

**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 26, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Zachary Smith Howard, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jenni Matasovsky, Jeff Murphy, 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 August 26, 2024. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM LEASE OF THE BASEBALL FIELDS**

President Zachary Smith Howard called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. He asked Mr. Fred McWhorter II to give an overview of the need for the long-term lease (Exhibit 24-95). Mr. McWhorter stated that any lease over 1 year requires a Public Hearing. He also said that for years, Franklin Township Community School Corporation has been leasing the land for \$1 to the Little League 1 year at a time and the Little League handles all of the maintenance on the fields and would like to make improvements. Mr. McWhorter said the proposed 10 year lease is needed so the Little League can make the improvements and have reassurance that they will be able to continue to use the land they are improving. Mr. McWhorter stated the Little League will be using their existing funds along with the money from the sale of land they own to cover the improvements. Mr. McWhorter asked that the Board approve a Resolution that would allow him, Dr. Huotari and the Business Director authority to sign the lease. (Exhibit 24-96)

No one from the Community signed up to speak.

Mr. Larry Walker made the motion to approve, Dawn Downer seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING**

President Zachary Smith Howard called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

President Zachary Smith Howard called for a motion to add the Skillman Phase 2 Bid Correction to the Action Agenda as item F and approve the agenda. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

President Zachary Smith Howard 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 4-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Preliminary Determination Hearing (FCHS Project III) – June 24, 2024 (Exhibit 24-97)
  - 2. Preliminary Determination Hearing (GO Bonds) – June 24, 2024 (Exhibit 24-97)
  - 3. Regular Board Meeting – June 24, 2024 (Exhibit 24-97)
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 24-98)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 24-99)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 24-100)
- E. Donations
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 24-101)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal
- H. Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
- I. Field Trips (Exhibit 102)

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer stated that it was an exciting month for Central Nine. Ms. Downer said that C-9 held their Dedication to their multipurpose and welding rooms. She stated that C-9 opened their doors to representatives from neighboring schools and the community. Ms. Downer went on to say that school has kicked off so they have been very busy with student orientation and staffing. Ms. Downer stated that they are not fully staffed and are looking for a pre nursing instructor and an instructional assistant. Ms. Downer also stated that all the welding spots have been filled and the facility is grateful for the extra space.

There were no questions.

#### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Zachary Smith Howard read the update from Stephanie Rigler, Executive Director of FTEF. He stated the 31st Annual Fast Flash took place on July 27th. President Howard said they had the most participants since 2019, pre-covid and raised over \$25,000 that will be used to support our FTCSC teachers, staff and students.

President Howard stated that on Sept. 27, FTEF will host its annual Golf Fore Kids event at Back 9 Golf & Entertainment. Spots are still available for teams and sponsors but are likely to sell out so don't delay in getting your team signed up. He said that you can go to [myftef.org](http://myftef.org) to register.

President Howard said that FTEF will open its Fall Teacher Grant applications on Sept. 1. Any FTCSC teacher is welcome to submit a grant. The application will be available on [myftef.org](http://myftef.org).

President Howard said lastly, at the Aug 20th FTEF Board Meeting, retiring board member, Rosalie Hawthorne was recognized for her 28 years of service to the FTEF Board. Rosalie was a founding member of the Franklin Township Education Foundation in 1996. She previously served on the FTCSC School Board. He thanked Rosalie for her service to FTCSC and the Franklin Township community.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE LARRY B HANNI FLASHES ATHLETIC OFFICE

Dr. Kent Pettet stated that in compliance with FTCSC School Board Policy G450, a Naming Schools Facilities Committee composed of students, teachers, administrators, and community members met to discuss a possible naming for the FCHS Athletic Office. He noted the committee consisted of students: Kaitlyn Pettet and Moses Stevenson, Community Members: Chris Just and Stephanie Rigler, FTCSC Staff: Nick Alford and Julie Davis, Administrators: Zak Tschiniak and Grant Lewis, and Facilitator Kent Pettet. Dr. Pettet said that after the committee held a discussion, the FCHS Athletic Office Naming Committee is recommending the FCHS Athletic Office be named The Larry B Hanni Flashes Athletic Office.

Dr. Pettet said he knew Larry for ten years and described him as a very nice person who always asked questions about his own children. Dr. Pettet had this to say about Mr. Larry B Hanni, "Larry B Hanni was a long-time Athletic Director at Franklin Central High School. In 1958, Larry began his career as a teacher and coach of basketball, cross country, and track at Franklin Central High School. In 1966, he became the FCHS Athletic Director and held that position until 1984, when he moved to a central office position. During Larry's tenure as FCHS Athletic Director, he served as the Executive Secretary for the Indiana High School Coaches Association, was the Indiana State Wrestling tournament director, and was named both the State of Indiana Athletic High School Director of the Year and the National Athletic Director of the Year. Between his years in FTCSC and his late years as an administrator in Lawrence Township, Larry spent 50 years in public education. In addition to this, he also spent 32 years as a timing official for the Indianapolis Colts, including timing Super Bowl XLVI in 2012. Larry received the Sagamore of the Wabash and the Key to the City of Indianapolis in 1980. He was inducted into the University of Indianapolis Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Franklin Township Wall of Fame in 2019. The committee voted 8-0 to recommend to the FTCSC School Board that the FCHS Athletic Office be named "The Larry B Hanni Flashes Athletic Office."

Dr. Pettet presented Larry's wife and sons with a plaque honoring him. Dr. Chase Huotari took a picture with the family and thanked everyone for coming. Dr. Huotari said that he used to have breakfast with Larry and he showed up for a lot of people and when you do that, people show up for you and that is evident with the number of people that are here tonight. (Exhibit 24-104)

The motion to approve was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mrs. Foulk. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVE AMERGIS CONTRACTS

Dr. Sharon Kight asked for approval of the contracts for a School Psychologist and Speech Language Pathologist at Kitley Intermediate. (Exhibit 24-105)

Mrs. Foulk made the motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVE PRO CARE THERAPY CONTACT

Dr. Sharon Kight asked for approval of the contract for a Speech Language Pathology Assistant at Edgewood Intermediate. (Exhibit 24-106)

Mrs. Foulk made the motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVE THE STEPPING STONES GROUP CONTRACT

Dr. Sharon Kight asked for approval of the contract for a Special Education Resource teacher at FCJH and for the ED room at Arlington Elementary. (Exhibit 24-107)

Mrs. Foulk made the motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

2ND READING & APPROVE REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY D250

Mr. Jeff Murphy asked that the Board approve Policy D250, the Teacher Appreciation Grant. He stated there were no changes made to the policy this year. (Exhibit 24-108)

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve and Mrs. Foulk seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVE PHASE 2 BID CORRECTION

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that Bid tabulation was correct, money was correct, everything was correct on the Bid except for the company name. He asked that the Board approve the letter of correction that was sent in changing the name of the contractor to Milestone Contractors, L.P.

Mrs. Foulk made the motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 3-1.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

President Zachary Smith Howard stated that due to the resignation of Doris Gowan whose term was set to expire in December, we statutorily have to name a replacement within 30 days. He then stated that FTCSC sought qualified and interested candidates from the community through news media, word of mouth and contacts through appropriate organizations. President Howard said eligible applicants had to meet the criteria of being a registered voter within the school district, be at least 21 years of age, have resided in the school district for at least one year and be a resident of the Northwest Quadrant of the school district. He said that applicants could not be a FTCSC employee or been convicted of certain crimes outlined in I.C. 3-8-1-5. President Howard stated they received one application and now recommend that single applicant, Mrs. Beth Yoder be appointed to the School Board.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

President Howard asked Mrs. Beth Yoder to come to the podium and introduced herself. She expressed her excitement to serve the community and the school board. Mrs. Yoder shared her enthusiasm for contributing to the ongoing growth and positive changes in Franklin Township.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Huotari said that it has been an excellent start to the school year. He stated "I have been repeating it over and over again, our superpower is our people". Dr. Huotari said everything has been amazing and there was a lot of team effort that went into making sure the teachers had everything they needed to be great for kids from Child Nutrition, Technology, Communications, to HR, it is endless. Dr. Huotari stated these are his first ever comments as a Superintendent and the question people consistently keep asking him is "were you nervous that first day?" He said the answer is no, we have a veteran team and awesome teachers. Dr. Huotari said he is very appreciative of everyone and let's have a great year.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Walker said he wanted to welcome the new faces to the meeting.

Mrs. Foulk stated that she wanted to add to what Dr. Huotari said. She said she was at New Bethel on day one and if there was any building that might have had hiccups it would be them but it was amazing. She stated that they have a phenomenal team. Mrs. Foulk said the Board received a note that Todd Livesay and Transportation Department got the students home safe that day and that she appreciates everything that everyone puts in to make that happen. Mrs. Foulk said she appreciates what Rick Hunter and his team do to get all the buildings ready for the start of the year. She said "great work everyone".

ADJOURNMENT

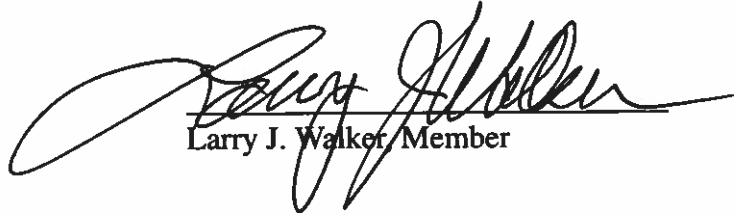
President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:24 P.M.

APPROVED

  
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Zachary Smith Howard, President

  
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Dawn A. Downer, Vice President

  
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Kelly L. Foulk, Member

  
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Larry J. Walker, Member