phenomenal job.

Mrs. Dee Dee Gowan shared that she is very excited to be a member of the new Dual Language Leadership Council which met for the first time on September 14th. She explained that the purpose of the Council is to identify and involve key stakeholders who support bilingualism and biliteracy in the planning and implementation of a magnet dual language program in Franklin Township. Mrs. Gowan added that the Council will also learn the research behind dual language programs to ensure our program aligns with the research and will have the best biliteracy and academic results. She noted that the next meeting is planned for November 19th.

Mrs. Dee Dee Gowan stated that she has been attending the recent school tours and shared that it is such an inspiration to see our teachers and students in action. She added that she may have missed her calling.

Ms. Dawn Downer congratulated all of the newly appointed Administrators and stated that she is proud to be a Flash.

Ms. Dawn Downer shared that she enjoyed participating in the FC Homecoming Parade and added that it was a great event as always.

Ms. Dawn Downer commented that the recent tour of the new addition at FC Junior High was wonderful. She added that her job commitments have kept her from attending the school visits thus far, but conveyed that she is hopeful to be able to attend some of the upcoming ones.

President Smith wished everyone a great Fall Break.

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary T. Smith, President



Doris L. Gowan, Vice President



Dawn A. Downer, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Larry J. Walker, Member

