

**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 June 10, 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 Ms. Patrice Johnson, Decatur Township parent and former substitute/contracted employee at Decatur Middle School, shared her experience with a lack of support after bringing concerns about student discipline to administrators at the school. She requested that the Board look into her complaints, examine the records of the staff in her public records request, and investigate how discipline, both staff and students, is handled at Decatur Middle School.

2. DECATUR PROUD

2.01 Mr. Gearlds was Decatur Proud to recognize the following individuals and schools:

- Officer Teawanda Wrespress, INSROA Region 7 School Resource Officer of the Year
- Gale Stone, INSROA School Safety Leader of the Year
- IDOE Family Friendly School Designations: Lynwood, Valley Mills, and West Newton Elementary Schools

3. ACTION ITEMS

3.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the May 13, 2025 regular meeting and executive session be approved. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.02 Dr. McClendon presented the staff report and addendum for approval. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the staff report and addendum as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$4,469,156.55 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,438,592.90 for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3.04 Mr. Gearlds recommended Health Ed Pros for our Human Health and Development curriculum for grades 4-6. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve Health Ed Pros for our Human Health and Development curriculum for grades 4-6 as presented. Mr. Henson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.05 Mr. Gearlds presented 2025-26 K-12 curriculum costs for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the curriculum costs as presented. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.06 Mr. Gearlds presented the 2025-26 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. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.07 Mr. Dixon asked approval of an out of state trip request by DCHS Marching Band to the Bands of America Regional Contest in Louisville, Kentucky on September 27, 2025, an overnight trip request by DCHS Cross Country to Bradford Woods in Martinsville on July 10-11, 2025, and an out of state/overnight trip request by the DCHS Wrestling Team to the AAU Scholastic Duals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on June 20-27, 2025. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the trip requests as presented. Mr. Lyday seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3.08 Dr. Collins presented the 2026-27 school calendar for Board consideration. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the 2026-27 school calendar 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 No items.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

- 6.01 Dr. Collins (on behalf of Dr. Terry Spradlin, Executive Director of Indiana School Boards Association) congratulated our School Board members for earning the 2024 Exemplary Governance Award with Commendable Honors by the ISBA. He stated the award represents an ongoing commitment to continued learning and excellence in school board service. We are Decatur Proud to honor our School Board for their commitment to our students and community. He thanked the high school team for putting together another amazing graduation. This was his first in the district and he was grateful to everyone for making this a great evening to celebrate our graduates. He thanked the Decatur Township Education Foundation for a successful fundraiser. He recognized Mrs. Tate for her new position sharing that she and Mr. Tate were some of the first staff he met when coming to Decatur Township and they both made a strong impression, are huge supporters of our kids, and are always Decatur Proud!
- 6.02 Mr. Taylor thanked everyone for coming. He recognized all of the graduates and shared that the graduation event went smoothly and appreciated the work that went into the event. He congratulated Mrs. Stone and Officer Wrespress for their well-deserved safety recognitions.

Mrs. Collins thanked everyone for coming. She congratulated Mrs. Tate on her promotion stating she knows she will do great work. She also congratulated everyone on their recognitions this evening.

Mr. Lyday stated “there is only one thing more important than educating our students and that is keeping them safe.” He congratulated Mrs. Stone and Officer Wrespress on their recognitions for school safety. He shared that Kelly Tate loves her students and has always done amazing work and congratulated her on her new position. He thanked Mr. Wachnicki for how well he does with reading all of the names at graduation.

Mr. Henson thanked everyone for coming tonight. Expressed appreciation to Mr. Wachnicki on another graduation. He thanked Ms. Johnson for coming this evening and speaking to the Board. He shared that the Education Foundation had a record year with the annual golf fundraiser this year raising \$27,545.35 that all goes back into the Foundation to support students and teachers. There were 142 golfers and 40 sponsors this year and he thanked everyone who helps to make the event a success!

Mrs. Vandeventer thanked Mr. Henson for his work on organizing the golf fundraiser for another successful year. She shared that we are Decatur Proud of Mrs. Stone and Officer Wrespress for their safety awards and to Lynwood, West Newton and Valley Mills for their “Friendly Schools” awards. She thanked Mrs. Johnson for coming to speak to the Board and Mr. Wachnicki for another phenomenal graduation.

- 6.03 Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Collins 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