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 14, 2021.

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:  
Dr. Matthew Prusiecki, Superintendent  
Dr. Stephanie Hofer, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Kenneth Folks, Director of Operations  
Mr. Chris Gearlds, Director of Human Resources

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING ITEMS
1.01 Mrs. Vandeventer, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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 Dr. Hofer introduced DCHS varsity football captains: Kaleb Hicks, Javon Tracy, Foster Wertz, Vincent Tran, Keelan Dyson, Halbert Aguirre, Aycen Stevens; Head Coach Kyle Enright; Defensive Coordinator Max Goodin; and Co-Special Teams Coordinators Donnie Ivey and Connor Ray. She stated our Varsity Team finished the 2021 season with a 9-2 record, losing in the sectional championship game to Cathedral 31-7. The Hawks went 7-0 in the Mid-State Conference, winning every game by 14 points or more. The senior class won four Mid-State Titles in four years and the Hawks were honored for their accomplishments with a record 12 players voted onto the All Mid-State Conference Team as voted by the Mid-State Head Coaches. An additional four players were named to the Honorable Mention All Mid-State Team. The Class of ’22 finished with 38 wins in four years (2nd most in school history) and had a 25-2 Mid-State Conference record in four years. As good as this team was on the field, their accomplishments in the classroom were even better. The 2021 Hawks had seven student-athletes earn greater than a 4.0 GPA and an additional eight who earned greater than a 3.5 GPA. Ten of the 19 seniors have been offered scholarships to continue their education and play football at the next level. We are Decatur Proud of this team and the Class of 2022! Congratulations on your many successes both on and off the field.
Dr. Hofer was very Decatur Proud to recognize and congratulate Coach Enright for being named Mid-State Conference Football Coach of the Year. On behalf of the School Board and Administration, she thanked Coach Enright for his leadership and dedication to our football program. She expressed her appreciation for his hard work and is very Decatur Proud of his accomplishments.

Dr. Hofer introduced DMS 7th grade football players: Colton Ison, Hunter Harvey, Jaxson Lawson, Colton Markus, Jayden Osborn, Emmanuel Owens, Jordyn Shanks; Head Coach Don Ivey; and Assistant Coaches Sean Evans, Terry Pickett, and Jesse Howard. She stated our 7th grade team finished the season 8-0, outscored their opponents 266-0, and won the Junior Mid-State Conference. Initially the team faced an incredible blow when Coach Ivey experienced some serious health issues prior to the start of the season. Assistant Coach Evans served as interim head coach and the players responded well with our offense averaging 34 points a game and our defense allowing only 8 first downs all year and just over 50 yards per game. The players also worked hard in the classroom resulting in no players being lost because of grades. This team did something amazing this year, is going to be very special, and plans to be even more successful next year. I’m Decatur Proud to recognize this team for their hard work, resilience, and success both on and off the field.

Dr. Hofer introduced DMS 8th grade football players: Hayden Beasley, Fa’Rel Carter, Tyler Cooper, Kasmir Hicks, Carson Ison, Bo Polston, Ike Stevens, Alec Surber; Head Coach Bryan Surber; and Assistant Coaches Tony Stevens, Jeremy Griffith, Harmon Cooper, and Ryan Asher. She stated our 8th grade team finished their middle school careers with a cumulative 16-0 record, back to back undefeated seasons, outscoring their opponents 331-6, and winning the Junior Mid-State Conference two consecutive years as a class. Our B-team also went undefeated in back to back seasons during conference play. Our 8th grade team is a special group on the field, but what’s most impressive is their work done in the classroom. The future of Decatur Central Football looks very bright! I am Decatur Proud to honor our 8th grade team for their continued success and dedication on the field and in the classroom.

3. ACTION ITEMS
   3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the November 11, 2021 regular meeting and executive session be approved. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

   3.02 Mr. Gearlds presented the staff report (removing Dava Taylor, Tina Quintana, and Noah Ray to a second report) and addendum for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the staff report (removing Dava Taylor, Tina Quintana, and Noah Ray to a second report) and addendum as presented. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

   Mr. Henson made a motion to approve Dava Taylor as a Bus Driver, Tina Quintana as DCHS Girls Assistant Basketball Coach, and Noah Ray as DCHS Boys Assistant Basketball Coach. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-2, with Mr. Ray and Mr. Taylor abstaining.
3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of $3,565,256.03 and payrolls in the amount of $3,255,203.48 for approval. Mr. Ray made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.04 Dr. Folks asked approval of an overnight trip request by DCHS Theatre to Marion, Indiana on January 21-23, 2022 and out-of-state trip requests to Dayton, Ohio by DCHS Winter Guard on April 6-9, 2022, DCHS Winter Percussion on April 21-23, 2022, and DCHS Indoor Winds on April 23-24, 2022. Mrs. Collins made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

5. OTHER
5.01 Dr. Prusiecki stated the February Board meeting was moved to Wednesday, February 9, 2022 due to a scheduling conflict and the Board scheduled a work session on Thursday, February 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration Center Board Room.

6. CLOSING ITEMS
6.01 Dr. Prusiecki thanked everyone for attending. He is Decatur Proud of our DMS 7th and 8th grade football programs and their dominance over the season as well as the dedication of Coach Enright and success of our DCHS varsity football team. He thanked everyone for what they do, as we are stronger together. He wished everyone a great holiday season and thanked the School Board members for their support. The following staff members were appointed to new positions this evening and will bring energy and enthusiasm to their new positions:

- Mr. Dustin Criswell, DMS Principal, thanked Dr. Prusiecki, Dr. Hofer, and the School Board for this incredible opportunity, privilege and honor. He promised that he and his staff will bring their best every day, as the students in Decatur Township deserve nothing less. He thanked Mr. Nehring for his mentoring, leadership and guidance at DMS. We will build what he started by continuing to create a place where students feel valued and connected and we will push them to be the best they can be academically. Coming to Decatur Township was one of the best decisions he’s made and he wished he would have come sooner. He loves it here because we believe in continuous improvement, our best isn’t good enough, we push student achievement, and we make decisions in the best interest of students. He is Decatur Proud and blessed beyond measure to be part of this.

- Ms. Octavia Stovall, DMS Director of APEX, thanked everyone for their confidence in her and expressed her appreciation for their support. She is a Decatur Central graduate who has served as a DMS lead teacher and grown under the leadership of Mr. Nehring and Mr. Criswell. She stated Mr. Criswell is passionate, knowledgeable, approachable and supportive of his entire staff. She looks forward to following in his footsteps by being a motivational team member in the building with the means to support our
students and families in Decatur Township. She wants all students to feel welcome and feel ownership of where they are, just as she did. She thanked Mr. Nehring for his confidence in her and appreciates all the support she has received. She looks forward to continuing to support our students and families.

6.02 Mr. Ray congratulated Mr. Criswell and Ms. Stovall and all our newly hired staff members. Our classrooms breed success to our athletics and performing arts programs. As long as we continue with this type of energy, our academics will be great along with our sports and band programs. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending. He offered congratulations to Mr. Criswell and Ms. Stovall and looks forward to their work at DMS. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and asked everyone to be safe.

Mrs. Collins congratulated Mr. Criswell and Ms. Stovall. She thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for attending. He congratulated Mr. Criswell and Ms. Stovall on their new positions. He was pleased to recognize our football programs, but shared that some of our players were state recognized including Javon Tracy being named to the Top 50 All-State Players as well as Marion County Football Player of the Year. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to be safe while traveling.

Mrs. Vandeventer offered congratulations to our football programs. She congratulated Mr. Criswell and Ms. Stovall and is excited about their appointments. She wished everyone happy holidays.

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

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Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, President Mr. Dale Henson, Vice President

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Mrs. Judith Collins, Secretary Mr. Larry Taylor, Member

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Mr. Jimmy Ray, Member