

**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 7:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices of the School Corporation, 5275 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana on March 14, 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 7:01 p.m. All five board members were present.
- 1.02 Mrs. Collins led in the pledge of allegiance.
- 1.03 There were no patron comments.

2. DECATUR PROUD

- 2.01 Dr. Hofer was Decatur Proud to recognize Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez, DMS 8th grade swimmer. Luis was named a Junior Mid-State Conference Champion in the 400 Freestyle and Marion County Champion in both the 100 Individual Medley and 400 Freestyle. In addition, Luis set a new middle school record in the 400 Freestyle at 4:20.81. She congratulated Luis on his achievements and was very pleased to honor him.

Dr. Prusiecki was Decatur Proud to recognize Dr. Brad Rose for earning his Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Foundations from Indiana State University and congratulated Dr. Rose on his achievement.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- 3.01 Mr. Henson moved that the minutes for the February 14, 2023 regular meeting and executive session be approved. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report and addendum for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report and addendum as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$5,928,020.99 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,191,629.73 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.

- 3.04 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. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Farmer asked Board approval of a Resolution authorizing approval of a drainage easement to facilitate installation of soccer field synthetic turf. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Drainage Easement Resolution as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Dr. Folks presented new/revised/rejected NEOLA Board Policies for first reading. The Board will be asked for approval at the April meeting.
- 3.07 Dr. Hofer asked approval of course offerings of Business Management and Administration and AP Statistics for DTSE/DCHS pathways development. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the course offerings for pathways development as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.08 Dr. Prusiecki recommended the use of clear backpacks to aid in the safety of our students in grades K-12 beginning the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Lyday made a motion to approve the usage of clear backpacks for grades K-12 effective with the 2023-24 school year as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Mrs. Vandeventer opposing.

4. REPORT

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

5. OTHER

- 5.01 No items.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

- 6.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked everyone for attending. He was pleased to recognize Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez, DMS Aquahawk, for setting a new school record as well as his championships in our Conference and Marion County. He congratulated Dr. Rose on his academic accomplishments in the field of education. He thanked everyone for serving Decatur Township and he is truly Decatur Proud. He congratulated and welcomed the following individual approved on tonight's Staff Report:

- Heather Brenegan, Assistant Director of Child Nutrition, stated she is thrilled to be here and to join the Decatur family. Everyone has been so welcoming and she is anxious to begin her work with Nicole Moorhead and the Child Nutrition team.

- 6.02 Mr. Lyday offered congratulations to Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez for his accomplishments. He thanked Dr. Rose for being a thoughtful professional and an incredible asset to our district. He welcomed Mrs. Brenegan and is pleased to have her join our team. He stated that as the School Board debates things that are serious in nature such as school safety and clear backpacks, he is incredibly encouraged by the insightfulness and thoughtfulness of his colleagues as they wrestle with these safety issues. His only passion over academics is the safety of our students. The implementation of this might be inconvenient, but we are trying to find solutions for the drastic times we're in.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for attending. He was pleased to recognize Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez and Dr. Rose for their accomplishments. He welcomed Mrs. Brenegan to her position in Child Nutrition. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for the work they do. As Mr. Lyday mentioned, they have been having discussions about clear backpacks for a few weeks as this is about the safety of our students and staff. He reminded everyone of the DTEF Golf Outing on Friday, June 2nd, and stated they are currently accepting teams and sponsors. He thanked the administrators for putting information about the outing in their school newsletters.

Mrs. Vandeventer congratulated Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez and stated she has watched him swim for several years and is very proud of his accomplishments. She offered congratulations to Dr. Rose. She expressed her appreciation to her fellow Board members for their discussion on school safety, as we all want what is best for our students and staff. This decision is not something we take lightly.

Mr. Taylor offered congratulations to Luis Sanchez-Gonzalez on his accomplishments and congratulated Dr. Rose. He encouraged everyone to be safe while traveling during spring break. He stated that safety is our priority and noted that Mrs. Vandeventer has other concerns with the policies and procedures for the clear backpacks, as do other Board members. Approving the clear backpacks is just a start, as we have to come up with procedures. Dr. Prusiecki and his team have done a great job researching this for the past couple months. It has been a tough decision to make, but the safety of our students and staff is essential.

Mrs. Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for all they do. She congratulated Dr. Rose. She thanked everyone for their support of DTSA.

6.03 Mr. Taylor 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

Mr. Chase Lyday, Member