

**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 10, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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 Mr. Henson, Board President, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All five board members were present.

1.02 Mr. Henson 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 two recipients of the Tomorrow Ready Award for this month:

- Joy Ayers, Administrative Assistant at Decatur Central High School – Goes above and beyond by serving as secretary in the DCHS Athletic Department and is dedicated to supporting students succeed in school, athletics, and life.
- Sue Keene, Elementary School Teacher at West Newton Elementary – Goes above and beyond to provide high quality instruction while supporting and challenging her students.
- Emily LeMay, Director of Student & Family Engagement, MSD of Decatur Township – Decatur Township Schools congratulates Mrs. LeMay on this well-deserved honor and celebrates the positive impact she continues to make every day.

3. PUBLIC HEARING (1028) DISTRICT-WIDE LONG-TERM CAPITAL MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT, VEHICLE, BUS PROJECT

3.01 Mr. Henson opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

3.02 Mr. Farmer presented information on district-wide long-term capital maintenance & equipment, vehicle, bus project.

3.03 The public was asked for any feedback and there were no questions or comments.

3.04 Mr. Henson closed the hearing.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.01 Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes for the February 11, 2025 regular meeting and executive session be approved. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4.02 Dr. McClendon presented the staff report and addendum for approval. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to approve the staff report and addendum as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4.03 Mr. Farmer presented claims in the amount of \$4,064,167.25 and payrolls in the amount of \$4,348,644.67 for approval. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the claims and payrolls be accepted as listed. Mrs. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4.04 Mr. Dixon recommended the board to approve the public bids for the Armstrong Pavilion and Expansion. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept the public bids for the Armstrong Pavilion and Expansion as presented. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4.05 Mr. Farmer recommended the board to approve the 1028/Preliminary determination/reimbursement resolutions for the 2026-2030 District-Wide Long-Term Capital Maintenance & Equipment, Vehicle, and Bus Acquisition Project. Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to accept the public bids for the Armstrong Pavilion and Expansion as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORT

5.01 Mr. Farmer presented a financial report for the Education Fund, Referendum Fund, Operations Fund, and Rainy Day Fund.

6. OTHER

6.01 Dr. Collins – Thank you to the Board for approving the staff report this evening. As part of our personnel updates, we had several exciting decisions involving new team members and staff transitions. I want to take a moment to recognize a few individuals, beginning with our new Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Greg Foster. Greg, we want to say welcome and congratulations. Mr. Foster will officially begin with us on May 18th and will work alongside Kirk as we transition the remaining responsibilities.

Mr. Gearlds – There are a lot of exciting things taking place in our board packet tonight. Dr. Collins, President Henson, and members of the Board—thank you for your approval of our staff report and addendum this evening.

Decatur Proud to introduce the new Principal of West Newton, effective July 1: Mrs. Kellie McGuffey. We are thrilled to welcome her into this role, and I know she will serve the West Newton community with great passion and leadership.

Part of our Lilly Grant Tomorrow Ready project, during the planning process, a Career Partnership Coordinator, Mr. Jack Birmingham.

Chief Smith – New Officer Patrick Jobe. Officer Jobe is a seasoned law enforcement professional with 19 years of experience across the sheriff’s department, hospital police, and university police.

Chief Smith administered the Oath of Office for School Resource Officer to Patrick Jobe.

7. CLOSING ITEMS

- 7.01 Dr. Collins – First, I want to thank and acknowledge our Police Department, Chief Harris, and their entire team as they host the 2nd Annual S.A.F.E. Program tomorrow for young ladies in our district.

Our boys’ basketball team had a big win this weekend, bringing home the Sectional Championship for the first time since 2005. I’m extremely proud of Coach and his staff for the work they do with our kids.

Congratulations to Sue and Joy. Joy’s such a work horse as she is everywhere and everything and I have stepped into the concession stand at times to jump in and help because she keeps everything running smoothly and it really is just a blessing to our district.

As for Sue, her kids even made me a joke book this year. Love going in there because the kids are always consistently engaged doing what they are supposed to do and they love their teacher. Congratulations for that.

Spring break, coming up, next Friday, will be a “no student/staff day for teachers” and we have that next week off as well so I know that are a lot of travel plans.

Congratulations Emily. Kelli: congratulations. Jack: congratulations. I want to congratulate our newest officer, Officer Jobe. Welcome to the team.

Finally, Greg, congratulations, I look forward to working with you and bringing your knowledge here to support our students and staff here in the district.

And finally, I want to remind everyone that we have two community meetings, one is coming up tomorrow night at 6PM at the DELC community room and other is March 16th at the DTSE Community Room at 6PM. It will be updates about the district and proposed changes that are going to happen with our school start & end times and bus tiers.

- 7.02 **Mrs. Vandeventer** - Thank you to everyone in attendance this evening. It is always wonderful to see a big crowd here in support of Decatur Township. Your presence matters, and it reflects the pride we all share in this community.

A special shout-out to Joy and Sue. I always appreciate when we have the opportunity to celebrate the pillars of our township—people who consistently pour into our students and our community. Thank you for all that you do.

Mrs. Lemay, congratulations on your recognition and for your leadership throughout our township. We are grateful for your service and the example you set.

Kellie, congratulations. We are so excited for your leadership at West Newton. Greg, welcome to the team. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you. Officer Jobe, welcome as well. And Jack, congratulations on your new role. Thank you all for being here and for supporting the incredible work happening across Decatur Township.

Mr. Taylor – Congratulations to Joy and Sue—you ladies did a wonderful job. Thank you for the tremendous work you have done and continue to do for our community.

Mrs. Lemay, congratulations as well on your recognition. Very well deserved.

To our boys' basketball team—nice job this weekend.

Thank you to everybody who has come on board tonight. We truly appreciate you. As you can see, we are a family here.

Mrs. Collins - Congratulations to everyone. We are really glad you are on our team and you make us better. Just keep up the good work. Enjoy spring break as it is coming soon and we will see you on the flip side.

Mr. Lyday - Sue Keene and Joy Ayers are two people who do far more than their job descriptions require, and I always want to celebrate that.

Emily, being named School Communicator of the Year is a tremendous honor.

Officer Jobe, welcome to the district.

Jack, congratulations on stepping into your new role.

Kellie, you're going to be wonderful.

And I want to give Coach Surber some well-deserved props.

Mr. Henson – I want to congratulate Joy, Sue, and Emily on being recognized this evening. Each of you brings so much value to our district, and it's wonderful to see your work acknowledged.

To our new members of the team—well, not entirely new in Greg's case—and Officer Jobe, welcome. We're excited to have you with us. Kellie, congratulations on stepping into the principal role at West Newton. And Jack, thank you for your leadership at Valley Mills and for continuing that leadership in your new position.

I also want to highlight our boys' basketball team. They represented Decatur Central and our entire district with pride. I want to wish them the best this weekend at Southport as they take on Lawrence Central. And our cheerleaders—they continue to do a great job supporting our teams. Very proud of all of them.

One last thing—I also serve on the Decatur Township Education Foundation, and you've heard about our annual golf outing in May. As of today, we already have 20 foursomes registered. That leaves 16 spots open, so if you know anyone who wants to play, send them

my way. We have tremendous support again this year. Last year, we raised \$27,544, all of which went directly back to our teachers and our kids. It's a great event for a great cause.

- 7.03 Mrs. Vandeventer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dale Henson, President

Mr. Chase Lyday, Vice President

Mrs. Judith Collins, Secretary

Mr. Larry Taylor, Member

Mrs. Estella Vandeventer, Member