

**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 May 13, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Dr. Scott Collins, Superintendent
Mr. Chris Gearlds, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kirk Farmer, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Justin Dixon, Director of Operations
Dr. Matthew McClendon, 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 Mr. Gearlds was Decatur Proud to recognize Teni Solesi, DCHS student, in appreciation of her leadership at Decatur Central High School.

Mrs. Diane Stebbe, Music Teacher at West Newton Elementary School, recognized “Danny the Golden” for his part in making the first and second graders’ musical “The Very Best Pet Show Ever” a smashing success.

2.02 Mr. Gearlds was Decatur Proud to recognize three recipients of the Tomorrow Ready Award for this month:

- Jacob Williams, Systems Analyst for Technology Department – Goes above and beyond to support students and staff throughout the district with technology needs.
- Rebecca Bersani, Lead Teacher for Blue Academy/STEAM Lead Teacher K-6 – Goes above and beyond in supporting the STEAM program throughout all elementary schools, as well as coordination of the ever popular STEAM Fest each year.
- Stephanie Werner, Student Support Coach for Decatur Township Schools – Goes above and beyond to teacher students with innovative approaches, building a critical bridge between students, families, and school.

3. ACTION ITEMS

3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the April 8, 2025 regular meeting and executive session and April 28, 2025 executive session and work session be approved. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.02 Dr. McClendon 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 \$5,493,589.96 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,173,039.52 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 regarding 5th amendment to lease and issuance of bonds by Decatur Township Multi-School Building Corp. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Farmer presented bids for Category 2 services of an uninterruptible power supply for IT infrastructure throughout the district. He stated PCS received the highest evaluation based on pricing (40%), tech solution (25%), experience (20%), and other (15%). He recommended the Board utilize PCS (\$299,940.00) based on the evaluation process and noted the district will pay 20% of the total cost with the remaining balance being reimbursed through the E-Rate program. Mr. Lyday made a motion to approve using PCS for an uninterruptible power supply system for IT infrastructure as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Mr. Farmer asked Board approval of field turf contract change orders for stormwater retention (\$313,776.00) and EasyChange mound and home plate (\$58,213.69). Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the field turf contract change orders as presented. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.07 Mr. Gearlds asked Board approval of language changes to NEOLA Board Policies: 1422, 3122, 4122, 1662, 3362, 4362, 5517, 2260, 2266, 5136, 5136.01, 5516, and 8500. Mr. Gearlds recommended the Board waive second reading of these policies and vote to approve the changes to these policies as presented. Mr. Taylor made a motion to waive second reading of these policies. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve language changes in the previously named Board Policies upon first reading as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.08 Mr. Dixon asked approval of an out of state/overnight trip request by DCHS girls basketball to Middle Tennessee State University Team Camp in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on June 2-4, 2025 and an overnight trip request by DCHS FFA to the Indiana FFA State Convention at Purdue University on June 16-19, 2025. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented. Mr. Lyday 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. Mr. Farmer then briefly discussed the impact Senate Bill 1 will have on the district.

5. OTHER

5.01 No items.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

- 6.01 Mr. Gearlds introduced Mrs. Haley Aus, Director of Behavioral and Instructional Interventions. Mrs. Aus stated she is very proud to be at Decatur Township Schools.

Dr. Collins stated the retirement dinner was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and thank our retirees for their years of service. He congratulated Samantha Rutherford, Teacher of the Year, and Brandy Coulombe, Support Staff of the Year. It was a nice evening and he thanked everyone for their work on the event. He noted that May 23rd is the last day of school and graduation will take place May 29th at 7:00pm at the Convention Center. It's a team effort, and when our students enter preschool and kindergarten, our ultimate goal is to see them walk across the stage. He thanked everyone for their help in making that possible.

- 6.02 Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for attending and offered congratulations to our Tomorrow Ready Award recipients. He stated the retirement dinner was a nice event and noted most of our retiring teachers were here for a majority of their careers. He wished everyone a good summer break.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone to attending and thanked them for all they do, as it has been a great school year. She congratulated our Tomorrow Ready Award recipients and stated Teni Solesi is doing something wonderful. She thanked those who donated to DTSA, as they were able to provide 55 \$1,100 scholarships to our seniors this year.

Mr. Lyday congratulated Teni Solesi and was proud to see her initiative to build the culture club at Decatur Central. He congratulated our Tomorrow Ready Award recipients: Jacob Williams, as we cannot educate our students without technology; Rebecca Bersani, who is always personable, extremely articulate, and leads our STEAM Fest; and Stephanie Werner, who is a longtime employee of Decatur Township Schools. All of these recognitions are well-deserved and he is very pleased to honor these individuals for their work.

Mr. Henson offered congratulations to Teni Solesi and our Tomorrow Ready Award recipients. He stated DTSA had a nice event to give back to our students. DTEF offered carnations for teacher appreciation at our elementary schools last week and he reminded everyone of the DTEF golf outing on May 30th. He thanked Dr. Collins and his team for their work.

Mrs. Vandeventer was excited about the culture club that Teni Solesi developed at DCHS to celebrate our culture and diversity in the township. She hopes it continues for years to come. She is very appreciative of the hard work of all our staff members and stated it was nice to recognize Mrs. Werner, Ms. Bersani, and Mr. Williams as our Tomorrow Ready Award recipients at our meeting. She welcomed Ms. Aus and is excited to work with her next year. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Farmer for sharing information regarding Senate Bill 1 with us and for preparing our township for that. She was sad to miss the retirement dinner due to a work obligation, but offered congratulations to our retirees and is Decatur Proud of them.

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

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, President

Mr. Dale Henson, Vice President

Mr. Chase Lyday, Secretary

Mrs. Judith Collins, Member

Mr. Larry Taylor, Member