

**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 April 12, 2022.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Dale Henson  
Mrs. Judith Collins  
Mr. Larry Taylor  
Mr. Jimmy Ray  
Mrs. Estella Vandeventer

**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 Mr. Henson, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All five board members were present.

1.02 Mr. Henson led in the pledge of allegiance.

1.03 There were no patron comments.

**2. DECATUR PROUD**

2.01 Dr. Hofer introduced students Sherron Hughes, Jackson Imel, Kyler Smith, and Lucas Waltz who make up our Decatur High Ability Academy Team, Goofy Goobers. With limited experience of robotics, these four young men designed, built, and programmed a robot to be successful in this year's Vex IQ "Pitching In" challenge. They collaborated with teams from other schools to maneuver game elements on the field into a low goal or a high basket, and then try to hang their robot from a low or high bar in one minute. The Goofy Goobers earned an invitation to the State Competition at Lucas Oil Stadium where they scored their highest points in programming and skills. Dr. Hofer was Decatur Proud to congratulate these young men on their success with robotics.

Dr. Hofer recognized Jayden Osborn, 7<sup>th</sup> grade wrestler at DMS, who has been wrestling for years with significant success. As a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Jayden ended the season with an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his weight class. Currently wrestling 182 lbs. in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, he faced a knee injury that forced a medical forfeit and was required to embrace the struggle, listen to his coaches and do the work. He responded by losing only one match in the second half of the season. He faced the #1 and #2 seeds for the Jr. Mid-State Conference Tournament and beat them both. To quote Coach Pickett, "What a pleasure it has been to coach Jayden. He listens and responds to being challenged and sees the benefit of remaining coachable. Jayden is a tremendous athlete and has an amazing future." Dr. Hofer congratulated Jayden Osborn as our 182 lb. Jr. Mid-State Conference Champion.

Dr. Hofer recognized Isaiah Winko, 8<sup>th</sup> grade swimmer at DMS. She introduced his parents, Barry (DCHS's 100 Breaststroke school record holder) and Stacy Winko, and DMS Head Coach Sam Houston who were all in attendance. She stated Isaiah has been swimming competitively with the Decatur Township Aquatic Club and DMS swim/dive program the past five years. After a very successful Summer Age Group State meet, which included three top six finishes for DTAC and qualifying for the Central Zone All Star Championships for Team Indiana, we expected great success for the 2021-22 season. This middle school season, Isaiah broke six of the eight individual boys swimming school records including: 100 Individual Medley (from 1999), 200 Freestyle (2018), 50 Butterfly (1974), 100 Freestyle (2000), 400 Freestyle (2018), and 100 Backstroke (2018). In addition, Isaiah tied the 100 Breaststroke record of 1:11.60 set in 1974. Over the last two years, he has won two individual Junior Mid-State Championships: 100 Breaststroke as a 7th grader and this year winning the 200 Freestyle. Quoting Coach Houston, "Isaiah is one of the hardest workers I have ever met and his internal drive to get better is something special. He was the top point scorer on the boys side the last two years and has definitely left his mark on the DMS program. Coach Grace and I are looking forward to his continued success as he transitions to the DCHS team." Dr. Hofer was very Decatur Proud to recognize Isaiah for his numerous achievements.

Dr. Hofer recognized Mr. Justin "JD" Dixon, DCHS Athletic Director. She stated Mr. Dixon began playing sports in Decatur Township when he was just seven years old and is a graduate of DCHS. He has served as DCHS head football coach and began as our Athletic Director in July 2016 where he oversees nearly 600 student-athletes among 22 sports at the high school level. He helps create an atmosphere where our student-athletes can be successful as both students and athletes in high school and beyond. Mr. Dixon is a member of the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) where he has served as District III Director and Section III Director and also is a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. In addition, he is a member of the Indiana Football Coaches Association (IFCA) where he has served as a Region Director and Hall of Fame Committee Member. He was the IFCA North/South All-Star Coach in 2015, *IndyStar* Marion County Football Coach of the Year in 2015, Indianapolis Colts Football Coach of the Week five times throughout his career, and Mid-State Conference Football Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2014. He established the Hawks Helping Hawks initiative in 2015. Dr. Hofer was very Decatur Proud to announce that Mr. Dixon had received the IIAAA District III Athletic Director of the Year award.

### **3. ACTION ITEMS**

- 3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the March 15, 2022 regular meeting and executive session and April 6, 2022 work session be approved. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report (removing Connor Ray to a separate report) and addendum for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve Connor Ray as a Track & Field - Jumpers Coach at Decatur Middle School. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Ray abstaining.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report (removing Connor Ray to a separate report) and addendum as presented. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$3,962,934.05 and payrolls in the amount of \$3,587,529.46 for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.04 Mr. Farmer recommended the Board accept the GMP Amendment totaling \$3,942,941.00 for Lynwood Elementary School renovation which includes the lowest, most responsive bids from Verkler, Inc. in the amount of \$2,189,159.00, Johnson Melloh, Inc. in the amount of \$448,700.00, and James Babcock, Inc. in the amount of \$76,565.00. Mr. Ray made a motion that the GMP Amendment including bids for the Lynwood Elementary School renovation be accepted as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Farmer asked Board approval of a resolution authorizing the utilization of a special purchasing method under IC 5-22-10-5 for the purchase of iPads and MacBooks. Mr. Ray made a motion to approve the resolution to utilize special purchasing of iPads and MacBooks as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Dr. Folks recommended the Board accept the lowest, most responsive bids for produce (Piazza Produce & Specialty Foods), dairy (Dairy Farmers of America), main line distributor (US Foods), bakery (Alpha Bakery), snack & beverages (Commercial Food Systems), and frozen novelties (Velvet Ice Cream). Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion that the bids for produce, dairy, main line distributor, bakery, snack & beverages, and frozen novelties be accepted as listed. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.07 Dr. Folks asked approval of new/revised NEOLA Board Policies that presented for first reading at the March meeting. Mrs. Collins made a motion to approve the policies upon second reading as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.08 Dr. Hofer recommended approval of the DTSE reconfiguration. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the DTSE reconfiguration as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.09 Dr. Hofer presented the 2022-23 K-12 textbook rental and fees for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the textbook rental and fees as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.10 Dr. Prusiecki recommended reassignment of K9 Officer Talon to IMPD as a K9 unit. Mr. Ray made a motion to approve the reassignment of K9 Officer Talon as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried, unanimously.

#### **4. OTHER**

- 4.01 Dr. Prusiecki asked approval to establish the process timeline and purchase of field turf for our DCHS soccer field. Mr. Taylor made a motion to establish the process timeline and purchase of field turf for our DCHS soccer field. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Police Terance Smith administered the Oath of Office for School Resource Officer to Kodjo Koffi Ametooyona.

## 5. CLOSING ITEMS

5.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked everyone for attending and thanked Officer Koffi for taking his Oath of Office. He was pleased to acknowledge tonight's recognitions: our impressive Decatur High Ability Academy Robotics Team "Goofy Goobers", the success of our DMS athletes and what they will bring to DCHS, and our DCHS athletic director for his success and recognition by his peers as the best of Region III. He thanked everyone for making Decatur a first class community and he is honored to work with everyone as we serve our children. He welcomed and congratulated the following staff members who will begin their new positions with the 2022-23 school year:

- Ms. Rose Tomishima, West Newton Elementary School Assistant Principal, is thankful for this opportunity and will make everyone Decatur Proud. She thanked Mrs. Jana Anderson for her leadership at Gold Academy and thanked Mrs. Strube for coaching her along the way and always having an open door. She thanked Mrs. LeMay for this opportunity and stated they will make a great team. She looks forward to working with everyone.
- Mrs. Jessica Smith, Lynwood Elementary School Assistant Principal, is so excited and grateful for this opportunity. She is already feeling Decatur Proud and stated she and Mr. Lovell will be a great team.
- Mrs. Kate Andrews, DTSE Assistant Principal, thanked the Board members, Dr. Prusiecki, and Dr. Hofer for this opportunity. She is so excited for this experience at DTSE and is honored to go to the next level. She thanked Ms. Amie Kiefer for her guidance. She looks forward to getting to know everyone better, working with DTSE, and continuing our Decatur legacy.

5.02 Mrs. Vandeventer congratulated and welcomed our newly hired/appointed staff members and was pleased to recognize our students for excelling both academically and athletically.

Mr. Ray offered congratulations to and welcomed our newly hired staff members and congratulated our Robotics Team, Jayden Osborn, Isaiah Winko, and Mr. Dixon for their accomplishments and well deserved recognitions.

Mr. Taylor welcomed our new hires and offered congratulations to Mr. Dixon and the students recognized this evening. He was pleased to see everyone come together and have an enjoyable time during the meeting.

Mrs. Collins welcomed our new hires and was pleased to recognize our students and Mr. Dixon. She thanked everyone for their donations to the Decatur Township Scholarship Association. Last year DTSA provided 48 scholarships and she was Decatur Proud to announce that DTSA will award 58 scholarships this year. This would not be possible without everyone including our parents and businesses that donate. She expressed her appreciation to everyone for their support.

Mr. Henson offered congratulations to our newly hired assistant principals, High Ability robotics team, DMS student-athletes, Officer Koffi, and Mr. Dixon. He announced that the DTEF golf outing field was full, although they would still accept sponsors for the event and was very pleased to have the teams full two months in advance of the event.

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

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Mr. Dale Henson, President

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Mrs. Judith Collins, Vice President

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Mr. Larry Taylor, Secretary

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Mr. Jimmy Ray, Member

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Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Member