

September 14, 2020
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020 at Franklin Elementary School, 1501 Figuers Drive, Franklin, with the following members present:

Alicia Barker
Robert Blair
Robin Newman
Tim Stillings
Kevin Townsel
Joining by phone: Allena Bell

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden, Dr. Mary Decker, Dr. David Esslinger, Mark Anderson, Drew Bingham, Leslie Duke, Celby Glass, Dr. Cindy Cook, Amanda Whitley, Josh Bracamontes, Lisa Chatman, Dr. Gina Looney, Amy Fisher and other staff, principals, teachers, FSSDEA, community members and parents.

A recording of the September 14, 2020 Board Meeting may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqW7m623dhA>.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Before calling the meeting to order, Chair Stillings read a statement regarding a recent online reposting in which he recounted the sequence of events involved and attempts at amending the damage caused within the district and community, having apologized publicly and privately.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37. Following COVID-19 safety precautions, it was announced that all attendees were screened as they entered the building, seats placed physically distanced, and masks may be removed for speaking or if properly distanced, otherwise masks should be worn if possible. A moment of silence was requested for students, faculty, parents and community.

Vice Chair Blair recognized Mrs. Bell would be joining the meeting by phone, having been recognized, and by State of Tennessee Executive Order No. 60 would have full voting privileges and the meeting would be conducted as usual. *Note:* The Governor's Order No. 60 extends remote meetings due to COVID-19 and allows members of a governing body to participate in a meeting of the governing body where some may participate in the same physical location while other members participate in the meeting electronically, so long as the governing body complies with all the conditions and requirements with respect to that meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

FES Principal Mrs. Anne Riley welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeff Bivins gave the Oath of Office to re-elected Board members Robert Blair, Alicia Barker and Kevin Townsel. Oaths were signed. Certificates of Election will be forthcoming from the Election Commission when they are signed by their Board. Congratulations to Mr. Blair, Dr. Barker and Mr. Townsel!

IV. 2020-21 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Board Policy 1.200 establishes September as the date the Board organizes through the election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. As Director of Schools, Dr. Snowden opened the floor for nomination of the 2020-21 Board.

Robin Newman nominated a **slate of officers for 2020-21** as follows:

Chairman: Robert Blair
Vice Chair: Alicia Barker
Treasurer: Allena Bell
Secretary: Kevin Townsel

Dr. Snowden asked for other nominations and hearing none called for the vote.

The slate of officers nominated was elected unanimously by roll call vote, 6 ayes and 0 naves.

V. RECOGNITION/GOOD NEWS AWARDS

Good News Awards: Highlighted were (on file): Database Manager Mr. Drew Bingham and Instructional Technology Dr. Cindy Cook, who both passed the exam to earn their Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) certification. The CETL® program, sponsored by the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), is the only practice-based certification program available to education technology leaders that bridges technical knowledge, understanding of the educational environment, leadership and vision, and the management of technology and support resources needed to integrate technology across the curriculum to advance student outcomes. Also recognized was **Amanda Parks** for writing and securing a 3-year, \$240,693 Lottery for Education Afterschool Programs (LEAPs) grant with funding 1) to provide over 60 FSSD families attending FES, PGES, PGMS and LES to access the MAC program on a sliding scale with scholarships, 2) to support academic tutoring in math and reading and homework assistance, and 3) to provide funding for several new enrichment classes including LEGO Education Robotics, STEM hands on science and technology classes, and Frisbee Golf.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

- Betsy Vernon, 233 Sontag Drive, Franklin – Spoke against actions which promote systematic bias, injustice and hatred based on race, gender, sex, religion and ability, and in support of an updated policy on Anti-Racism and Discrimination, as well as all behavioral policies for FSSD.
- Dustin Koctar, 712 Heritage Court, Franklin – Franklin Justice & Equity Coalition Board Member and FSSD parent - Spoke for the Board to hold accountable racism and in support to remove or have voluntary removal of Mr. Stillings from the Board based on his actions.
- Walter Simmons, 20 Prescott Drive, Franklin – Pastor of Franklin Community Church and Franklin Justice & Equity Coalition Board Member - As an African American community leader spoke in support of Board leadership in removal of Mr. Stillings due to two occasions of online racism.
- Dr. Christopher Boles, 1051 Huntsman Circle – Parent and local Chiropractor – Spoke against the wearing of masks for students and for promoting a healthy immune system, interest in sponsoring a quality water machine at MES for this cause.
- Brant Bousquet, 1094 Battlefield Drive, Franklin – Grandfather, past Hard Bargain Executive Director, Rotary Club member - Spoke upholding Rotarian Four-Way Test of making decisions: is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it bring goodwill and better friendships, will it be beneficial to all, as well as against actions of Mr. Stillings. He also called for the Board to consider term limits of service on the Board.

VI. REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

1. **Teaching and Learning Spotlight**, The Continuous Learning Plan (CLP)" – Presented by Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director (on file),
2. **Construction Report** – Presented by Dr. David Esslinger, Associate Director (on file).
3. **2020-21 Community Pre-K Advisory Council Board Representative** – Mr. Townsel will be serve as the Board representative.
4. **2020-21 TSBA Legislative Liaison** – Mrs. Newman will serve in this capacity.
5. **2020 TSBA Convention Delegates** – Mrs. Bell, Dr. Barker and Mr. Townsel will serve as the delegates at this year's TSBA Convention.

VII. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

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

VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Robin Newman

seconded the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

The items on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

1. **Minutes of Board Meeting dated August 10, 2020**
2. **Minutes of Special Called Meeting dated September 10, 2020**
3. **Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority Appointment** – Dr. JP Orman, Mrs. Tosha Robinson-Baugh and Dr. Joel Hoag have been selected for Board approval to serve on this panel.
4. **Budget Amendments**

IX. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

Consideration of:

1. **Bond Refunding Resolution** - A resolution is the next step in the process for the advance refunding of all or a portion of the aggregate principal amount not to exceed fourteen million eight hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$14,860,000,000) of the Series 2014 Bonds and the Series 2016 Bonds dated September 4, 2014 and May 18, 2016, respectively. The purpose of the possible refunding is for the monetary savings. The present value savings is estimated to be between \$700,000 and \$800,000. Also, if the market changes significantly prior to the actual refunding, the district does not have to complete the transaction. Mr. Whit Moloney, Sr. VP of Piper Sandler will be in attendance to answer any questions related to the resolution and the process. The administration recommended approval of the resolution.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the Bond Refunding Resolution for the advance refunding of all or a portion of the aggregate principal amount not to exceed fourteen million eight hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$14,860,000,000) of the Series 2014 Bonds and the Series 2016 Bonds dated September 4, 2014 and May 18, 2016, respectively, for the issuance of approximately \$14,860,000 Limited Tax School Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2020. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6 ayes and 0 nays**.

2. **Annual Contract to Audit Accounts** - Matlock Clements, P.C. has provided the contracts to conduct financial audits of the FSSD for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a fixed auditor fee of \$28,500. The fee is the same amount that has been in our contracts for the past eight years. There are two contracts, one for the district accounts and one for the individual school activity funds. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the contracts to conduct financial audits of the FSSD by Matlock Clements, P.C., for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as presented, with a fixed auditor fee of \$28,500. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6 ayes and 0 nays**.

3. **Resolution in Support of BEP Hold Harmless Legislation for the 2021-22 School Year** – Since the Basic Education Program funding is based on the previous year (funding for this year is based on the 2019-20 average daily attendance), presented for your approval and signatures is a resolution for public school districts to be held harmless for the decrease in student populations for the 2020-21 year due to COVID-19, which will affect the 2021-2022 school year. The administration recommended approval.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve the Resolution in Support of BEP Hold Harmless Legislation for the 2021-22 School Year. The Resolution was signed by each member of the Board. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

4. **Policy Revision: Transfers Within the System (6.206) – 1st Reading** - This revision request is to update the policy to current procedure and clarify language. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Transfers Within the System (6.206)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

5. **New Policy: Title IX & Sexual Harassment (6.3041) – 1st Reading** - The U.S. Department of Education has recently released updated Title IX regulations, effective as of August 14th, that require school districts to respond to allegations of sexual harassment in very specific ways. TSBA has reviewed these regulations and created a new model policy to align with the updated requirements. Per TSBA, because the new regulations go into more detail about what is required of school districts when they respond to claims of sexual harassment, TSBA has created a stand-alone model policy to align with those requirements. Fully complying with the new regulations will require a combination of reviewing and updating current policies and procedures, training staff, and ensuring that appropriate notification of these changes are publicized to the community. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the new policy **Title IX & Sexual Harassment (6.3041)** as presented and to waive the 2nd Reading. Robert Blair **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

6. **Policy Revision: Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation (6.304) – 1st Reading** - This policy revision updates language for clarity. It is a recommended update from TSBA, of note to highlight the differences between this and the Title IX & Sexual Harassment policy. The administration recommended approval.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation (6.304)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

7. **Policy Revision: Student Concerns (6.305) – 1st Reading** - As part of our policy subscription with TSBA, this policy was reviewed in conjunction with the creation of the Title IX policy for 1st Reading at this month's meeting. The revision is suggested by the TSBA Policy Department to avoid creating conflicts with other policies in this section, becoming more condensed and focused on responding to general student complaints rather than creating a formal grievance process. The title also changes with this revision request. A standard form for filing a concern with the school will be available in our district procedures manual, which is currently in process for district use. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Concerns (6.305)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

8. **Policy Revision: Zero Tolerance Offenses (6.309) – 1st Reading** - This revision request is part of the updates with the group of student discipline policies which include 6.316, 6.317 and 6.319. This policy has been reviewed and rewritten by TSBA to streamline the language and to ensure there are no conflicts with the update in law. Legal and cross references have also been updated. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Zero Tolerance Offenses (6.309)** as presented and waive the second reading Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

9. **Policy Revision: Suspension/Expulsion/Remand (6.316) – 1st Reading** - With recent review of student discipline policies by TSBA, this policy is being presented adding additional language for suspension longer than five and longer than ten days, as well as reference updates to current law. Procedures in this policy will be available in our district procedures manual, which is currently in process for district use. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Suspension/Expulsion/Remand (6.316)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

10. **Policy Revision: Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (6.317) – 1st Reading** - This revision request is part of the updates with the group of student discipline policies which include 6.309, 6.316 and 6.319. This policy has been reviewed and streamlined by TSBA to ensure there are no conflicts with the update in law, along with updating references. The administration recommended approval.

Robert Blair made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (6.317)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

11. **Policy Revision: Alternative Education (6.319) – 1st Reading** - TSBA recommends revision of our current policy based on the recent passage of the General Assembly’s Public Chapter 603 “which clarifies that students who commit zero tolerance offenses are not required to be placed in alternative schools or programs. Additionally, the State Board recently approved a regulation clarifying the differences between alternative schools and programs as well as the reasons that may justify removing a student from an alternative school or program.” This policy also changes its name from “Alternative School Programs” to “Alternative Education” to align with the updates. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve 1st Reading of the revisions for the policy **Alternative Education (6.319)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

VII. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- **Grades 3-8 Students Returned to In-Person Learning on August 24th** - The return for students in grades 3-8 has been very successful thanks to the great work accomplished by our faculty/staff and our administrators. There were a lot of hours spent in planning and preparation prior to the full return and it all paid huge dividends. As we previously stated, we knew there would be COVID cases and everyone has followed the plans and protocols when there have been cases. Our local health department has been a great partner, as they determined what individuals should be quarantined after schools provided pertinent information related to close contacts. We continue to follow the health protocols of conducting temperature checks prior to entering the buildings, the wearing of face coverings, social distancing, the constant expectation of hand-washing and the continuous sanitizing from our custodians and other employees. We so appreciate the cooperation and support of our FSSD families in helping to meet these protocols. We believe these protocols have helped to keep the number of cases at a low number.
- **Monitoring of COVID-19 Data Spread** – We continue to review the COVID-19 Data in the County and locally. We will continue to provide weekly notifications to parents and employees and will be transparent with information within the guidelines and compliance of HIPAA and any related confidentiality requirements.
- **Feeding Program update** – In the past week, the USDA announced that all Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option waivers have been extended, dependent upon available funding. As a district **free** breakfast and lunch may be served to **all** children moving forward. Information has been disseminated to all FSSD families and extended to the community by social media and Blackboard Connect calls. Pick up sites and times are being arranged for those families with children who are not FSSD students. At this time free meal provisions are through December, but we are awaiting notice that this will be extended through the end of the school year due to the hardships many have experienced through the COVID illness.

- **Director of Schools Advisory Council** - The members of the Director of Schools Advisory Council have been selected from each site. Our first meeting is scheduled for October 15th. The Advisory Council is composed of an employee and alternate from each school, representatives from the central office, the central office annex, FSSDEA, maintenance/landscaping and transportation. The meetings offer opportunities to celebrate successes at each site/department, as well as to bring concerns and questions to the Director of Schools.
- **Complaint Managers for the FSSD** - The Director of Schools has appointed the Associate Directors or designees as Complaint Managers for the FSSD in accordance with the Complaints and Grievances Policy (5.501).
- **Fall Break** - The FSSD's student Fall Break will occur October 5-9. District offices will be closed as well during this time.
- **Conferences and meetings update:** the Board received updates on upcoming educational opportunities for Board members with their packet.
- **TSBA 2020 Fall District Meeting** - Dr. Snowden thanked the Board for their virtual 100% attendance at this meeting.

X. UPDATES

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

- Demographics for September 2020
- 2019-20 Civil Rights and Bullying Compliance Report

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

- Personnel Change Report August/September 2020
- Investment Report dated 7-31-2020
- Revenue and Expenditure Reports dated 9-8-20
- Sales Tax Revenue Comparison Report for September

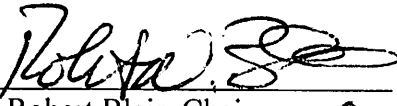
XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Esslinger reported that tax collection received was an increase of 5.1% over this time last year.
- Mr. Townsel noted that from what he has observed, remote learning has been incredible and commends teachers that have become ZOOM educators; he has been impressed with engagement of kids.
- Mrs. Newman reported that her neighbors with children back in school have been very positive, the children have missed being in school; her virtual neighbors are also reporting positive experiences.
- Mr. Blair announced that groundbreaking occurred last week for the district PAC, Legacy Gallery and PGES gymnasium, and he is looking forward to these projects

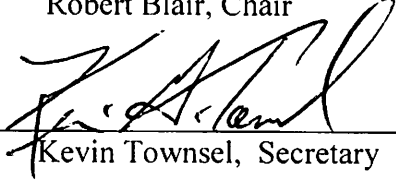
coming to fruition.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Robert Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.



Robert Blair, Chair 10/19/2020
Date

ATTEST: 

Kevin Townsel, Secretary 10/19/20
Date