

**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 December 12, 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, thanked Mr. Phil Shults and the School Board for instituting Hawks Night Out, student recognitions, Student of the Month, honor roll, and PTO at Decatur Middle School after expressing her concerns to the Board in October. She discussed the need for transition plans to help students move from middle school to high school. She expressed her concerns with block scheduling including longer class periods and having some classes only twice per week. She questioned why block scheduling was chosen and how it benefits the students? She expressed her concerns for student safety at DCHS and asked about a plan to keep our students safe and reducing the number of fights in school. She would also like to make sure our teachers' frustrations are heard.

Dr. Hofer thanked Mrs. Caruso for sharing her concerns and addressed her questions about block scheduling. She and Mr. Wachnicki will meet with her to discuss all her questions and concerns.

Mr. Tony Williams, Decatur Township parent, stated Dr. Hofer helped his son and daughter on many levels during their time in MSD Decatur Township and has always been willing to return his phone calls to discuss any issues they were experiencing. He expressed his support of Dr. Hofer as the District's new superintendent because she has been there for the families of Decatur Township.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- 2.01 Mr. Henson moved that the minutes for the November 14, 2023 regular meeting and executive session and December 7, 2023 executive session be approved. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report as presented. Mrs. Vandevanter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$6,190,582.23 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,830,947.10 for approval. Mr. Henson made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.04 Mr. Farmer asked approval of a \$0.05 increase in the 2024-25 school lunch prices. Mr. Taylor moved that the \$0.05 increase for school lunch prices be approved. Mrs. Vandevanter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.05 Dr. Folks asked approval of an overnight trip request by DCHS Theatre students to the International Thespian State Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion on January 19-21, 2024. Mrs. Vandevanter made a motion to approve the trip request as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.06 Dr. Hofer recommend approval of policy and procedures for the reconsideration of library materials. Mrs. Vandevanter made a motion to approve the policy and procedures for the reconsideration of library materials as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2.07 Mr. Taylor made a motion to appoint Mr. Tony Burchett as Interim Assistant Superintendent effective January 3, 2024. Mr. Henson 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 Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Interim Superintendent Agreement effective January 3, 2024. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CLOSING ITEMS

- 5.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for their support. He was pleased to serve Decatur Township as Superintendent for the past 10½ years. He will miss everyone and appreciated all the work they had done together. He will be a phone call away to help support Decatur Township and will always be Decatur Proud.

Mr. Burchett stated he was humbled to be asked and honored to serve as Interim Assistant Superintendent. He is thankful for the opportunity and has always been Decatur Proud.

Dr. Hofer is ready to begin as Interim Superintendent. She thanked the Board for approval of her contract and is excited to lead.

- 5.02 Mr. Lyday expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Caruso and Mr. Williams for providing their input. He welcomed Mr. Burchett back and thanked him for his willingness to assist. He congratulated the football team for advancing to the state final game and gave credit to Coach Enright and his team for doing such an incredible job. He stated Dr. Prusiecki had been an incredible leader through tumultuous, exciting, and successful years in Decatur Township. He had the pleasure of interacting with Dr. Prusiecki in various capacities as well as numerous superintendents around the state and found Dr. Prusiecki to be in an elite group of the very best in Indiana. The seat of leadership can be a lonely place where people misunderstand you, criticize you, and demonize you, but Dr. Prusiecki navigated those circumstances with integrity, class, and professionalism. His work in improving student achievement, implementing a culture playbook, and helping us remain financially solvent with the help of passing two referenda was a profound testament to his leadership. He is tough, direct, and resilient, but also honest, compassionate, and caring. He stated he will forever be grateful for his conversations and interactions with Dr. Prusiecki over the years that challenged him, enriched him, and made him a better leader, as working through disagreements, challenges, and various perspectives to advance a good cause is the essence of leadership. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki for investing in him and many others in Decatur Township over the years and stated he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Henson thanked Mr. Williams for sharing his comments and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He told Dr. Prusiecki it was 11 years ago they sat in the Board room, interviewed and brought him here. Since then, as Mr. Lyday stated, Dr. Prusiecki has passed two referenda, updated facilities, and kept the district financially solvent. He will miss Dr. Prusiecki. He wished Dr. Prusiecki well in whatever he does and thanked him for his service to the District during his tenure.

Mrs. Vandevanter stated that over the years serving as a Board Member, she has gotten to know people on the horseshoe very well and stated Dr. Prusiecki has been a very positive role model for our students. She appreciates all the time Dr. Prusiecki has given to our Township and it's been a pleasure working with him over the years. She thanked Mr. Williams for his comments. She welcomed Mr. Burchett back to the District and thanked him for stepping in. She offered congratulations to Dr. Hofer on her appointment as Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending and thanked Mr. Williams for sharing his comments. He congratulated our football team and was proud to see numerous people there to support them at the state final game. He offered congratulations to Dr. Prusiecki on his retirement. He stated Dr. Prusiecki has been great for the Township and expressed his appreciation for all he has done for the District.

Mrs. Collins thanked Mr. Williams for his comments and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Dr. Prusiecki for all he has done for our Township and stated we are better for it. She thanked him for his service and will miss him. She congratulated Dr. Hofer on her appointment as Interim Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Judith Collins, President

Mr. Larry Taylor, Vice President

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Secretary

Mr. Dale Henson, Member, Member

Mr. Chase Lyday, Member