

August 10, 2020
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020 at Freedom Middle School, 750 New Highway 96 West, Franklin, with the following members present:

Tim Stillings, Chair
Robert Blair, Vice Chair
Allena Bell
Kevin Townsel
Alicia Barker
Robin Newman

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden by phone, Dr. Mary Decker, Dr. David Esslinger, Mark Anderson, Drew Bingham, Principals and members of the Leadership Team, FSSDEA and parents.

The August 10, 2020 Board Meeting was live streamed at <https://youtu.be/3328Fp5iqwo> .

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Stillings called the meeting to order at 6:33. An announcement regarding COVID-19 safety precautions was made at the beginning of the meeting: all attendees were screened as they entered the building with temperatures taken, seats have been physically distanced, masks may be removed for speaking or if properly distanced, otherwise masks are requested to be worn if possible. A moment of silence was requested for students, faculty, administration, parents and those grieving for the loss of their loved ones.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

FMS Principal Dr. Charles Farmer welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

No one from the public addressed the Board.

IV. REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

- 1. Teaching and Learning Spotlight**, "Get to Know the Teaching & Learning Team: Safety and Attendance Supervisor Celby Glass" – Presented by Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director (on file), Mrs. Celby Glass addressed the Board with updates on attendance procedures that are in effect this year due to remote and virtual learning.
- 2. Construction Report** – Presented by Dr. David Esslinger, Associate Director (on file).

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the board agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Robert Blair **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

The items on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

1. Minutes of Board Meeting dated July 20, 2020
2. 2020-21 Extended Contract Proposals
3. Surplus: 2008 Thomas Built Type D School Bus
4. Budget Amendments

VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

Consideration of:

- 1. Approval of Bid for Liberty Elementary Renovations** – The bids for the LES renovations were opened on Thursday, July 30, 2020. Architects for HFR Design have reviewed the bids and verified that the license classification for the General Contractor and Subcontractors listed on the Bid Envelope are current. The positive news for this project is that the total cost was estimated to be between \$10.5 and \$11 million and the total bid came in, including all alternates, at \$8.345 million. The successful low bidder for the LES project was submitted by Romach, Inc. HFR Design’s Stephen Griffin (Senior Vice President) and Jared Brown (Designer) were on hand to answer questions. The administration recommended approval to award the LES renovation contract to Romach, Inc. for the lump sum fee of \$8,345,000.00.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve the **Bid for Liberty Elementary Renovations as submitted**. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion. **By roll call vote**, the motion **passed 6-0**.

- 2. Resolution in Support of Moratorium on State Standardized Testing FY 20-21** – This Resolution “supports and respectfully requests a moratorium on state standardized testing and accountability associated with such testing for FY 2020-21, to include end-of-year examinations and formative assessments throughout the year. The Franklin Special School District Board of Education requests that, if state standardized testing does continue in some format for FY 2020-21 school year, the results of that testing be used as metrics of student progress rather than to determine district rankings and scorings statewide, due to the disparity in learning methods that will be used across the state in light of COVID-19 and focus on recoupment of students’ academic and social/emotional skills lost during the extended school closure.” The administration recommended adopting this Resolution.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the **Resolution in Support of Moratorium on State Standardized Testing FY 20-21** as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 3. Policy Revision: Reporting Child Abuse (6.409) – 2nd Reading** – TSBA Director of Policy & Staff Attorney recommends revising this policy to align with new law enacted by the General Assembly, effective August 1st, which makes significant changes to several statutes that govern child abuse reporting requirements. Two of the most notable changes are: (1) the requirement to have one employee designated as the Child Abuse Coordinator at each school; and (2) the prohibition against notifying parents/guardians when educational officials suspect child abuse may have occurred. The name of the policy is also updated to reflect the content of the policy. There were no changes requested by the Board upon first reading. The administration recommended approval of the second reading.

Tim Stillings made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions for **Reporting Child Abuse (6.409)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 4. Policy Revision: Student Records (6.600) – 2nd Reading** - This revision request updates legal and cross references as well as brings the policy up to current language. It is included in consideration of approval due to the request for deletion of the Student Records policy (6.603) which contains duplicate language. There were no changes requested by the Board upon first reading. The administration recommended approval of the second reading.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions for **Student Records (6.600)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 5. Policy Deletion: Use of Records (6.603) – 2nd Reading** – As stated for Policy 6.600, this request for deletion is due to both policies containing the same language. The administration recommended approval of the second reading for deletion.

Allena Bell made a **motion** for the second reading to delete **Use of Records (6.603)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

VII. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- Dr. Snowden acknowledged our principals, assistant principals, members of the Leadership Team, and all employees of the district for the hard work and planning to make a smooth beginning of school in spite of COVID-19.
- **Opening of Schools Recap** – Personnel returned on Monday, August 3rd with professional learning occurring throughout the district, which included departmental personnel and school personnel. Included in the learning that day and the following days was orientation on health protocols that will be strictly followed, as well as student learning methods and scheduling for our first days back. Chromebooks and

chrome tablets are due to be distributed at the end of this week, August 6 and 7. Our Pre-K, Kindergarten through Grade 2 as well as other select groups of students will begin in-person learning on August 10th, while our remaining students in grades 3-8 will begin the year with remote learning. Virtual Learning classes will also begin the week of August 10th for students whose families have selected that option for the first semester. We currently have 844 students who will attend our Virtual Learning model.

- **Monitoring of COVID-19 Data Spread & Decisions For Total In-Person Learning** - We continue to review the COVID-19 Data in the County and locally. The trend over the past week to ten days continues to demonstrate a decrease in the spread. We attribute that decrease to the overwhelming response of the community to the utilization of masks, social distancing and other mediation protocols being followed. While there is some anxiety regarding how our limited in-person opening of schools will impact the spread, we are optimistic the mediation protocols will greatly reduce the chances of spread in schools. However, realistically, just as in other school districts that have opened in Tennessee and other states, we do expect to have positive cases and exposures to COVID-19. We have procedures and protocols in place to address those occurrences as effectively and efficiently as possible. We will provide timely notifications to parents and employees and will be transparent with information within the guidelines and compliance of HIPAA and any related confidentiality requirements.
- **Recent retirements/resignations** – Over the past couple of days and weeks, we have experienced an unusually higher number of late retirements/resignations. We speculate many of these are directly or indirectly related to COVID-19. Additionally, our substitute pool is still low and this is definitely concerning if we do begin to see an unusually high number of absences due to COVID-related issues and/or other health/family related factors. Mrs. Duke, Human Resources Supervisor, told the Board that we are still receiving applications to fill late resignations and retirements.
- **Upcoming conferences and meetings:** the Board received updates on upcoming educational opportunities for Board members with their packet.

X. UPDATES

Teaching & Learning – Dr. Decker provided the following (on file):

- Demographics for August 2020

Finance & Administration – Dr. Esslinger provided the following (on file):

- Personnel Change Report July/August 2020
- Investment Report dated 6-30-2020
- Revenue and Expenditure Reports dated 8-4-20
- Sales Tax Revenue Comparison Report for August

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Esslinger reported that tax collection received is 1.4% lower than last year at this time.
- Mr. Stillings congratulated Mr. Townsel, Mr. Blair and Dr. Barker for their re-election for another four-year term. Our three Board members ran unopposed in the August election.
- Mr. Stillings announced that Dr. Snowden will be receiving the 2020 Williamson County Boy Scouts of America Good Scout Award, which is a tribute to those who live their lives through Boy Scout ideals.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stillings adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Chair Date

ATTEST:

Secretary Date