

**MINUTES OF PROJECT HEARING (FCHS ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT)  
AND 2<sup>ND</sup> PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, JUNE 26, 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 Stephenson

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 June 26, 2023. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

President Zachary Howard called the Project Hearing and 2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M.

**FCHS ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT HEARING & 2<sup>ND</sup> PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING**

President Howard welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Determination Hearing on the proposed FCHS Addition/Renovation Project and stated that if anyone is interested in speaking at the Hearing there is a sign-up sheet on the table. Mr. Erik Long with Ice Miller (Bond Counsel), conveyed that pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-7-37, before a school corporation may spend more than \$1 million dollars to build, repair or alter a school building that will be financed by a lease or bonds, it must hold a public hearing at which explanations of the potential value of the project to the school corporation and community are given. He added that pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.5, a school corporation must hold two public hearings and adopt a resolution to preliminarily determine to issue bonds or enter a lease for the project. Mr. Long explained that these public hearings and the consideration of the resolutions are the very beginning of the legal process and the resolutions presented this evening will establish the maximum financial terms for the proposed project. Mr. Fred McWhorter II stated that over the last few months we have met with several groups regarding this project such as Department Chairs, teachers, Administrators, and community members to address the overcrowding issues. He noted that while we understand that the public is not in favor of a tax increase, this project can be completed underneath the Property Tax Cap and homeowners will not see an increase in their residential tax bills. Mr. McWhorter shared that the project will vastly improve the working and learning conditions for FC staff and students, bring our STEM (science) classrooms into the current century, allow our Performing Arts students the space to practice, and provide expanded options for Physical Education classes. Mrs. Jenni Matasovsky, Franklin Central High School Principal, spoke to the Board about various Pathway Programs that we are currently unable to offer due to the lack of science equipment and classroom space. She added that without sufficient space for our Performing Arts students we are limited to program enrollment and while the students are using hallways for practices, she feels it is not a safe environment for them or the instructors. Mr. McWhorter shared the proposed construction project timeline and conveyed that construction should begin early 2024 with a completion date of 2025 or early 2026. Mr. George Link with VPS Architecture provided renditions of the proposed additions including the Science and Activity Center which will seat 5000. He also noted that there will be 500 new parking spaces added with this renovation. Mr. Link commented that it is easy to build classrooms onto an existing building, but it is very challenging to renovate a building while school is in session. Mr. McWhorter stated that he is confident that the staff and students will be accepting of the construction inconveniences knowing that the end results will be wonderful. Mr. Brock Bowsher with Baker Tilly (Municipal Advisors) presented the School Corporation's existing annual debt service/lease rental payments and shared that the estimated cost of the FCHS Addition/Renovation Project is \$99.9 million dollars. He also offered a summary of the financing and repayment options for the proposed project. Mr. Bowsher invited any Board Member questions. Mr. Walker asked if there was a penalty for repaying the loan earlier than expected. Mr. Bowsher replied that prepayment is not an option as this is unlike a mortgage loan. There were no additional questions or comments.

(Exhibit No. 23-61)

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

President Howard opened the Public Hearing for anyone who wished to speak regarding the proposed Franklin Central High School Addition/Renovation Project.

1. Candace Wells-Myers, 7343 Ponderosa Pines Lane, stated that one of her children graduated from FCHS this year and participated in the Fine Arts Program. She also shared that she has a son in the Junior High Program that will benefit from this project and can attest firsthand that they are in desperate need of more space to practice. Ms. Wells-Myers conveyed that the students are currently using any open hallway, classroom, parking lot, etc. to practice. She feels that keeping the students engaged in these award winning extra-curricular activities benefits not only them, but also is great public relations for the School Corporation. She encouraged the Board Members to vote in favor of the proposed project.

2. Larry Hanni, 7903 Farina Way, shared that he is a former Athletic Director and Administrator for the district and can attest to the fact that Franklin Township Community School Corporation is a special place to educate children. He stated that he recently attended the IHSAA Hall of Fame event and Franklin Central High School had outstanding representation with 100 reservations. Mr. Hanni noted that there are people who care deeply about our schools. He asked the Board to provide the tools to our students to continue the Flashes traditions and spirit.

3. Chuck Stephens, 4251 Wanamaker Drive, stated that he was the FC Football coach a few years back and he feels the number one reason for the failed referendum was that people weren't willing to take more money out of their pockets to fund the schools. He conveyed that he feels there is something for everyone in this proposed project and as the enrollment has grown so should our facilities to accommodate these students. Mr. Stephens shared that our school buildings have not kept up with the growth and it is time to take care of that. He asked the Board Members how they can consider not voting in favor of such a beneficial project.

Mr. Fred McWhorter II conveyed that we have put a lot of time and effort into this proposed project and feel that it will benefit not only the Fine Arts and Athletic Departments, but also the entire student body, faculty and staff. President Howard thanked everyone for coming and for sharing your opinions.

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF FCHS ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT  
RESOLUTION

Mr. Erik Long with Ice Miller recommended the Board's consideration of the Project Resolution (Exhibit A) that was included in the meeting documentation. He stated that the estimated cost of the project is \$99.9 million dollars. Mrs. Gowan made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs. Foulk seconded. Mr. Walker shared that before the meeting he was not sure if he was going to support the project because he had received the message that some parents did not care about the education of their students. He added that he began to discuss the proposed project with various community members and others and received a very different message. He conveyed that he feels the entire project is about the kids and the improvement of their education and he will be voting in favor of it. Ms. Downer stated that she has struggled with her decision to support the project as well because she feels our plan does not prioritize the critical areas of the building such as the restrooms, etc. She added that items that were being addressed for the referendum project are not included in this project. Ms. Downer also expressed her concerns with the cost of the project as she feels it will limit the amount of money we will be able to spend on renovations to our other schools. President Howard conveyed that his priority has always been to update/renovate the high school. He stated that after the referendum failed he feels the Administration addressed the immediate need of the building which was to add classroom space. He thanked them for listening to the needs of the various groups and redesigning this project to accommodate and enhance a larger portion of the school where the need is critical. Mrs. Gowan stated that she agrees that we have listened to the community and are addressing the critical needs of the building with this project. Mrs. Foulk shared that she has always been in the favor of renovating the high school and is disappointed that we cannot get the support from the community. She stated that while the last of her four children will be graduating next year and won't reap the benefits of the project, it does not alter her support of it. She added that she is

saddened that everyone wants a better facility, but no one wants to pay additional property taxes to fund it. Mrs. Foulk noted that lots of work has gone into the final design and she is extremely glad that we are finally here and feels it will be an amazing space for our students and community as well. Mr. McWhorter remarked that it has been a long journey and we have been addressing the needs of our ever-increasing student growth in each of our K-8 buildings and now it is time for the high school. There being no additional comments, President Howard called for the vote to approve the FCHS Addition/Renovation Project Resolution. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-62)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION RESOLUTION

Mr. Erik Long recommended the Board's consideration of the Preliminary Determination Resolution (Exhibit B) that was included in the meeting documentation. Mrs. Foulk motioned to approve and Mrs. Gowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-63)

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION


Mr. Erik Long recommended the Board's consideration 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 any expenditures which may occur prior to receiving the issuance of the obligations. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-64)

President Howard thanked the representatives from our professional partners and the community members for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

  
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Zachary Smith Howard, President

  
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Doris L. Gowan, Vice President

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Larry J. Walker, Secretary

  
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Dawn A. Downer, Member

  
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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, JUNE 26, 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 Stephenson

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 June 26, 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 7:01 P.M. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Howard called for a motion to amend the agenda to include: New Business – Item A – Discussion Regarding Proposed TIF Area and Abatement Hearing. Mrs. Foulk made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Ms. 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. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve the items. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Preliminary Determination Hearing – May 22, 2023
  - 2. Regular Board Meeting – May 22, 2023
- B. Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports (Exhibit No. 23-65)
- C. Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 23-66)
- D. Personnel Report (Exhibit No. 23-67)
- E. Donations (Exhibit No. 23-68)
- F. Fundraisers
- G. Surplus Equipment for Disposal

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CENTRAL NINE REPORT

Ms. Dawn Downer reported that at the most recent Central Nine Governing Board Meeting they finalized their budget which included an 8.9% increase for the School Corporations. She added that they have received a couple teacher resignations and approved an evaluation tool for their instructors. Ms. Downer noted that they also received the results from a recent Environmental Study and will begin to devise a plan to make enhancing the positive work atmosphere for all employees a priority. Mr. Walker asked if Central Nine received any structural damage from the recent storms that moved through Johnson County. Ms. Downer replied that she has not been informed of any damage. There were no additional questions or comments.



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT

President Howard reminded everyone to come and support the following upcoming events that are sponsored by the Franklin Township Education Foundation: 1) Fast Flash and Back-to-School Bash scheduled for Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>; and 2) Golf Fore Kids Event planned for Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at Back 9 Golf Center. He shared that the FTEF Board had a strong presence at the Wanamaker Street Fair yesterday and conveyed that he felt there was a good turnout from the community. There were no questions or comments.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE PROCARE THERAPY HIRING FEE

Dr. Sharon Kight recommended approval of the ProCare Therapy Fee information that was included in the meeting documentation. She explained that the Direct Hire Fee of \$22,500 is to hire the teacher that was working with us last school year as a contracted worker. Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Ms. Downer seconded. There being no questions or comments, President Howard called for the vote which carried 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-69)

APPROVE AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2023-2024

Dr. Sharon Kight referred the Board Members to the Audiology Services Agreement for 2023-2024 which was included in their packets and recommended approval. She stated that Ms. Monica Gallien has provided Educational Audiology services for our township for several years and this is her yearly agreement. Mrs. Gowan motioned to approve the Agreement for 2023-2024. Mrs. Foulk seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-70)

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED TIF AREA AND ABATEMENT HEARING

Mr. Fred McWhorter II apologized to the Board Members for the late notice, but stated that we did not receive notice of the Hearing until after the Board Agenda had been advertised. He explained that when we received a letter from The City of Indianapolis dated June 5, 2023 regarding the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) area off of County Line Road, we immediately contacted the City for more information as well as Attorney Jon Becker with CCHA and met on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss our options. Mr. McWhorter also shared that we received notice on June 22, 2023 that an Abatement Hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 2023 and were unaware that the process was moving so quickly. A discussion followed regarding the financial implications to Franklin Township Community School Corporation if the TIF is authorized by the City-County Council of Indianapolis. Mr. McWhorter asked the Board to allow him to negotiate with the City to immediately receive a portion of the tax collection from that property instead of waiting 25 years as proposed via the TIF. President Howard made a motion to recommend approval authorizing Mr. Fred McWhorter II to negotiate with The City of Indianapolis via a resolution provided by our attorneys, for the purpose of receiving tax dollars prior to the termination of the TIF area. Mrs. Gowan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. (Exhibit No. 23-71)

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Hibbard remarked that summer is going quickly as there are only five weeks left until school begins.

Dr. Hibbard encouraged the Board Members to drive by the construction site of New Bethel Elementary to see how much progress has been made. He added that it is beginning to take shape and looks great.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Walker asked everyone to keep Dr. Pettet’s family in their thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of his father.

Ms. Downer stated that she feels that the referendums failed due to the community’s lack of trust in the Board Members.

Mrs. Foulk stated that she visited the Spark Summit held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at FC Junior High and was super impressed by the speakers as well as the wide variety of sessions offered, some of which were led by FTCSC teachers. She extended her congratulations to Mrs. Nadine Gilkison, Technology Integration Supervisor, for organizing the wonderfully successful event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

Mrs. Foulk congratulated our Transportation Department Team led by Mr. Todd Livesay for being named ‘Top Transportation Team’ in North America. She stated that is it truly an amazing accomplishment given that only two other School Districts nationwide were given the award and it speaks volumes about how we treat our staff and work together as a successful team.


President Howard shared that he has been named to the ISBA’s Legislative Committee Board and is excited to serve and represent FTCSC.

President Howard conveyed that he thought the Commencement Ceremony was perfect except for the traffic challenges that are a frequent issue in Franklin Township.

ADJOURNMENT

President Howard adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

APPROVED

  
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Zachary Smith Howard, President

  
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Doris L. Gowan, Vice President

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Larry J. Walker, Secretary

  
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Dawn A. Downer, Member

  
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Kelly L. Foulk, Member

