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 7:03 p.m. in the Decatur Township School for Excellence Community Room, 5106 S. High School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 18, 2021.

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

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
Dr. Chris Duzenbery, Dir. of College and Career Readiness
Ms. Amie Kiefer, Coordinator of Special Services

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING ITEMS
1.01 Mrs. Vandeventer, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All five board members were present.

1.02 Mrs. Vandeventer led in the pledge of allegiance.

1.03 There were no patron comments.

2. DECATUR PROUD
2.01 Mr. Matt Scott, DMS Color Guard Director, introduced the DMS Winter Guard members in attendance. Mrs. Hofer was very pleased to recognize our DMS Winter Guard following a great season of competition and performance in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association. This is the first group in Regional A to qualify for IHSCGA state finals as a group consisting entirely of middle school age students and they placed 9th among 34 groups at the state finals on March 27th. She is very Decatur Proud of this group’s outstanding achievements. Mr. Scott stated he was very pleased with the progress made by the group this year, especially being the first middle school color guard in the state to compete at the high school level. It’s been a privilege to teach these students, as they’ve worked very hard, and he is incredibly proud of them.

Mrs. Hofer introduced Mr. Tim Cox, DCHS Director of Bands, and Mrs. Stacy Roose, DCHS Color Guard Director. Mrs. Roose, introduced the DCHS Winter Guard members in attendance. Mrs. Hofer stated our DCHS Varsity Winter Guard, under the direction of Mrs. Roose, earned the State Runner Up/silver medal in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association state finals on April 10th. She was very Decatur Proud to honor our Varsity Winter Guard members for their success. Mrs. Roose stated that, although this is a new guard in the IHSCGA open class, they earned first place in every competition during
the season and missed the state championship by .05 point. She then presented the medal to Dr. Prusiecki.

Mrs. Hofer invited Mr. Tim Cox, DCHS Director of Bands, and Mr. Zach Crowder, DCHS Associate Band Director/Indoor Winds Director, to come up. Mr. Crowder was pleased to introduce the DCHS Indoor Winds participants in attendance. He stated the DCHS Indoor Winds began the season in second place by .05 point, won their next three contests, and earned the State Runner Up/silver medal in the Indiana Percussion Association Winds state competition, missing the state title by .05 point. Mr. Crowder enjoyed watching the students work hard and try their best during these difficult times and was proud to see how the show touched their hearts. Mr. Crowder presented the medal to Dr. Prusiecki.

Mrs. Hofer is very Decatur Proud to announce that together our DCHS Varsity Winter Guard and Indoor Winds set a new DCHS record of two groups earning State Runner Up in the same year. She congratulated these groups and thanked them for their hard work and determination.

Mrs. Hofer asked Mr. Tim Cox, DCHS Director of Bands, to come forward and was very Decatur Proud to share that Decatur Central High School was one of only 80 schools in the nation to receive the Support Music Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. This important designation was received for the school’s outstanding support of music education. On behalf of the Board and Administration, Mrs. Hofer expressed her appreciation to Mr. Cox for his leadership and dedication to our band program and stated they are very Decatur Proud of him. Mr. Cox thanked the DCHS Administration, the School Board, and Dr. Prusiecki and stated he couldn’t do this and be successful at it without the support of the administrators and School Board. He is very proud to be part of the community and proud of the band and guard programs because of what they’ve been able to offer our students. Working with people like Zach Crowder, Stacy Roose, Lyujohn Williams, Maya Davis, Jared Staples, and others makes his job easy. He appreciates this recognition, but said it really goes to the administrators, students, and especially the parents who put so much time and involvement into the program. The parents really make it happen.

3. ACTION ITEMS
3.01 Mr. Henson moved that the minutes for the April 13, 2021 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. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of $4,260,498.02 and payrolls in the amount of $3,266,923.91 for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.04 Mrs. Hofer presented the 2021-22 Elementary, Decatur Middle School, and Decatur Central High School/Decatur Township School for Excellence Student Handbooks for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Elementary and Secondary Student Handbooks as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3.05 Dr. Prusiecki asked renewal of the Board’s approval of the MSD of Decatur Township Application for the Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts (CCISD). Mr. Taylor moved the MSD of Decatur Township Application for the Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts be approved as presented. Mr. Ray 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 Mr. Burchett presented an overnight/out of state trip request for the Decatur Central Wrestling Club to compete in the NUWAY Nationals in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on June 3-6, 2021. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the overnight/out of state trip request as presented. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5.02 Dr. Prusiecki made a recommendation that the Board name the district’s new high ability program the Decatur High Ability Academy. Mr. Taylor made a motion to name the new district high ability program the Decatur High Ability Academy. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Mr. Henson abstaining.

6. CLOSING ITEMS
6.01 Dr. Prusiecki was excited to once again request the Board’s approval for an out of state trip. He was pleased to see our DMS Color Guard do so well while competing at the high school level. He congratulated the DCHS Color Guard and Indoor Winds for earning second place at their state competitions, with both missing first place by only .05 point. He is pleased that DCHS is one of only 80 schools in the country to receive the Support Music Merit Award and thanked Mr. Cox and the directors for being successful by working together. He stated graduation will take place at the Convention Center on May 27th at 7:00 p.m. He is excited about preserving through the challenging school year and seeing the best in our employees. He looks forward to the start of summer school as well as the high ability program. He thanked the School Board members for their support. He then welcomed and congratulated the following individuals who were approved on tonight’s Staff Report:

- Mrs. Karen Klein, Gold Academy Assistant Principal, is thrilled and elated to begin this next endeavor in Decatur Township. She has been with the district for 22 years and believes every single day is a learning moment. She is very Decatur Proud and thanked the Board, Dr. Prusiecki, Mr. Gearlds, Mrs. Strube, and Mrs. Hofer for this opportunity. She also thanked Mrs. Jana Anderson for being her principal, colleague, friend, and an amazing supporter.

- Mrs. Ashley Zarse, Valley Mills Elementary School Assistant Principal, thanked the Board and Dr. Prusiecki for this opportunity. She has been with the district for 15 years and thanked Mrs. Hofer for serving as her mentor during that time. She thanked Mrs. Richey, Mrs. Strube, and Mr. Gearlds for their support through the hiring process and is excited to get to work in this new capacity.
Mrs. Nakia Sloan, High Ability Teacher, thanked the Board and Dr. Prusiecki for this opportunity. She is very excited to begin and to become Decatur Proud.

Mr. Pete Thompson, Women’s Soccer Head Coach, expressed his appreciation to the Board and Dr. Prusiecki and is anxious to get started.

6.02 Mr. Ray congratulated our DMS Winter Guard members for their success and congratulated our DCHS Winter Guard and Indoor Winds for being named state runners up. He wished good luck to our spring sports teams. He offered congratulations to Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Zarse, Mrs. Sloan, Mr. Thompson, and all the newly hired staff members. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki for another great year of service.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for staying for the meeting. He congratulated the DMS Color Guard, DCHS Color Guard and Indoor Winds, and Mr. Tim Cox on their accomplishments. He thanked all the newly hired staff members for their enthusiasm. He was pleased to see the wrestling team take the first trip in over a year. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Gearlds, Mrs. Hofer, and all the administrators for persevering through a difficult year and he hopes next school year will begin with some normalcy.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for attending and thanked the administrators for their good work during this difficult year.

Mr. Henson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He offered congratulation to the band programs and to all our new staff members. He was pleased to report that the DTEF held a carnation fundraiser during Teacher Appreciation Week and was able to raise $2,569.84. The Foundation will hold a golf outing on June 4th. They currently have 112 golfers, over 50 sponsors, and are close to achieving their goal of $10,000. He thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for all they do.

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked everyone for attending. She congratulated our DMS Winter Guard and DCHS Winter Guard and Indoor Winds. She welcomed our new staff members. She thanked Dr. Prusiecki and his team for their hard work and looks forward to next year.

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

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, President

Mr. Dale Henson, Vice President

Mrs. Judith Collins, Secretary

Mr. Larry Taylor, Member

Mr. Jimmy Ray, Member