

**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 January 14, 2020.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Larry Taylor

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Matthew Prusiecki, Superintendent
Mr. Tony Burchett, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Lisa Cook, Human Resources Director
Mrs. Stephanie Hofer, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Korie Bowers, Director of Special Education & ELL
Dr. Chris Duzenbery, Dir. of College and Career Readiness
Mr. Jeff McMahon, Chief Information Officer

REORGANIZATION

1. REORGANIZATION

- 0.01 Mr. Ray announced the first order of business would be the election of a Board President and asked for nominations. Mr. Henson nominated Mr. Ray for the office of President and Mrs. Collins seconded the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Ray as President.
- 0.02 As the newly elected President, Mr. Ray asked for nominations for Vice President. Mr. Ray nominated Mrs. Vandeventer as Vice President and Mr. Henson seconded the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Vandeventer as Vice President.
- 0.03 Mr. Ray asked for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Collins nominated Mr. Henson as Secretary and Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Henson as Secretary.
- 0.04 Mr. Ray said the next order of business would be action on the following recommendations: Mr. Kirk Farmer as Treasurer, Mrs. Dawn Lee as Deputy Treasurer, Mr. Taylor as Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Collins as Southside Special Services of Marion County representative, and Mr. Henson as the Education Foundation representative. Recommendations were also made that the regular monthly meetings continue to be scheduled the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., work sessions be scheduled on an as needed basis, board member compensation remain the same, and board member conflicts of interest be declared.

Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion that Mr. Kirk Farmer serve as Treasurer, Mrs. Dawn Lee serve as Deputy Treasurer, Mr. Taylor serve as Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Collins serve as the Southside Special Services of Marion County representative, and Mr. Henson serve as the Education Foundation representative. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henson made a motion that the regular monthly meetings continue to be scheduled the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and work sessions be scheduled on an as needed basis. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henson made a motion that board member compensation remain the same (\$1,900 per year). Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Prusiecki acknowledged conflict of interest statements for Mrs. Collins, Mr. Ray, and Mr. Taylor and stated those documents would be signed.

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Mr. Ray, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Four board members were present.

1.02 Students from West Newton Elementary: Jazmine Gonzalez (2nd grade), Ruben Gonzalez (4th grade), Jenica Guevarra (3rd grade), Ezekiel Hester (3rd grade), and Natayah Quintana (3rd grade) shared favorite things about attending West Newton Elementary and led in the pledge of allegiance. The students then recited the *Tiger Pride Expectations*.

1.03 There were no patron comments.

1.04 Mrs. Hofer recognized Ms. Kim Eacret, first grade teacher, for her life-saving actions. On January 10, 2020 at Stephen Decatur Elementary, Ms. Eacret quickly responded to a student in need, recognizing that she was choking, and performed abdominal thrusts. Her awareness and quick response saved a life that day. We are Decatur Proud to have Ms. Eacret on our team and are grateful for her actions.

Dr. Prusiecki displayed the 2019 Community Recognition Award that was presented to the district during the Decatur Township Fire Department's award banquet. This award was given in appreciation of the district's partnership with the fire department.

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.01 Mrs. Vandeventer moved that the minutes for the December 10, 2019 executive session and regular meeting be approved. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2.02 Mrs. Cook presented the staff report for approval. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the staff report as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1, with Mr. Ray abstaining.

- 2.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the total amount of \$10,352,880.94 for approval. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion that the claims be accepted as listed. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.04 Mr. Farmer presented Year End Appropriation Transfers for approval. Mrs. Collins made a motion to approve the Year End Appropriation Transfers as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.05 Mr. Farmer presented a Resolution to Purchase Real Estate for Board consideration. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the Resolution to purchase the two properties north of the NEST as recommended. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.06 Mr. Farmer recommended approval of the Education and Operation Fund Transfer Resolution. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.07 Mr. Burchett asked Board authorization of a K9 Officer for the Decatur Township School Police. Mrs. Collins made a motion to authorize the cost for a K9 Officer as presented. 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, Debt Service Fund, Operations Fund, and Rainy Day Fund.

4. OTHER

- 4.01 Dr. Prusiecki reminded everyone that next month's Board meeting will be held on February 4, 2020 (1st Tuesday of the month) due to a scheduling conflict.

5. CLOSING ITEMS

- 5.01 Dr. Prusiecki wished everyone Happy New Year and thanked them for attending. He stated West Newton's students did a wonderful job leading the pledge and thanked Ms. Eacret for courageously and seamlessly saving a life. He thanked the administrators for their contributions to our students and thanked the School Board members for their support and for allowing us to continue doing what we need to do for our students and families. He recognized Officer Tutsie and his future K9 that will become part of our police force and recognized Mrs. Strube who will continue as West Newton Elementary Principal and also serve as Interim Elementary Education Director:

- Officer Paul Tutsie thanked Dr. Prusiecki, Mr. Burchett, and the Board members for allowing the DTSP to enhance safety for our staff and students by bringing on this new K9 officer (Chocolate Labrador). This will make a big difference with our students and our community, as our school parents will feel safe. He presented a Challenge Coin to the Board members and Dr. Prusiecki as a promise that the officers will continue to do the best they can for everyone.
- Mrs. Susan Strube thanked the Board members, Dr. Prusiecki, and Central Office Administrators for this opportunity and is thrilled and honored to begin. She loves to

serve the community of Decatur Township, appreciates the faith put in her, and hopes to repay that many fold. This position will bring her much joy as has being Principal of West Newton Elementary.

- 5.02 Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Officer Tutsie for the Challenge Coin and is anxious to meet our new K9 officer. She stated Mrs. Strube will do a wonderful job and thanked her for accepting this new position. She thanked everyone for all they do to make the School Board Decatur Proud. She stated the Decatur Township Scholarship Association will not conduct a phone-a-thon this year, but rather a “scholarship fundraising night” to mail letters requesting donations for scholarships.

Mr. Henson welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them Happy New Year. He thanked the West Newton students for leading our pledge. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Eacret for her actions at Stephen Decatur Elementary and stated this was the second time in recent months that the CPR training provided to our teachers has been utilized in the district. He congratulated Mrs. Strube on her new position and congratulated Mr. Ray and Mrs. Vandeventer on their new Board leadership roles. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for their work. On behalf of the Decatur Township Fire Department, he expressed his appreciation for the district’s ongoing partnership with the fire department and thanked the district for hosting Lt. Hayden’s funeral service.

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked everyone for attending and thanked the West Newton students for leading our pledge. She congratulated Mrs. Strube and Officer Tutsie on their upcoming ventures. She expressed her appreciation to Ms. Eacret for her life-saving skills, as it is very heartwarming to know we have employees who will step in and take care of our students. She thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for their leadership, as she is very proud of our schools and the decisions we are making for the district.

Mr. Ray thanked our West Newton students for leading the pledge. He offered congratulations to Mrs. Strube and Officer Tutsie and thanked Ms. Eacret for her actions. He expressed his appreciation for the fire department’s recognition of the school district and is thankful for this ongoing partnership.

- 5.03 Mrs. Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jimmy Ray, President

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Vice President

Mr. Dale Henson, Secretary

Mrs. Judith Collins, Member

Mr. Larry Taylor, Member