

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DECATUR TOWNSHIP  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

The Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township School Board convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices of the School Corporation, 5275 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana on October 3, 2023.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Judith Collins  
Mr. Larry Taylor  
Mrs. Estella Vandeventer  
Mr. Dale Henson  
Mr. Chase Lyday

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Dr. Matthew Prusiecki, Superintendent  
Dr. Stephanie Hofer, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Kenneth Folks, Director of Operations  
Mr. Michael Nehring, Director of Human Resources

**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

1.01 Mrs. Collins, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All five board members were present.

1.02 Mrs. Collins led in the pledge of allegiance.

1.03 Mrs. Christy Caruso, Decatur Township parent, discussed her concerns about Decatur Middle School academics and expressed student privacy and safety concerns with the use of clear backpacks.

**2. ACTION ITEMS**

2.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the September 5, 2023 regular meeting and executive session and September 26, 2023 work session and executive session be approved. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report and addendum for approval. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the staff report and addendum as presented. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$5,635,445.13 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,591,526.48 for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.04 Mr. Farmer reviewed the budget, tax levy, and tax rate totals with the Board and recommended approval of the Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.05 Mr. Farmer presented the 2024 Budget Expense Reduction Resolution for Board consideration. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Expense Reduction Resolution as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.06 Dr. Folks asked approval of an out-of-state trip request by the DMS 7<sup>th</sup> grade class to Chicago, Illinois on May 30, 2024 and an out-of-state/overnight trip request by the DMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to Springfield, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri on May 31-June 2, 2024. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented and that the number of students and chaperones attending will be shared with the Board prior to the trips. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. REPORT**

3.01 Mr. Farmer presented a financial report for the Education Fund, Referendum Fund, Operation Fund, and Rainy Day Fund.

### **4. OTHER**

4.01 No items.

### **5. CLOSING ITEMS**

5.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the school board members for their support and was pleased to move forward with the 2024 budget. He thanked Mrs. Caruso for expressing her concerns and stated the District will begin addressing those issues. He wished everyone a safe and restful fall break and is Decatur Proud of what we do in the District for our students.

5.02 Mr. Lyday expressed his appreciation to everyone for attending the meeting. He stated we will work diligently together as a School Board to make thoughtful decisions and thanked Mrs. Caruso for trusting the Board with that duty.

Mr. Henson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He thanked Mrs. Caruso for expressing her concerns. He wished everyone a nice fall break.

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked Mrs. Caruso for coming to the meeting to share her concerns, as it's important to the Board to hear those concerns. She thanked the administrative team for their work.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mrs. Caruso for expressing her concerns and requested a copy of her comments so all issues could be addressed. He thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a good fall break.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for attending and thanked Mrs. Caruso for her comments. She wished everyone a wonderful fall break.

5.03 Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mrs. Judith Collins, President

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Mr. Larry Taylor, Vice President

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Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Secretary

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Mr. Dale Henson, Member, Member

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Mr. Chase Lyday, Member