

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
CORPORATION  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025**

PRESENT: Zachary Smith Howard, Ryan Donovan, Dawn A. Downer, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Kent Pettet, and Lynlie Schoene.

ABSENT: Jeff Murphy

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 Monday, January 13, 2025. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Ms. Amy Matthews, School Board Attorney, called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Amy Mathews administered the Oath of Office to Ryan Donovan and Elizabeth Yoder. (Exhibit No. 25-01)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. Matthews asked for a motion to approve the agenda as written. President Howard made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR 2025**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ms. Matthews stated that the School Board is required by law to re-organize prior to January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. She asked for nominations for the office of President. President Howard moved to approve the slate of officers as follows: Zachary Smith Howard, President, Dawn Downer, Vice President and Larry J. Walker, Secretary. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion. There being no additional nominations, Ms. Matthews called for the vote. The motion to approve Mr. Howard as President, Ms. Downer as Vice President and Mr. Walker as Secretary carried 5/0. (Exhibit No. 25-02)

**APPOINTMENTS**

President Howard read the list of School Board Appointments for 2025. (Exhibit No. 25-03)

Legislative Liaison	Zachary Smith Howard
Central Nine Rep.	Dawn A. Downer
Central Nine Alt.	Elizabeth Yoder
CIESC Advisory Council	Dr. Chase Huotari
Franklin Township Ed. Foundation Rep.	Ryan Donovan
Designee to sign community supported residential/student contracts for IDOE	Dr. Chase Huotari
HSBT Administrative Rep.	Mr. Fred McWhorter II
HSBT FTEA President &/or Designee	Katie Cadle/Bryan Sawyer

APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

President Howard asked for a motion to approve Church, Church, Hittle and Antrim as the School Board Attorneys for 2025. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. The motion passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 25-04)

APPROVE TREASURER AND DEPUTY TREASURER

President Howard asked for a motion to approve Mr. Fred McWhorter II as Treasurer and Mrs. Kaitlin Porter as Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Ca motioned to approve and Mrs. Yoder seconded. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 25-05)

APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD SALARY FOR 2025

President Howard asked for a motion to approve the School Board Salary for 2025 as listed below. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve. Ms. Downer seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. (Exhibit No. 25-06)

Yearly Stipend	\$2,000
Regular Meetings	\$150
Special Meetings	\$75
Board Activities	\$75

APPROVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2025

President Howard asked for a motion to approve the list of School Board Meeting dates for 2025 as presented. Mrs. Yoder motioned to approve the dates and Mr. Donovan seconded. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 25-07)

ACCEPT/APPROVE UNIFORM CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

President Howard recommended the Board Members accept the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements submitted by the following Board Members: Mr. Smith Howard, Ms. Downer, Mrs. Yoder, Mr. Walker and Mr. Donovan. There being no objections, President Howard called for the vote which passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 25-08)

READ/APPROVE INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSN. CODE OF ETHICS

President Howard read the ISBA Code of Ethics that was included in the meeting documentation. He asked the Board Members to sign the attached statement acknowledging their understanding of the code and agreeing to abide by it. Ms. Downer motioned to approve the signed statements. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 25-09)

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. Mrs. Yoder made a motion to approve the items and Mr. Donovan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Regular Board Meeting - December 16, 2024 (Exhibit No. 25-10)
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 25-11)
- C. Year-End Appropriation Transfers 2023 (Exhibit No. 25-12)
- D. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 25-13)

- E. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 25-14)
- F. Donations (Exhibit No. 25-15)
- G. Resolution to Transfer Funds to Rainy Day Fund (Exhibit No. 25-16)

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Downer stated that C-9 met on Thursday and are planning for a 2nd Open House. She mentioned that they are working on updating their enrollment policy to state that students must be enrolled at least ½ time at a partnering school. Ms. Downer said they are making sure observations are complete and that C-9 is fully staffed. She also stated that the Adult Education program is on par to finish better than last year.

### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Howard reported that FTEF will host the 2nd Annual FTEF Gala on February 8th at the Biltwell Event Center in downtown Indianapolis. He said the theme for this year is Casino Royale and the Gala will feature dinner, casino entertainment, a silent auction, a raffle, and the induction of the FC Wall of Fame's newest three members: Steve George, Kathy Stricker, and Ben Schuman. President Howard said tickets are on sale now at myftf.org. (Exhibit 25-17)

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

President Howard stated that the 2025 Legislative Session gaveled back in and educational issues continue to be a priority for lawmakers. He added that Governor Braun was sworn in today. President Howard said that the next few months will be spent working on the budget for the next two years. He stated that the infusion of Federal funds from the pandemic are no longer there. President Howard mentioned that Dr. Huotari and Mr. McWhorter II were at the State House representing Franklin Township, speaking with Legislative members trying to increase school funding. He said that Franklin Township is also being represented by Andrew Ireland on the Education Committee and Aaron Freeman on the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Larry Walker asked about Mr. Braun's stance or what action he would be taking on Charter schools. President Howard said that the Governor wants full universal vouchers. Ms. Downer said that it is worth pointing out there is legislation that could cap growth on property tax.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 2ND READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICY UPDATE C100

Dr. Kent Pettet went over the update on accepting transfer students if we decided to increase student numbers in the future. (Exhibit 25-18)

Motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Downer, and carried 5/0.

### APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. Jill Britt asked for approval of the Supplemental Personnel Report. (Exhibit 25-19)

Motion was made by Mrs. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Donovan, and carried 5/0.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Huotari stated that the Personnel Report was packed with a lot of changes to the Organizational Chart. He said the goal was to become a more focused, smaller group to make decision making easier. Dr. Huotari discussed the changes and introduced the Cabinet. He stated the teachers would receive an email tomorrow with more information and the Organizational Chart.


BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Walker welcomed Ryan and Beth to the Board. Mr. Donovan said he appreciates the opportunity to be on the Board and that his whole family came to watch him take the Oath. He said that he has lived here for 35 years and does not want to leave Franklin Township. Mrs. Yoder mentioned she is grateful to be "official" and was able to jump in early. Ms. Downer and President Howard thanked the Cabinet for their flexibility and willingness to pitch in.

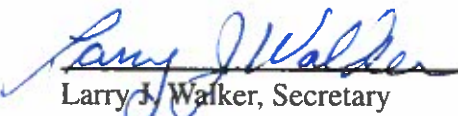
ADJOURNMENT

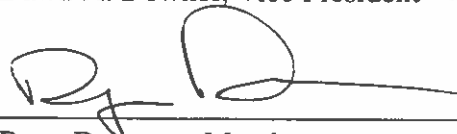
President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVED

  
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Zachary Smith Howard, President

  
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Dawn A. Downer, Vice President

  
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Larry J. Walker, Secretary

  
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Ryan Donovan, Member

  
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Elizabeth Yoder, Member

**MINUTES OF A BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Zachary Smith Howard, Ryan Donovan, Dawn A. Downer, Larry J. Walker, Elizabeth Yoder, Dr. Chase Huotari, Jill Britt, Sharon Kight, Tyler Knight, Fred McWhorter, Kent Pettet, and Lynlie Schoene.

**ABSENT:** Jeff Murphy

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met for the purposes of a Board of Finance Meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on Monday, January 13, 2025. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**

School Board President, Zachary Smith Howard, called the Board of Finance Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President Howard recommended keeping the President and Secretary of the Board of Finance the same as are presently serving those positions on the Board of Education: President, Mr. Zachary Smith Howard and Secretary, Mr. Larry Walker. Mrs. Yoder made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

**REVIEW OF INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL POLICIES**

Mr. Fred McWhorter II referred the Board Members to their copies of the Investment Income Policy (F200), the Debt Management Policy (F325) and the Reserve and Liquidity Policy (F350) that were included in their packets. There were no questions or comments. (Exhibit No. 25-20)

**REVIEW OF INVESTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Fred McWhorter II presented the 2024 Annual Investment Summary Report and the Investment Income History. Mr. McWhorter summarized the various interest income items and was proud to share that our total interest income for 2024 was just over \$3 million dollars. There were no questions or comments. (Exhibit No. 25-21)


**REVIEW OF DUAB FISCAL INDICATORS**

Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that the Distressed Unit Appeal Board (DUAB) now oversees Indiana school corporations' budgets. He shared that Franklin Township Community School Corporation looks good as our enrollment is staying steady and our cash balances are remaining consistent. Mr. McWhorter invited the Board to visit the DUAB website, which is included in the meeting documentation, to get an overview of the financial status of any school corporation in the State of Indiana. There were no questions. Ms. Downer stated she would love to have a Board Work Session to learn more about DUAB. (Exhibit No. 25-22)

**ADJOURNMENT**


President Howard adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.


APPROVED

  
Zachary Smith Howard, President

  
Dawn A. Downer, Vice President

  
Larry J. Walker, Secretary

  
Ryan Donovan, Member

  
Elizabeth Yoder, Member