

**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 23, 2024**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson

ABSENT: Kaitlin Porter

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 23, 2024. 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 6:53 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. Downer 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. Yoder seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting – August 26, 2024 (Exhibit 24-116)
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 24-117)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 24-118)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 24-119)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 24-120)
- F. Fundraisers (Exhibit No. 24-121)
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal
- H. Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement
- I. Field Trip

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion items.

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer said she attended the C-9 meeting. She mentioned they are starting the evaluation process for the director this year. Ms. Downer stated they went through their data dashboard information from last year. She added a few highlights, they served 1,140 students with a 95% retention rate. (207 FCHS students started the year and 200 completed the

program giving FCHS a 96% retention rate at C-9) Ms. Downer said Forty-eight Franklin Central High School students who were in work based learning internships completed over 20K hours, averaging 422 hours per student. Ms. Downer also mentioned that C-9 is getting two more welding machines.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Howard stated that applications are now being accepted for The Franklin Township Education Foundation's fall grants. He said the link to the general grant and Ben Schuman Science Grant can be found on FTEF's website at myftef.org. All FTCSC teachers and staff are encouraged to apply.

ACTION ITEMS

ADOPT RESOLUTION DETERMINING NEED FOR THE FCHS PROJECT FINAL PHASE

Mr. Fred McWhorter stated we had numerous hearings on the subject with no opposition. Mr. Erik Long with Ice Miller said there is no hearing today, only adopting resolutions for hearings in the future. (Exhibit 24-122)

A motion was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mrs. Foulk. The motion passed 5/0.

ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY PLANS; FORM OF LEASE AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF LEASE

Mr. Erik Long with Ice Miller stated we will have information on file and will need a resolution for 3 bond issues over 5 years and to set maximums. (Exhibit 24-123)

A motion was made by Mrs. Foulk and seconded by Ms. Downer. The motion passed 5/0.

ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING FORMATION OF BUILDING CORPORATION

Mr. Fred McWhorter said we are losing a member from the Holding Corporation and Mrs. Terri Laker is coming on board to fill the position left by Mr. Richard Horen. (Exhibit 24-124)

A motion was made by Mrs. Foulk and seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion passed 5/0.

APPROVE ST. JOSEPH INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF CONTRACT AGREEMENT AT WELC

Dr. Sharon Kight clarified that LLSL stands for Listening and Spoken Language service. (Exhibit 24-125)

A motion was made by Mrs. Yoder and seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion passed 5/0.

APPROVE DIFFIT CONTRACT

Dr. Lynlie Schoene stated that Diffit is an AI powered tool that Nadine Gilkison piloted with a few teachers last year and this year and it was successful. She said that they would like to have all teachers be able to use this and it would be paid out of Title IV money. (Exhibit 24-126)

A motion was made by Mrs. Foulk and seconded by Mrs. Yoder. The motion passed 5/0.

APPROVE THE PURPLE STAR RESOLUTION

Dr. Kent Pettet said that he would like to have all schools recognized as a purple star school by the state. He stated for all our schools to be recognized, we have to have a military program, a website page for veterans, a display case at each school, a staff member trained as contact for every school, and the school board must adopt a resolution to show support for military families. Dr. Pettet said that we would be one of only a few districts that have all their schools recognized as Purple Star School. He mentioned that schools will use their own staff who are veterans to help support this program. Ms. Downer said she was grateful that Dr. Pettet took on this project

but added she was hopeful people in schools will help him. She stated it is a worthwhile cause and thank you to Dr. Pettet and the other admin for supporting this.(Exhibit 24-127)

Mr. Larry Walker made a motion to approve, Ms. Downer seconded the motion and it passed 5/0.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Huotari said there are 9 school days left until fall break. He gave a huge thank you to all staff for the first 9 weeks and said our team does it flawlessly. Dr. Huotari also thanked Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder for joining the board and thanked Mrs. Doris Gowan for her years of service.

Mr. Walker welcomed Mrs. Yoder and then thanked Mr. McWhorter for all his hard work. Mr. Walker said the 9-5 play was fabulous! He mentioned that on Oct 2nd - 5th crosses will be placed by the railroad tracks on Edgewood Ave. for the friends he lost in an accident.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Zachary Howard said he went to the ISBA conference with Dr. Huotari and would like to order a book for the board to read. He said the conference was a great networking opportunity. President Howard also said he was appreciative of those events and the support they give to Boards. He wished that everyone would have a safe and fruitful fall break.

Mr. Larry Walker welcomed Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder and thanked Mr. Fred McWhorter for all his hard work with the district's budget. He stated that the 9-5 play at Franklin Central was fabulous!! Mr. Walker reminded everyone that from October 2nd through 5th, crosses will be placed by the railroad tracks to remember the friends he lost in an accident when they were younger.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

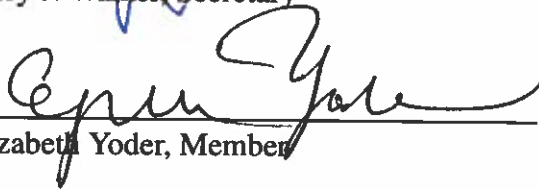
APPROVED


Zachary Smith Howard, President


Dawn Downer, Vice President


Larry J. Walker, Secretary


Kelly L. Foulk, Member


Elizabeth Yoder, Member

**MINUTES OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS HEARING (GENERAL
OBLIGATIONS BOND HEARING)
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson

ABSENT: Kaitlin Porter

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on September 23, 2024. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

President Zachary Howard called the Additional Appropriations Hearing for the 2024 General Obligation Bonds to order at 6:02 P.M.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS HEARING (GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BOND)

President Howard welcomed everyone to the Additional Appropriations Hearing on the proposed 2024 General Obligations Bonds and turned the meeting over to Mr. Fred McWhorter II. Mr. McWhorter stated that there have been two hearings on the General Obligation Bonds then gave a brief overview. Mr. Erik Long with Ice Miller (Bond Counsel), conveyed that pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20, before a school corporation proposes to enter into a lease and/or issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds, it must hold a public hearing on its preliminary determination to do so which we have done. Mr. Long stated we are here to adopt two resolutions, an Additional Appropriations Resolution (Exhibit 24-113) and a Final G.O. Bond Resolution.(Exhibit No. 24-114)


President Howard asked for a motion to adopt the Additional Appropriations Resolution. Mr. Larry Walker motioned, Mrs. Kelly Foulk seconded, the motion passed 5/0.

President Howard asked for a motion to adopt the Final G.O. Bond Resolution. Mrs. Kelly Foulk motioned, Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder seconded, the motion passed 5/0.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Dawn A. Downer, Vice President



Larry Walker, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Elizabeth Yoder, Member

**MINUTES OF THE 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson

ABSENT: Kaitlin Porter

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President Howard called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Fred McWhorter II, Chief Operating Officer, stated that per State law we have posted and advertised the proposed 2025 budgets as required. He shared that we have had a balanced budget for the last 7 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 lowest it has ever been. 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. Mr. McWhorter began to review the slide presentation for the Budget. Mr. McWhorter presented the 2025 School Bus Replacement Plan. He noted that we are wanting to replace 8 buses in 2025 which represents 8% of the total fleet with an estimated cost of \$1,278,300.00 and it would be funded through the Operations Fund but it is limited by the district's tax cap. Mr. McWhorter gave an overview of the 2025-2027 Capital Projects Plan and outlined the various projects for 2025 which include replacement of a maintenance vehicle, transportation service vehicle, police vehicle, student and staff computers, playground equipment and repairs, school building roofing repairs, FCJH track replacement, 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 2025 school tax rate of 1.0785 will be the lowest property tax rate in School Corporation history. 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. 24-115)

HEARING OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2024 BUDGET

President Howard invited comments from the community members pertaining to the budgets.

Mr. Kenneth Yoder of 5619 Edgewood Trace Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46239, asked about the bidding process, regulations for those contracts and if we could add additional contractors. Mr. Fred McWhorter stated that the district solicits bids for projects and welcomes contractors to inquire about the process by reaching out to himself or our Facilities Department.

President Howard asked about funding through count days. Mr. McWhorter stated that yes, the state gives us funds based on the number of students we have on count days in October and February. We currently have just over 11,000 students. Dr. Chase Huotari said we lose some students due to early graduation and Mr. McWhorter mentioned that it sometimes evens out. Mr. McWhorter said that we have lost out on 150 million dollars due to property tax caps and that funding is not equitable between districts in Marion County. He stated that we are 8.6M lower than other districts because we do not have commercial property taxes coming in and that we can not be competitive with salaries. Mr. McWhorter used the example that if received the same funding as other districts, we could pay teachers \$10,000 more per year. He said that the funding is disproportionate between

districts when it comes to the Educational Fund, which is the money we receive from the state that covers instructional expenditures. He stated that this fund is primarily funded by the state's funding formula and allocated based on student enrollment, with no property tax dollars involved.

Mr. Larry Walker asked about the meeting Dr. Huotari and Mr. McWhorter had with Senator Freeman. Dr. Huotari said it went well and they will continue to meet to discuss the needs of the district.

Ms. Dawn Downer mentioned the loss of revenue from businesses in the area near County Line Rd. and Combs Rd. She stated that money goes to infrastructure not to us from the area's growth. Ms. Downer said her point is that even if we see growth in our Township, we do not always see the money from those projects.


Ms. Downer also stated that she works with other Educational Foundations in the area and they receive a substantial amount of money more than we do because we just do not have the resources for that.

Mr. McWhorter noted that the Board Members will be voting on the proposed budgets at the October 28th Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

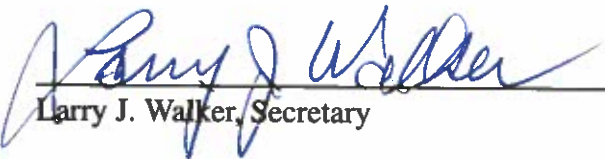
APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Dawn A. Downer, Vice President



Larry J. Walker, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Elizabeth Yoder, Member

**MINUTES OF ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Dawn A. Downer, Kelly L. Foulk, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Jeff Murphy, Kent Pettet, Lynlie Schoene, and Toni Stevenson

ABSENT: Kaitlin Porter

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on September 23, 2024. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

President Zachary Howard called the Administration of the Oath of Office to order at 6:00 P.M.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

President Howard welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting and turned the meeting over to Mr. Andrew Manna of CCHA, our Board Counsel, to administer the Oath of Office to newly appointed board member, Elizabeth Yoder. Mr. Manna asked Mrs. Yoder to stand and repeat the School Board Oath of Office. He then congratulated her and then turned the meeting back over to President Howard.

President Howard asked that a motion be made to accept and approve Mrs. Yoder's Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. The motion was made by Mr. Larry Walker and seconded by Mrs. Kelly Foulk. The motion passed 4/0. (Exhibit 24-111)

President Howard then asked for a motion to approve Mrs. Yoder's signed Indiana School Board Code of Ethics form. The motion was made by Mr. Larry Walker and seconded by Mrs. Kelly Foulk. The motion passed 4/0. (Exhibit 24-112)

President Howard stated the school board now had to appoint a new Secretary, Mr. Larry Walker. Mrs. Dawn Downer made a motion to appoint Mr. Walker as secretary, Mrs. Kelly Foulk seconded. The motion passed 3/1.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVED



Zachary Smith Howard, President



Dawn A. Downer, Vice President



Larry Walker, Secretary



Kelly L. Foulk, Member



Elizabeth Yoder, Member