

**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 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices of the School Corporation, 5275 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana on December 13, 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 7:02 p.m. All five board members were present.

1.02 Mr. Henson led in the pledge of allegiance.

1.03 Mrs. Tiffany Morrison, Decatur Township parent, questioned if the Board would address what happened at DCHS today and what the District plans to do in the future in terms of gun safety for our students.

Dr. Prusiecki stated he would be happy to meet with Mrs. Morrison to discuss her concerns. He noted that three statements were released today as things unfolded and we addressed the situation as best and quickly as we could. We are currently working on additional measures to prevent this from happening in the future. He thanked the administrators, teachers, and the parent for notifying us of the situation. The decision for the lockdown was made to make sure all students were completely safe.

2. DECATUR PROUD

2.01 Dr. Hofer invited the following 8th grade football players and coaches to come forward: Jonathan Rolling, Elisha Johnson, Braydrion Morris, Jayden Osborn, Jordyn Shanks, Daniel Adjahli, and Coaches: Don Ivey, Sean Evans, Terry Pickett, and Brant Goss. She stated the 8th grade DMS Hawks began the season with goals to go undefeated and repeat as Jr. Mid-State Conference Champs. Over the course of the season they faced adversity with several injuries. In true character to these young men's resilience and toughness, week by week they adapted and overcame those challenges and reached both their goals. It's with honor and pride we bring before you the 2022 Jr. Mid-State Conference Champs with a perfect 6-0 conference record. We are very Decatur Proud of you. Our coaching staff shared that it was a complete privilege to coach these young men for the last two years and they look forward to watching them play on Friday nights the next four years.

Dr. Hofer invited the following DMS cheerleaders and coaches to come forward: Eliana Adams, Jordan Allen, Mickayla Amanfo, Summer Armstrong, Aubree Bonawitt, Samyla Calahan, Annlee Conn, Kelsie Cork, Emma Cruz, Riley Fiesel, Natalie Hoskins, Hazell Jarquin-Garcia, Head Coach Carrie Kelly, and Assistant Coach Sara Gibson. She invited the cheerleaders to perform a cheer prior to their recognition. She stated it was a huge year for our middle school cheer program, as they competed in several competitions for the first time and made history! Their accomplishments included: 4th place (out of 14 teams) at the IHSA State Cheer Competition, 3rd place at the Tri-West Cheer Competition, earning prestigious CICC 2022 Spirit Award, 2nd place at the Royal Rumble, 1st place at the Carmel Cheer Competition, Junior Division Camp Champions and 2022 Superior Champions at the UCA Cheer Camp, and Jr. Mid-State Conference Champions.

Dr. Hofer also shared that three of our athletes were selected as All-American Cheerleaders: Jordan Allen, Eliana Adams, and Samyla Calahan; and our coaching staff was also recognized as finalists for Cheer Coaches of the Year. We are VERY Decatur Proud of this team and coaches and look forward to great things from them in the future.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- 3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the November 8, 2022 regular meeting and November 8, 2022 and November 28, 2022 executive sessions be approved. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report as presented with the addition of Dr. Prusiecki's contract being renewed. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$8,171,486.09 and payrolls in the amount of \$3,677,632.14 for approval. Mr. Ray made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.04 Mr. Farmer presented construction manager proposals for the renovation of Valley Mills Elementary for consideration. He stated that five firms submitted proposals, but two were considered incomplete and were rejected. Three firms: AECOM Hunt, Patterson Horth, and RL Turner submitted complete proposals. He recommended the Board accept the lowest, most responsive proposal from Patterson Horth in the amount of \$452,556. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve Patterson Horth as construction manager for the renovation of Valley Mills Elementary as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Farmer presented a bid for construction of the new Innovation Hub for approval. He stated that one bidder, Patterson Horth, submitted a proposal in an amount not to exceed \$872,800. No other contractors submitted proposals after extending the submission deadline and he recommended the Board accept the bid from Patterson Horth as presented. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the bid be awarded to Patterson Horth as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.06 Dr. Folks asked approval of overnight trip requests by the DCHS Wrestling Team to Rensselaer, Indiana on December 21-22, 2022 and DCHS Theatre to South Bend, Indiana on January 20-22, 2023 and an out-of-state/overnight trip request by SOAR/Decatur Township Drug Free Coalition to Oxon Hill, Maryland on January 29-February 2, 2023. Mr. Ray made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.07 Dr. Prusiecki presented the 2024-25 school calendar for Board consideration. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the 2024-25 school calendar as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The carried unanimously.

3.08 Dr. Prusiecki requested Board approval for the Decatur High Ability Academy to become an Innovation Network School effective with the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the Decatur High Ability Academy as an Innovation Network School as presented by Dr. Prusiecki. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORT

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

5. OTHER

5.01 Dr. Prusiecki stated the Board will hold a work session on Wednesday, February 1st, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the District's academics.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

6.01 Dr. Prusiecki was pleased to recognize our 8th grade football team and DMS cheerleading team for their accomplishments. He thanked the Board members for their support with the Decatur High Ability Academy (DHAA) as an Innovation School, which will provide more flexibility for us to grow and support the needs of our students and other students in the greater Indianapolis area. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Luke Lennon and The Mind Trust for their support and contribution to help us be able to provide the opportunities our students deserve. He was pleased to introduce Mrs. Rachel Nesbit and Mr. Jacob Apollos, DHAA Coordinators, who introduced their staff: Madison Grant, 4th grade teacher; Kylie Buck, 6th grade teacher; Angela Perkins, 3rd grade teacher; Nakia Sloan, 5th grade teacher; and Liz Stark, instructional assistant. He stated as part of the Innovation School Status, a board was appointed to work with MSD of Decatur Township to support the DHAA. These board members include: Wallace Turner, Helena Drumm, Aundrea Hart, Hugh Harrigan, and Dave Knight. He thanked everyone for attending. He wished everyone a great holiday season and looks forward to 2023.

Dr. Prusiecki presented a plaque to Mr. Ray in appreciation for his years of service as a member of our School Board. He thanked Mr. Ray for his service and for all he had done for the District.

Mr. Ray thanked everyone for attending. He offered congratulations to the 8th grade football team and DMS cheerleaders and stated it was so uplifting to see Coach Ivey out there coaching again. He thanked his wife and two of his sons for attending this evening. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He told his fellow Board members, Dr. Prusiecki, and his team that it was an honor to serve the Board and the Township. He bleeds blue and gold and always will. He thanked Mrs. Perry for all she does behind the scenes and encouraged everyone to keep doing what they do for Decatur Township.

- 6.02 Mrs. Vandeventer congratulated our 8th grade football team and DMS cheerleaders on their great seasons and is very Decatur Proud of their accomplishments. She thanked Mr. Lennon and The Mind Trust for their support and is very excited to be able to expand our high ability program. She thanked Mrs. Morrison for attending to speak about her concerns and stated that school safety is a top priority for everyone. She described Mr. Ray as her "Board Bestie." They don't always agree, but that's what made this Board so special. We all brought a lot to the table, we all love Decatur Township, and we all love our students like they're our own. As Mr. Ray said, he bleeds blue and gold, and no one can doubt that. She is so grateful to have served with him and is grateful for his friendship and all he has given to our students and staff.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending. He congratulated our 8th grade football team on their outstanding season and was pleased to see Coach Ivey coaching again. He congratulated our DMS cheerleaders and their coaches and thanked them for their hard work. He told Mrs. Morrison that safety is our top priority and that we will continue to address those concerns. He and Mr. Ray have been together since they were kids and he encouraged Mr. Ray to participate on the Board. He is a good friend who will be missed. He thanked Mr. Ray for all his work as a Board member. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Collins can't say enough about Mr. Ray. She will miss him dearly and thanked him for all his input. She offered congratulations to our 8th grade football team and DMS cheerleaders. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked them for all they do.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for attending and congratulated our 8th grade football team and DMS cheerleaders. He thanked Mrs. Morrison for expressing her concerns about the safety of all our students and stated it is near and dear to our hearts to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe. We will continue to talk about safety measures and encouraged Mrs. Morrison to address her concerns with Dr. Prusiecki. He thanked Mr. Lennon and The Mind Trust for supporting our Innovation Hub. He has known Mr. Ray since he was six or seven years old. We are all Decatur alum and attended Stephen Decatur Elementary (with the exception of Mrs. Collins) and have been around a long time. He thanked Mr. Ray for serving five years on the School Board and stated together we have done a lot of great things. As Mrs. Vandeventer stated, the Board members do not always agree, but they talk it out and do what is best for Decatur Township. Mr. Ray is a lifelong resident of Decatur Township, has been involved at the Board level, and has spent over 20 years with our little league football program. He thanked Mr. Ray for all he has done for the Township.

6.03 Mr. Ray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dale Henson, President

Mrs. Judith Collins, Vice President

Mr. Larry Taylor, Secretary

Mr. Jimmy Ray, Member, Member

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Member