

**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 March 12, 2024.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Larry Taylor  
Mrs. Estella Vandeventer  
Mr. Dale Henson  
Mr. Chase Lyday  
Mrs. Judith Collins

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Dr. Stephanie Hofer, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Kenneth Folks, Director of Operations  
Mr. Michael Nehring, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Tony Burchett, Interim Assistant Superintendent

**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

- 1.01 Mr. Taylor, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All five board members were present.
- 1.02 The following 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Ms. Keene's class at West Newton Elementary: Bernice Ayodeji, Adrian Lopez-Aca, Niko Owens, Jaxon Vega, and Elizabeth Washington led in the pledge of allegiance.
- 1.03 There were no patron comments.

**2. DECATUR PROUD**

- 2.01 Mr. Burchett was Decatur Proud to share that Ms. Buck's 6th grade class at Decatur High Ability Academy: Conner Bates, Bexley Cheek, Kody Daniels, Heidi Fesler, Malachi Glenn, Addison Imel, Aubri Johnson, Olivia Johnson, John Lange, Ian Mattingly, Jada McBride, Bryce Muse, Temperance Perkins, Evan Oliver, and Serenity Starr competed in the Indiana Future City Competition at the Purdue Ft. Wayne campus on January 20th. Students worked together to research and design a 100% electrically powered city of the future. As a team, they submitted a 1,000-word essay describing their city, created a scaled model, and presented their city to two panels of judges at the competition. Their hard work paid off, and they came home with three awards: Most Technically Sound City, Best City Layout, and Most Innovative Use of Engineering. He offered congratulations to Ms. Buck and her students for their outstanding success.
- 2.02 Mr. Nehring stated the Tomorrow Ready Award recognizes staff members (nominated by peers, supervisors, parents, or community members) for going above and beyond to exemplify our beliefs or equity, teamwork, and excellence, to positively impact our schools and students. He was Decatur Proud to recognize our first two recipients:
  - Toni Leedy, Clerical Assistant at Valley Mills Elementary – is a joy and light in the office, is sweet, takes pride in her work, and genuinely cares about the students and their parents.

- Renee Knoop, Social Studies Teacher at Decatur Central High School – does an excellent job of preparing her students for life after high school. Not only is she an excellent teacher, she is a team player with her coworkers.

### **3. ACTION ITEMS**

- 3.01 Mr. Henson moved that the minutes for the February 13, 2024 regular meeting and February 13, 15, 20, 22, 25, 26, and 27, 2024 and March 6, 2024 executive sessions be approved. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.02 Mr. Nehring presented the staff report for approval. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the staff report as presented. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$5,429,173.52 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,501,413.23 for approval. Mr. Henson 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 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. Mrs. Collins made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Farmer presented E-Rate Wireless Network Equipment bids for approval and recommended the Board reject bids from Ahead in the Clouds and Omnifi due to quotes not including all requested items and criteria stated in the RFP and accept the third lowest, most responsive bid from PCS in the amount of \$719,599.68. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Mr. Burchett asked approval of revised NEOLA Board Policies that presented for first reading at the February meeting. Mr. Lyday made a motion to approve the policies upon second reading as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.07 Dr. Hofer asked approval of a Settlement Agreement and Release. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.08 Dr. Hofer asked approval of the Early Literacy Achievement Grant Supplemental Payment Resolution. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the Early Literacy Achievement Grant Supplemental Payment Resolution as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **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 Dr. Folks asked approval of out-of-state/overnight trip requests by the Decatur Central Winter Guard to the WGI Winter Guard Power Regional in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 23-

24, 2024 and the WGI Winter Guard World Championships in Dayton, Ohio on April 11-13, 2024. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor announced that the Board hired a new Superintendent, Scott Collins. He will be approved at the April 9, 2024 Board meeting and will begin work on July 1, 2024.

Mr. Taylor stated the April 9, 2024 Board meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the Executive Session will immediately follow.

## 6. CLOSING ITEMS

6.01 Dr. Hofer was pleased our tiny Tigers did an amazing job with the pledge of allegiance and she enjoyed the paw print Tiger swag bag. She congratulated DHAA, Mr. Apollos, Mrs. Nesbit, Ms. Buck and her students for doing a great job in the Future City Competition. She stated *Tomorrow Ready Award* winner Toni Leedy was amazing, as she is always smiling and providing great customer service whenever you walk into the building. Mrs. Knoop teaches with as much energy as she did her first day of teaching. We have truly one of the best teams and I am Decatur Proud.

6.02 Mrs. Collins also enjoyed the tiny Tigers from West Newton. She has two children who were West Newton Tigers and they thoroughly enjoyed being students there. We have awesome students, teachers, and administrators and we appreciate all that you do.

Mr. Lyday was excited to see such success coming from DHAA. We support that program and hope to see it continue for a long time. Ms. Buck is a great teacher! He enjoyed the *Tomorrow Ready Awards*. Mrs. Leedy exceeds her job duties every day and Mrs. Knoop is an amazing teacher who has contributed many years to the success of her students. He stated transition is difficult, but we will be okay and the School Board will support everyone through this process. The Board has gone through an exhaustive effort to bring us through this change.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for attending. He thanked our tiny Tigers, Ms. Keene, and Mrs. Strube for their help in leading the pledge and stated the work done by Ms. Buck and the DHAA was exciting. He offered congratulation to Mrs. Knoop and Mrs. Leedy for their awards. He was pleased to announce that we have a senior named to play in the North/South football game this summer. He stated our Education Foundation has a golf outing on May 31<sup>st</sup> and asked anyone wanting to sponsor a hole to please contact him.

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked Mrs. Strube and Ms. Keene for sharing their students with us. She congratulated Ms. Buck and her students and stated their innovation and creativity was amazing. She really enjoyed the addition of the *Tomorrow Ready Awards*. We have many staff doing amazing things and she is glad to see us recognize them. She offered congratulations to Mrs. Knoop and Mrs. Leedy. She thanked everyone for a great year and stated everyone is appreciated.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending. He thanked our tiny Tigers for leading the pledge. He congratulated our 6<sup>th</sup> grade DHAA students and is so pleased with the addition of this program. The *Tomorrow Ready Awards* are an excellent way to recognize staff. When a student sees a smile as they walk through the door it makes a difference.

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

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Mr. Larry Taylor, President

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Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Vice President

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Mr. Dale Henson, Secretary

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Mr. Chase Lyday, Member

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Mrs. Judith Collins, Member