

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CORPORATION
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007**

PRESENT: Matthew Hamner, Geoffrey Horen, Randall Bland, Steve Randall, Christopher Wood, Walter Bourke, Jim Snapp, Ron Blackgrave, Jim McWhirt, Barbara Fengya, Ann Puckett-Harpold, Jill Britt

The Board of Education of the Franklin Township Community School Corporation, Marion County, Indiana, met in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M. at the Administration Offices, located at 6141 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46259, on Monday, December 17, 2007. All Board Members and news media had been duly notified and the agenda properly posted.

REGULAR MEETING

President Hamner called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wood offered the prayer and read the FTCSC Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Hamner recommended that item number XII, C, Update on AVID, be moved up on the agenda to be presented between items number VI and VII. Additionally, Dr. Bourke recommended the approval of a Field Trip Request for students from Chances Alternative Program be added to number VII as item D. Mr. Bland moved to approve the agenda with the changes and Mr. Horen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Hamner called for a motion to approve the minutes of a Regular Board Meeting held on November 26, 2007. Mr. Wood motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Bland seconded the motion. It carried 5-0. Due to the fact that the minutes from an Additional Appropriations Hearing held on November 26, 2007 as well as minutes from a Work Session held on December 5, 2007 were included in the packet, but not listed individually on the agenda, Mr. Horen moved to approve those items separately. Mr. Bland seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Hamner opened the floor for comments from the community.

Jim Shields, 7540 Norma Jean Drive, Indianapolis, IN, asked if it would be possible for item number X, D, Redistricting Plan Presentation, to be moved up on the agenda.

President Hamner commented that Dr. Bourke sets the agenda and that the items are placed on the agenda in special sequence working order. He added that if he has comments regarding the redistricting he is welcome to address the Board members at this time. Dr. Bourke added that he sets the agenda according to Board Policy and it takes a Board vote to change the arrangement of these items.

President Hamner asked for a show of hands from the audience from patrons who were in attendance to listen to and comment about the redistricting plans. He commented that even though Dr. Bourke has followed Board Policy, the policy seems to be somewhat archaic and most likely needs to be revisited at a later date. He continued asking for a motion to move the Redistricting Plan Presentation up on the agenda. Mr. Randall made a motion to move the item forward on the agenda following item number VI, the Legal Report and before the Update on AVID. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Dr. Bourke stated that as part of Mr. Blackgrave's redistricting presentation, he will be sharing two public meeting dates in which the community will have an opportunity to share comments and input at that time. He commented that his presentation this evening is mainly to share the plan with Board members for their information.

President Hamner noted that there were no additional comments from the community.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Kitley reported that everything is going smoothly. He stated that we have come to an agreement with the Park Board and we are waiting to work out the fees which he feels should be resolved by the next school board meeting.

OPERATIONS REPORT – MR. RON BLACKGRAVE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Present Redistricting Plan

Mr. Blackgrave referred the Board members to the copy of the proposed redistricting maps (Exhibit #07-168) and the Redistricting Proposals (Exhibit #07-169) which were at their places and stated that this is the first time that it is being shared with anyone. He commented that they are trying to honor the guidelines that the original redistricting committee set following the redistricting meetings that took place at each elementary, which are as follows: 1) to create a “feeder system” so once a student enters an elementary s/he follows the same set of students to the same intermediate and middle schools, 2) to NOT split elementary schools for the sake of maintaining the integrity of the feeder system, and 3) to provide balanced classrooms at each of the intermediates and middle schools minimizing redistricting in the immediate future. He followed saying that, based on current enrollment numbers and trying to keep our numbers somewhat balanced, the proposal has students from Acton, South Creek, Thompson Crossing and Wanamaker feeding into Kitley Intermediate then Middle School East and the students from Adams, Arlington and Bunker Hill would be feeding into Edgewood Intermediate then Middle School West. Mr. Blackgrave commented that on January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Kitley Intermediate, we are planning to have a Community Forum to gather input from parents regarding the redistricting plan with another meeting planned for January 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. (Exhibit #07-170) He stated that the input gathered from these meetings will be used to create a plan/draft to be presented to the School Board in the near future. He also noted that we have been receiving inquiries about which special academic programs will be offered at each of the schools and stated that the Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Group has been working on those issues and have supplied the Board with a draft copy of the school programs. (Exhibit #07-171)

Mr. Bland referred to the Meeting Schedule (Exhibit #07-170) and asked if all of the meetings listed from December 18, 2007 through January 24, 2008 have to do with redistricting. Mr. Blackgrave deferred to Dr. Snapp who responded that the meetings scheduled on December 18, 19 and 20 are for parents of students in the REACH Program, following on December 27 and January 10 for parents of students in the Cluster Program, also listed are the meetings for parents of students in the ENL Program on January 9 and 16, then on January 23, Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. Eaton will provide information for parents of intermediate school students and on January 24, Mr. Thompson and Mr. McCoy will provide information for parents of middle school students. Dr. Snapp commented that the schedule is such that we wanted to provide parents plenty of opportunities to be able to gather information and provide feedback to the administration regarding the proposed changes. Mr. Bland asked Dr. Snapp how the parents are being notified of these meetings. Dr. Snapp responded that all of the parents of students in the REACH, GT, and ENL Programs received letters which included a copy of the meeting schedule via U.S. mail and all of the elementary, intermediate and middle school principals are sharing the information with their parents and staff in their newsletters following winter break. Mr. Blackgrave stated that the meeting schedule will be advertised on the website and in the local newspapers. Mr. Bland expressed his concerns for having some of the meetings scheduled during the end of December given the fact that it is the busiest time of year for families. Dr. Snapp replied that that is the reason for repeating the content of the meetings on several dates.

Mr. Hamner commented on the proposed redistricting map saying that the growth in township will not be coming from the areas that feed into Adams, Arlington and Bunker Hill because they are land locked and, as a Board member, he does not want to tell parents that their elementary school children will feed into one specific middle school and then have to change that direction in three years or so. Mr. Blackgrave stated that it is hard to project and, because of some of the households changing to include school-age children, there has recently been growth in numbers in those areas. He summarized noting that we make our educated guesses based on projections from demographers and home builders.

Mr. Blackgrave thanked Susie Fields, Transportation Supervisor, and Michelle Souders, Routing Specialist, for the large amount of time they have spent in assisting with this proposed redistricting plan. President Hamner thanked Mrs. Field for her help with the details of the proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Hamner opened the floor for comments from the community regarding the Redistricting Plan Proposal.

Jim Shields, 7540 Norma Jean Drive, Indianapolis, IN, asked what the reasons are for the Northern Community students only being assigned to one building.

Mr. Blackgrave responded that due to the fact that desegregation is being phased out and we will only have 29 Northern Community students, it is for logistical reasons as well as cost effective to only run one bus to the Northern Community and to deliver those students to just one school. He added that a more diverse population is moving into Franklin Township creating a more diverse school population throughout all of our schools.

Joyce Reynolds, 5219 Limestone Court, Indianapolis, IN, asked when the school day start and end times would be decided.

Mr. Blackgrave responded that we have discussed having a two-tier bus schedule for next year, but because we want the transportation system to run around our academic needs, we have not made any decisions yet. He stated that as they do now, the secondary schools will begin earlier than the intermediate and elementary schools, but that they are waiting on results from the community surveys to begin further discussions prior to presenting the recommendations to the Board members.

Kelly Knight, 5817 Spring Oaks Way, Indianapolis, IN, inquired that since we are going to have two middle schools are we planning to split the band, choirs, and sports so each building will have its own or will they be combined.

Dr. Snapp responded that our intent is to have full band, choirs, and sport teams at each of the intermediate and middle schools, however, the variety of clubs may vary depending on the interest at the particular school.

Dawn Downer, 10368 Shades Court, Indianapolis, IN, stated that she is a parent of a child in the REACH Program, and feels that she needs to know what the decisions are going to be regarding the separating of the current cluster children from one school into two before she can express her opinions regarding the proposed redistricting plans. She commented that it seems that decisions have already been made and she does not understand why we can't keep the cluster children on their current path and make the changes for incoming students. She added that she would like the district to take into consideration while they deliberate bussing changes that every school needs to be on an educational path to increase their ISTEP scores.

Dr. Bourke stated that Dr. Snapp is holding the community meetings for the purpose of gathering input from parents to aid in the decision making process.

Mr. Horen stated that several months ago, right or wrong, the Board directed the administrators to begin working on a redistricting plan and stated that we will be sure to make the final decision based on the best interest of the entire township.

Mr. Hamner assured Ms. Downer that the Board will not make a redistricting decision without considering the communities' comments and the consequences to the each of our schools.

Theresa Ralston, 8145 Fendler Drive, Indianapolis, IN, stated that she was on the South Creek Redistricting Committee and she is curious if there was a committee formed for this proposal. Mr. Blackgrave answered that we did not create a new committee, but took the information and recommendations from the South Creek Redistricting Committee and worked them in as potential options for this the proposal.

Ms. Ralston stated that this proposal is quite different from the proposals of the original committee. Mr. Blackgrave responded that 'yes' the feeder schools did change due to enrollment numbers and while creating the proposals we tried to keep them fairly balanced academically.

Ms. Ralston asked that the upcoming meeting schedule be better communicated and advertised to all parents not just to the REACH Program parents. Mr. Horen suggested using Connect-Ed to advertise the meeting schedule to all of the parents. Mr. Hamner agreed that this would be a great way to communicate it to everyone. Dr. Bourke stated that we have not published the dates thoroughly because we wanted to inform the Board members first and now that we have done that, we will use all of our communication tools to advertise them to the community.

Ray Swift, 7042 Samuel Drive, Indianapolis, IN, stated that he appreciates the Board's effort to receive preliminary community comments and asked what the capacity is of the new middle school and Kitley. Mr. Hamner responded that the capacity of the current middle school and Kitley Intermediate is close to 1200 students. Mr. Blackgrave added that both the new intermediate and the new middle schools will hold from 1100-1200 students each.

Mr. Swift asked if, at the upcoming redistricting meetings, the administration could offer information regarding the reasons why the district is being split with all of the growth potential feeding into one side.

Mr. Randall responded that he feels part of the reason is that the schools on the west side of the district got somewhat of a raw deal that last couple of times that we redistricted because their students have been moving to a different school every couple of years and we didn't want them to have to continue to change schools.

Mr. Swift stated that those are the items that the parents need to hear, just some of the reasons behind the proposed decisions.

Mr. Hamner commented that he would like for this redistricting decision to be the last for a number of years to try and give the students and community time to stabilize, but the fear of the unknown housing market is very much a factor in the equation.

Mr. Blackgrave added that they did discuss making Edgewood Avenue the dividing point, but had to consider the amount of school buildings in one area, etc.

Mr. Wood commented that we also need to take into consideration the amount of potential growth space on the west side of the district versus the east side. He stated that if that development happens we will most likely have to once again adjust our boundaries, but for now it is a juggling act.

Mr. Hamner commented that we have increased by almost 1400 students in the last 3 years.

INSTRUCTION REPORT – MRS. BARBARA FENGYA, DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY INSTRUCTION
Update on AVID

Mrs. Fengya reported on the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program that is currently taking place in our 8th and 9th grades. She explained that the students are average students that were invited to attend last spring and thus volunteered to participate in the program to assist in helping them succeed at a higher level. She commented that as the year progresses she will be sharing with Board members more data, but currently the ISTEP scores for the AVID students are higher than those students who are not participating in the program: 8th grade overall pass rate for English was 71% with our AVID students passing with 86%. 8th grade Math was 75% with our AVID students passing with 86%. 9th grade pass rate for English was similar with 71% with our AVID students passing with 95%. 9th grade math was 68% and our AVID students passing with 70%. Mrs. Fengya introduced the AVID students that were in attendance and asked the students to share their binders with the Board members stating that the organizational binders are one of the key components to making the program successful. She

stated that the binder includes student supplies, class materials, class notes, homework, etc. to aid in keeping the students prepared for classes, studying and test taking. She shared with Board members a sample copy of note taking paper (Exhibit #07-172) that is just one example of the tools that are included in the AVID students' binders and stated that there is content to this class which includes writing skills, items of inquiry, collaboration with teachers and other students and reading enhancement skills. The students then commented on the reasons why they feel that the AVID Program has helped them become better students with the main theme being getting and keeping them organized which results in being better prepared for their classes and for studying for tests. Mrs. Fengya thanked the students for their hard work and for coming to share their comments with the Board members. She added that the New Middle School will also be offering the AVID Program.

President Hamner thanked the AVID students for taking the time to come and speak at the meeting and thanked Mrs. Fengya as well as the teachers involved in the Program for assisting in its success.

DR. WALTER BOURKE, SUPERINTENDENT
Approve Development of the Diploma Plus High School

Dr. Bourke stated that the Board members received information regarding a Diploma Plus High School during a Special Board Meeting in October. He noted that it is a small school model that we hope to develop from our Chances Alternative School Program and in the fall it will be relocated to an area of the middle school. He added that he has previously shared with Board members a summary of the details of the grant application for the school and recommended approval of the Development of the Diploma Plus High School. Dr. Bourke stated that following the approval, the five (5) teaching positions needed to assist in the program development will be posted. He added that there will be different phases of the development that will be brought to the Board for approval.

Mr. Bland and Mr. Hamner asked what, if any, the hard and soft costs would be of the school. Dr. Bourke replied that he previously shared the 5-year budget with the members and that there should not be any additional costs to the township, only the shifting of funds as numbers of students and teachers increase and/or decrease. Mr. Bland inquired if this program is what they visited in California. Dr. Bourke responded 'no', stating that they visited a New Tech High School in California and part of the problem with that program is that it requires more of a financial commitment from the school district, but the two models do have several similarities.

Dr. Bourke continued that, with this approval, the only cost to the district will be to provide professional development for its teachers and most of that should be covered by grant funds.

Mr. Bland asked if the teaching positions would be open to all teachers. Dr. Bourke responded 'yes', that we will be following contractual procedures in identifying the staff by posting the positions internally and interviewing the applicants before making any staffing decisions.

President Hamner asked for a motion to approve the Development of the Diploma Plus High School. Mr. Horen moved for approval and Mr. Randall seconded the motion. It carried 5-0.

Approve Salary Adjustments for Directors of Elementary and Secondary Instruction

Dr. Bourke recommended approval of salary adjustments for the Director of Elementary Instruction and the Director of Secondary Instruction. He stated that these are items that have been discussed at previous Board meetings as well as a Work Session. He recommended adjusting the Director of Elementary Instruction's salary to \$95,000 and the Director of Secondary Education's salary to \$96,500 which is a total adjustment of \$17,760. President Hamner asked for a motion to approve salary adjustments. Mr. Horen made a motion to approve the adjustments for reasons stated at previous meetings and because he feels that the costs for not approving the adjustments far outweigh the costs for doing it. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Randall voting against.

Approve Position of Webmaster/Communications

Dr. Bourke recommended approval of the position of Webmaster/Communications. He explained that this item has also been discussed at previous meetings and that two positions, Communications Coordinator and Auditorium Director, have been eliminated at a savings to us at roughly \$40,000. He is recommending approval of a new position of Webmaster/Communications to keep our website current and to provide communication to the media and to our community. Mr. Hamner confirmed that the savings would be in our General Fund where we have a shortfall. Dr. Bourke agreed. Mr. Wood moved to approve the Position of Webmaster/Communications and Mr. Horen seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Randall voting against.

Approve Field Trip Request from Chances Alternative Program for Students to attend Math & Science Day at Kings Island

Dr. Bourke requested approval for the Chances Alternative Program students to take a field trip to attend Math & Science Day at Kings Island on May 2, 2008 (Exhibit No. 07-173). Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the field trip. Mr. Bland seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

DR. JIM SNAPP – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
Graduation 2009

Dr. Snapp referred Board members to the information sheet in their packets (Exhibit No. 07-174) compiled from Mr. Koers, Principal at Franklin Central High School, on possible graduation site alternatives for May, 2009. He explained that once the calendar is approved with the 2009 graduation date a definite site can be pursued. He shared that the relocation of the ceremony from the high school gymnasium is becoming more urgent due to the increase in class enrollment numbers: The graduation class of 2007 was 418, 2008 is 430, 2009 is 620, and it will remain in the 600's for a few years then jump to 700 students. Mr. Hamner commented that due to the fact that several family members of graduates were turned away from the 2007 ceremony due to facility capacity, he suggested that we investigate a venue change. Dr. Bourke stated that we currently offer eight (8) tickets to each graduate, but for some graduates that is not sufficient. Mr. Wood commented that during the last high school renovation the ceremony was moved to Butler at Hinkle Fieldhouse, which was a fantastic facility, but lacks sufficient parking spaces. Mr. Sergi, Assistant Principal at Franklin Central High School, stated that they have used Nicoson Hall at the University of Indianapolis for the ceremony, but parking was a huge concern due to the fact that the University has summer school and continuing educational students that did not have places to park. Mr. Hamner stated that he feels that the Convention Center is far more convenient than the Pepsi Coliseum. Dr. Snapp stated that when choosing a graduation day we need to stay away from the dates surrounding the 500 Race Festivities. He suggested further conversation with the Board members regarding alternative graduation sites following confirmation of the 2008-2009 Calendar at the January board meeting. Mr. Hamner commented that, if possible, he would still like to pursue an alternate site for this year's graduation ceremony due to the fact that the community complaints began last summer. Dr. Snapp agreed to investigate options, but noted that the costs for the relocation have not been budgeted and it is a substantial amount.

Updates from Toni Stevenson and Charlie McCoy

Charlie McCoy, Principal for the new Franklin Township Middle School East, reported on the progress of the building project and the implementation of the Best Practices for Middle Schools which resulted from the Young Adolescent Task Force. He shared with Board members an update on the facility stating that the building should be fully enclosed by January 2008 with the main academic sections being completed by May 15 and the remaining sections of the building being completed by June 1. He added that the athletic fields have been seeded and the sprinklers have been installed. Mr. McCoy noted that most furniture and equipment needs have been identified and quotes or bids have been sent out and are waiting to be analyzed. He commented that the new facility will provide flexibility to meet the needs of the middle school program with

excellent technology infrastructure, classroom layouts that support the implementation of Teaming and superior athletic, fine arts and practical arts facilities and programs. He thanked Lee Thompson, Principal of Franklin Township Middle School for his expertise, knowledge and guidance in helping with the transitioning from one township middle school to two. He also thanked the Board members for allowing him the opportunity to share the progress of the project. (Exhibit No. 07-175)

Dr. Bourke asked Mr. McCoy what excites him the most about what he is doing. Mr. McCoy responded that the most exciting portion of this current job is to see the excitement in all of the persons involved with the project and to see the building come to life.

Mr. Bland inquired about the textbooks for the new facility. Mr. McCoy replied that Mr. Thompson will be helping him acquire the textbooks needed to open the facility.

President Hamner thanked Mr. McCoy for his presentation and asked him to extend the Board's gratitude to everyone involved with the project. He also thanked Lee Thompson for assisting Mr. McCoy with the multi-faceted venture.

Toni Stevenson, Principal for the new Edgewood Intermediate School, reported on the progress of the building project and the implementation of small learning communities. She referred the Board members to the photo on the front of their handout showing her and her assistant principal laying a brick on the new school and commented that it was one of the highlights of the project. (Exhibit No. 07-176) She thanked the Board members for allowing her the time this year to get the building ready and for the opportunity to experience the wide variety of construction/building phases. She shared with Board members an update on the facility stating that the building was fully enclosed in November, the mock room is progressing, the cabinetry installation is beginning and the building should be substantially completed in April 2008 with a project completion date of June 10. She noted that the student and cafeteria furniture is scheduled to be delivered May 15 and the other furniture and equipment needs have been defined and will be put out to bid in mid January. Mrs. Stevenson shared the concept of smaller learning communities so the communication between the parents and the teachers will become improved and the possible schedules for the 2 and 3 Member Teaching Academy Teams and also commented on 20-minute "Team Time".

Dr. Bourke asked Mrs. Stevenson what excites her the most about what she is doing. Mrs. Stevenson responded that every day is exciting and she feels that it is wonderful to see the Kitley Intermediate Staff move from reluctance to excitement regarding the transitioning from one intermediate school to two.

President Hamner thanked Mrs. Stevenson for her update.

Mr. Horen and Mr. Randall thanked both Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. McCoy for helping out as building principal at Thompson Crossing Elementary in the absence of a full time principal. Mr. Blackgrave added his gratefulness to both for being on board to assist in construction and building decisions.

President Hamner thanked both Charlie and Toni for being mindful of the township money situation when choosing the equipment and building items for their schools.

Discussion of 2008-2009 Calendar

Dr. Snapp commented that the past practice has been to bring a draft school calendar to the Board members in January and then have it voted on in February, but that this year we are sharing 2008-2009 School Calendar (Draft 4) (Exhibit No. 07-177) with the Board because the FTEA (Franklin Township Education Association) has requested that Veterans Day be a student day. Mr. Horen commented that everyone is in agreement that Veterans Day is a special day, but asked if there was a cost involved in closing school on that day. He stated that even when the students do not attend on that day, most schools have a recognition program on another day to honor the veterans and give the students the educational aspect of the holiday. Dr. Snapp replied that the teachers are requesting it for two reasons: 1) the teachable piece is better absorbed if

school is in session on November 11 and 2) the unbalance of the days of school in each semester. Mr. Wood commented that even though we previously unanimously made Veteran's Day a non-school day, maybe if we choose otherwise, we can enhance the schools' programs for greater educational purposes that might include veteran visitations and/or schools convocations. Mr. Hamner commented that whether or not school is in session on Veterans Day, the students are still in school for 180 days and are still participating in a program on the day before or the day after November 11. Mr. Hamner asked Mr. McWhirt what the cost is for taking the day off. Mr. McWhirt responded that the cost is roughly \$42,000 for the classified staff because the teachers are under contract for a certain number of days which does not include Veterans Day. Mr. Hamner asked Mr. McWhirt to confirm that amount prior to the Board voting on the calendar at a future meeting. Dr. Snapp reported that the FTEA surveyed their members and this is the item that generated the most feedback, but that they are also aware that it is an extremely important holiday and do not want this to become an abrasive issue with the Board members. Dr. Snapp asked for direction from Board members on how to proceed. Mr. Bland stated that he is in agreement with having it become a day of school due to the fact that we are trying to save money in all directions and if this will save the corporation \$5000 or \$42,000, he is in favor of it. Dr. Snapp added that out of 100 schools poled only 2 besides ours were out of school for Veterans Day. Mr. Randall commented that to his knowledge FTEA's biggest concern is not whether or not to have school on Veterans Day. He explained that from an educational standpoint, they are concerned about breaking up a 5-day school week, but that they really don't care. Mr. Hamner commented that he feels that we are out of school for much less important events than Veterans Day and given the fact that we spend millions of dollars on building projects he would trade \$42,000 in any of those projects to be out of school on that day to honor our veterans. He added that we are here this evening speaking freely because of the millions of people who have defended our country and just because other schools are not doing it, does not have any affect on my decision to approve it. Dr. Snapp asked for the Board's direction on how to proceed. Mr. Horen commented that because it is a very passionate issue for everyone, the Board will have to decide individually what their decision will be. Dr. Bourke asked Dr. Snapp, following his meeting with the FTEA, to bring to the January Board Meeting two (2) separate calendars for Board consideration to be finalized at the February Meeting.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT – MR. JIM MCWHIRT, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS

Fund and Expenditure Summary Reports

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims

Mr. McWhirt stated that the Fund and Expenditure Summary Report (Exhibit No. 07-178) is for expenditures through November 30, 2007 and asked for questions or comments. There being no questions, he recommended approval of the Report, as well as the Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll Claims (Exhibit No. 07-179). Mr. Wood moved for approval of the reports, vouchers and claims. Mr. Bland seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Approve Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution

Mr. McWhirt recommended approval of a resolution to authorize our participation in the Indiana Bond Bank's 2007 Rollover Tax Anticipation Warrant Program for the benefit of the General Fund (Exhibit No. 07-180). He explained that due to the fact that we will not receive approximately \$6,000,000 in 2007 General Fund tax levy until sometime in 2008, we will be eligible to delay repaying about \$4,800,000 and that warrant will be repaid when we receive the 2007 taxes which are expected to be paid in 2008. He added that following the approval this evening, we will complete the required advertisements. Mr. Randall motioned to approve the Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution and Mr. Horen seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

OPERATIONS REPORT – MR. RON BLACKGRAVE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Construction Update

Mr. Blackgrave directed the Board's attention to the Construction Update (Exhibit No. 07-181) and asked for questions or comments. Mr. Wood stated that he noticed they have been working on the drainage ditch on Indian Creek and he and his neighbors appreciate that effort. Mr.

Randall asked what the timetable is on portions of the softball field complex. He asked what, if anything, was going to be done before the season began. Dr. Bourke stated that there are a couple of items that need to be done at the complex. He added that the pressbox and the platform need attention and we need fencing to secure the field, but that the overall condition of the field is within the parameters set by IHSAA. Mr. McWhirt stated that it is his opinion that the field is playable, although the 2% grade slope is within specs, it is not perfect, but does not pose a safety problem. Mr. Randall commented his problem is that we used a lot of money to build a facility based on 'no room for error', but the fact is that specifications were approved that gave us 'room for error'. Following further discussion, Mr. Horen asked for alternative, timely solutions to correcting the fields. Dr. Bourke offered the following suggestions noting that he has not spoken to the high school coaches, the athletic director or the principal: we could play the new current varsity field as it is and then fix it afterwards, we could play the varsity games on the current junior varsity fields without having a press box, we could continue playing the existing diamonds and we could sod the fields to correct the grade. Mr. Randall stated that we have been discussing correcting the fields for months and now it is too late for seeding and we still don't have it right. Mr. Blackgrave noted that part of the problem is that the property line sits next to property belonging to the Parks Department and the architects were given an area in which to put the field. Mr. Hamner stated that for future projects we need to be sure that we are approving specifications that are in the middle range instead of a high risk area. Mr. Randall made a motion to approve the corrections to the softball field in the amount of \$11,400 minus the cost of seeding which is \$2,000 to be completed by a date brought to the Board at a future meeting. He specified that the \$2,000 for seeding may be replaced by the cost of sod which is also to be determined. Mr. Horen seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Approve Changes to the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract with TAC

Mr. Blackgrave shared with Board members the results of the TAC Guaranteed Energy Saving Project that is being done at Acton Elementary, Kitley Intermediate and Franklin Central High School (Exhibit No. 07-182) and stated that we have had great success with the project. He reported that the original contingency amount was \$145,000 and with the \$32,467 in refund monies the total is \$177,467. He explained that we knew that as our facilities were being evaluated and there would be an unknown amount of repairs that would increase our energy savings and that amount is \$85,667. He recommended approval to spend some of the remaining contingency amount on these repairs. Mr. Wood commented that it is difficult to approve the repairs without detailed information about how beneficial the improvements will prove to be. Mr. Hamner stated that the previous list had detailed recuperation times and amounts on it and that this list does not give any explanations or details. Dr. Bourke suggested that we compile the details from the original document and present it to the Board members at the January Board Meeting. Mr. Blackgrave agreed to do so.

Approve Fencing for East Athletic Fields

Mr. Blackgrave recommended approval of the bid for Fencing for the East Athletic Fields in the amount of \$114,071 to Harco Asphalt Paving, Inc. (Exhibit No. 07-183) He noted that the original estimate for the fencing was over \$200,000 and, after making some adjustments, the actual bids came in much lower. Mr. Hamner asked if the bids include paving. Mr. Blackgrave responded that it does include both fencing and paving. Mr. Horen moved for approval of the fencing bid and Mr. Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT – MRS. JILL BRITT, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel Report

Mrs. Britt stated that in the Personnel Report (Exhibit 07-184) there are no newly created certified positions or classified positions, but that the report does include six (6) individuals who were employed by RISE as Instructional Assistants that as of January 1, 2008 will become FTCS employees due to the reorganization of the RISE Cooperative. There being no questions,

Mrs. Britt requested approval of the report. Mr. Wood motioned to approve the report and Mr. Horen seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

INSTRUCTION REPORT – MRS. BARBARA FENGYA, DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY INSTRUCTION & MRS. ANN PUCKETT-HARPOLD, DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION

Preliminary ISTEP Report

Mrs. Puckett-Harpold stated that we are pleased to have the results of the ISTEP testing so early in the year and that the state has worked hard to get the results to us so that we can use the data to drive instruction. She referred the Board members to the color-coded data graph that they received at their places. (Exhibit No. 07-185) She explained that our goal is to ‘go green’ or increase the numbers each and every year. She reported that the graph compares the last three years of testing and illustrates that we are going in the right direction. Mrs. Puckett-Harpold commented that we are most excited about our 8% gain in our Language Arts score from last year to this year because it reflects the hard work and dedication of our teachers and our district with the Literacy Initiative through Lilly’s. She added that, she along with Mrs. Fengya, have customized data analysis reports for each school so they and the principals can best use the DOE reports to improve academic achievement. She noted that, for the first time, we mailed all of the ISTEP reports in December instead of January to students in grades 3 through 10 and shared that more detailed data will be coming from the principals in February and March.

President Hamner thanked Mrs. Puckett-Harpold and stated that it was exciting to already have received the results of the testing.

Update on the High School Task Force

Mrs. Fengya reported to Board members that the High School Task Force has completed their work and that they had four (4) major areas that they explored which should have a big impact on instruction and the program at the high school. She stated that the areas are: 1) Duo Credit – offering more courses for duo credit, 2) Credit by demonstration of proficiency – developed guidelines that will be in place for Spring Semester of 2008, 3) Credit Recovery – selected the Nova Net Software to assist in this area hopefully by February 2008, and 4) AP Courses – AP Art History and AP Statistics will be offered next Fall. Mrs. Fengya commented that she will be bringing additional information to the Board members on each of these items in the future.

President Hamner thanked Mrs. Fengya for her work on this initiative.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT – MR. GEOFF HOREN

Mr. Horen reported that at their last meeting they reviewed their Executive Director, they had a budget discussion, they talked about timelines for grant applications, they planned the first meeting for the Fast Flash Event for 2008 and they also discussed the steps to receiving a stock donation from a township resident.

CENTRAL NINE REPORT – MR. CHRIS WOOD

Mr. Wood reported that the Central Nine Board met in Executive Session on December 13 to complete an evaluation of the Director, whose 3-year contract ends in June 2008. He stated that during the Regular meeting the program showcase was electronics with the students demonstrating a robot that they had built and taken to a competition held at Walker Career Center. He noted that they also approved salary increases for the non-certified staff for 2008, Adult Education Teaching contracts, and are setting up a new GED testing site in Edinburgh. He added that they voted not to renew the current Director’s contract at the end of June and will immediately begin a search for his replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Randall moved to adjourn the meeting. President Hamner declared the meeting adjourned 10:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Matthew L. Hamner, President

Christopher Wood, Secretary

Geoffrey W. Horen, Vice President

Steve Randall, Member

Randall Bland, Member