

**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 Decatur Township School for Excellence Community Room, 5106 S. High School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana on July 14, 2020.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Matthew Prusiecki, Superintendent
Mr. Tony Burchett, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Stephanie Hofer, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Chris Gearlds, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Susan Strube, Director of Elementary Education
Ms. Lillian Youngblood, Interim Dir. of Special Ed. & ELL
Dr. Chris Duzenbery, Dir. of College and Career Readiness

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING ITEMS

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

1.02 Mr. Ray led in the pledge of allegiance.

1.03 There were no patron comments.

2. DECATUR PROUD

2.01 Mrs. Strube recognized Mr. Timothy Werner, former Assistant Principal, who was named Honorary Principal of West Newton Elementary School. She stated that Mr. Werner devoted his entire professional career to serving the students, families, and community with his wisdom, kindness, and courage. Those who were fortunate to work alongside Mr. Werner were able to experience his joy of life, learning, and exploration. He possesses the true wisdom of a school leader and has made all of us better educators.

Mr. Werner is honored to receive this recognition and grateful for the 14 years he has served Decatur Township. He is thankful for the friendships, relationships, and support he has received. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Prusiecki, Mrs. Hofer, Mrs. Strube, the School Board, and to everyone in the District. He is incredible grateful and will be forever Decatur Proud.

Mrs. Hofer thanked Mr. Werner for his years of service to the district and is very Decatur Proud of him.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- 3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the June 9, 2020 regular meeting and executive session be approved. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.02 Mr. Gearlds presented the staff report and addendum for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report and addendum as presented. Mrs. Vandevanter seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Ray abstaining.
- 3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$10,873,625.81 and payrolls in the amount of \$3,378,252.47 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.
- 3.04 Mr. Burchett presented the 2020-21 DCHS and DMS Athletic Handbook for approval. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the 2020-21 DCHS and DMS Athletic Handbook as presented. Mrs. Vandevanter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Burchett presented the 2020-21 Transportation Handbook for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the 2020-21 Transportation Handbook as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Mr. Burchett presented updated NEOLA Board Policies for first reading. The Board will be asked for approval at the August meeting.
- 3.07 Dr. Prusiecki provided an update on the District's re-entry plan for the 2020-21 school year. After continual communication with our constituents, our teachers' association, all Marion County school districts, the health department, and Dr. Virginia Caine, he recommends upholding the calendar approval for the 2020-21 school year with a start date on August 3rd. He makes this recommendation with two scenarios: in school instruction (with use of PPE, social distancing, and assigned seating) and remote learning. If anyone tests positive, we will then go into contact tracing (15 minutes of continuous contact within six feet of an infected person). Extra-curricular activities will be available only to students who attend school within the building in order to track and contact trace. This recommendation is made as of today based on science with the statistics (below) provided by Dr. Caine and the Board of Health, but we will move to complete remote learning if there is a uptrend in the positivity rate or ICU bed usage.

Positivity Rate: 42% (in April, when less testing performed)
(Marion County) 9% (end of June)
6% (as of 7/13/20)
Death rate has consistently declined since April
No consistent increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19

ICU Bed Usage: 51.6% non-COVID-19
(as of 7/13/20) 10.8% COVID-19
37.6% beds available state-wide

Ventilator Usage: 14.3% non-COVID-19
(State wide) 2.4% COVID-19
83.3% available

Mr. Henson made a motion, based upon information presented tonight and discussed over several weeks, that the Board approve the school re-entry plan for our current 2020-21 school calendar and that the district continue to monitor statistics, allowing Dr. Prusiecki to move to complete remote learning, if needed. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORT

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

5. OTHER

5.01 No items.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

6.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked the School Board members for approving our school re-entry plan. There is not a “right answer” due to all the variables involved, but with safety in mind and leading with the best precautions possible, our students need and deserve the best education for their future. This is our vision of being *Tomorrow Ready* and we will do this through Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service, which makes him so Decatur Proud. He is very pleased to name Mr. Timothy Werner as Honorary Principal, as he has personified what it means to be Decatur Proud. It has clearly been Decatur’s benefit that this is where Mr. Werner chose to work and thanked him for all he has done. He thanked everyone for attending this evening: the School Board, Central Office team, principals, teachers, support staff, and community members. This is one of the best places to work and he is thankful for the opportunity to serve Decatur Township. He welcomed Mr. AJ Calvert, approved on tonight’s Staff Report:

- Mr. AJ Calver, School Resource Officer, appreciates this opportunity and is very excited to begin.

6.02 Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Mr. Werner for the legacy he leaves at West Newton Elementary and appreciates all he has done for Decatur Township. We are very Decatur Proud of him. He stated a lot of time and work has gone into the re-entry plan and the district is using information from the Health Department and Governor to guide the plan. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for all their work and encouraged families to use this document. Although this plan is subject to change, it will be updated on our website as changes are made.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for their hard work on the re-entry document. It is a very good proposal, but one that is fluid and can be changed, if needed. She welcomed Mr. Calvert to our school district.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Mr. Werner for his years of service in Decatur Township and wished him well. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for the time and effort put into the re-entry plan. We will consider the safety of our students and employees and he will continue to review the statistics every day. He thanked everyone for coming to hear the re-entry plan presentation.

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked everyone for attending and welcomed our new staff members. She thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for their work on the re-entry plan. She is very honored and Decatur Proud to have Mr. Werner as part of our district and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Ray offered congratulations to Mr. Werner and thanked him for his service. He welcomed Mr. Calvert to the district. He informed everyone of the construction project being started by the tennis courts/soccer field which will consist of a new restroom/storage facility. He thanked Mr. Burchett for getting the project organized.

6.03 Mr. Henson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Taylor 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