

April 12, 2021
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021, at Poplar Grove Middle School, 2959 Del Rio Pike, Franklin. A link to the recording may be found at <https://youtu.be/YzlW5v56RFc>.

The following members were present: Chair Robert Blair, Alicia Barker, Allena Bell, Robin Newman, Tim Stillings and Kevin Townsel.

Others present were: Dr. David Snowden, Dr. Mary Decker, Dr. David Esslinger, Carol Riordan, Susannah Gentry, Mark Anderson, Drew Bingham, principals and other district leadership team members, FSSDEA and media.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Poplar Grove Middle Principal Dr. Chris Treadway welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Robert Blair called for a moment of silence.

III. RECOGNITION/GOOD NEWS AWARDS

1. Good News Awards: Highlighted were (on file):

FSSD Teachers of the Year (descriptions on file) –

- **Elementary Teacher of the Year** – Patrick Bourn (FES Music)
- **Middle Grades Teacher of the Year** – Laura Boyd (PGMS Spanish)
- **Building Level Teachers of the Year** –
Michael Stanley (FIS Music)
Drew Wilkerson (JES 1st grade)
Katie Giles (LES 1st grade)
Mandy Wiemers (MES Reading Coach)
Mallory Hamby (PGES Art)
Priscilla Conerly (FMS ELA)

Cornerstone Financial Credit Union for sponsoring our Teachers of the Year by providing \$500 to each of the FSSD Teachers of the Year and \$100 to each of the Building Level Teachers of the Year. Brendan Olsen, Business Development Officer from Cornerstone, was on hand to present the monetary awards.

Principal of the Year – Dr. Joel Hoag, FIS

Supervisor of the Year – Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director for Teaching Learning.

The Principal of the Year and Supervisor of the Year received crystal awards.

2. PGMS 5th grader Audrey Townsend, FSSD Student Artist of the Month for April.

Our Artists of the Month for December through May will be invited to and honored at

the May Board meeting.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

No one addressed the Board during Public Input.

V. REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

1. **Teaching and Learning Spotlight, "A Different Kind of Kindergarten Roundup"** – presented by Dr. Decker. Schools this year will introduce upcoming Kindergartners to their schools by videos. Links will be emailed to parents, as well as posted on our website for their viewing. More can be found in the Summary of T&L Activity for April.
2. **Mid-Year Instructional Data Review – presented by Summer Carlton, Dr. Gina Looney, and the Instructional Technology team** – A PowerPoint was used for visual to this presentation of iReady comparison of data to show our students' progress during this year as compared to a typical year as well as to the national data.
3. **Construction Report and Bond Funded Project Review** – presented by Dr. Esslinger (on file).

VI. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

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

VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

Approved under Consent Agenda (on file) were:

1. **Minutes of Board Meeting dated March 8, 2021**
2. **Minutes of Special Called Meeting dated March 29, 2021**
3. **Minutes of Work Session dated March 29, 2021**
4. **Surplus: Kitchen Equipment**
5. **Budget Amendments**

VIII. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. **Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Limited Tax School Improvement Bonds** – The Board passed a resolution at the November 4, 2020 meeting to ask the General Assembly to amend Chapter 563 of the Private Acts of 1949 to authorize the FSSD to issue and sell school bonds and notes in an aggregate principal amount of not to

exceed forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000). The current proposed resolution authorizes the issuance of bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$23,000,000. If approved, the school district will have the ability to approve other resolutions which would total no more than an additional \$22,000,000. We appreciate Senator Johnson and Representative Whitson for their willingness to sponsor the legislation in the General Assembly earlier this year and we also appreciate the support of Representatives Casada and Ogles in the process as well. Whit Moloney from Piper Sandler and Jeffrey Oldham of Bass Berry and Sims were present to answer questions related to the issuance. The administration recommended approval of the resolution as presented.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the **Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Limited Tax School Improvement Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$23,000,000**. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion. A question during discussion was what the time frame would be to consider an additional resolution for the remaining \$22 million, which Mr. Moloney responded that the time frame was open ended as it was needed. **By roll call vote**, the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Limited Tax School Improvement Bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$23,000,000 **carried by unanimous roll call vote 6-0**.

2. **Director of Schools Performance Goals FY 2021-22** – Mr. Townsel led this agenda item: updates from the previous work session were reviewed by the Board before voting on the Performance Goals for the upcoming year.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the **Director of Schools Performance Goals FY 2021-22** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

3. **Policy Revision: School and District Goals (1.700) – 2nd Reading** – TSBA has provided model policies regarding educator diversity following the State Board of Education’s February meeting, where they adopted a policy on this topic to require local education agencies to set goals for educator diversity. TSBA recommends that Boards revise their policies to reflect this responsibility. These goals must be submitted to the TDOE in the 2021-2022 school year. While templates of the submittal have not been issued by the TDOE as of yet, our Human Resources Department has been actively addressing this challenge through a detailed plan of recruitment to enhance our diversity to more accurately reflect our student population. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval of the 2nd Reading.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the 2nd Reading of revisions for the policy School and District Goals (1.700) as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

4. **Policy Revision: Equal Opportunity Employment (5.104) – 2nd Reading** – This revision is included in the policy updates as part of the review of the personnel policies being presented for consideration. Revisions are to bring the policy up to

date. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval of the 2nd Reading.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the 2nd Reading of revisions for the policy Equal Opportunity Employment (5.104) as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

5. **Policy Revision: Recruitment of Employees (5.105) – 2nd Reading** – This revision is also part of the review of personnel policies due to the change in State BOE policy adoption regarding educator diversity. Language has been added to this policy as well as bringing it up to date. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval of the 2nd Reading.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the 2nd Reading of revisions for the policy Recruitment of Employees (5.105) as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

6. **Policy Revision: Food and Culinary Services Management (3.500) – 2nd Reading** – This revision updates the policy to the new departmental name as well as adding to policy updated district faculty and staff payment responsibility. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1st Reading. The administration recommended approval of the 2nd Reading.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the 2nd Reading of revisions for the policy Food and Culinary Services Management (3.500) as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

IX. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- **New District Website** – Dr. Snowden acknowledged Susannah Gentry, Mark Anderson and Drew Bingham for their integral work on our new website, and invited the Board members to take the opportunity to look around our new platform.
- **Update of Monitoring of COVID-19 Data Spread** – We had over 400 of our personnel get their second immunization through the FSSD clinic at the Ag Center March 27th! The process, like the first vaccination, went very smoothly. We are so thankful for our partnership with the Emergency Management Agency and the Williamson County Health Department which helped to make this endeavor possible. Dr. Snowden also expressed appreciation to Amy Fisher and all the school nurses, Celby Glass, Lisa Chatman and other FSSD employees who helped provide such success. Some employees received vaccinations at other locations outside the district event as well. We do plan to continue to utilize our mask and other safety protocols at this point since we continue to have a few positive cases yielding several quarantines. Our schools continue to develop plans for many of their traditional year-end events to reward the efforts of our students. The schools will continue to utilize the safety protocols as they strive to accommodate as many guests as possible.

Recently, FIS hosted an event for in-coming 5th grade parents so they could physically visit the school. Instead of the traditional one-night event, the opportunity was held over two nights utilizing our safety protocols. The parents were very complimentary of the school's efforts to host.

- **Update on Property Purchase** – The district's legal counsel is continuing to develop the contract language for the purchase of the Eddy Lane property. We anticipate the contract to be completed and ready to review within the next few days.
- **Summer Learning Camps** – We are pleased to have selected two of our Leadership Internship colleagues for the FSSD Summer Learning Camps – Dr. Starr Wallace will be the grades 1-4 camp administrator, and Dr. Cinamon Collins will lead the grades 5-8 camp as administrator. They are both highly respected teachers and we look forward to working with them in preparation and the implementation of the camps. The Summer Learning Camp (1-4) and Learning Loss Bridge Camp (5-8 and “summer school” students) will be held simultaneously at FES June 1-24 Monday through Thursday with breakfast and lunch provided. A third “streaming” camp is scheduled for the Fall to address further learning loss concerns. This camp may or may not be approved to be held during the school day.
- **Young Scholars Institute** – To be held the weeks of June 7th and June 14th at Freedom Intermediate, registration went online April 1st. As noted at the last meeting, our T&L team has redesigned the camp structure to ensure health and safety protocols can be followed. Since we were not able to host YSI last summer, we are excited to offer this opportunity to our students and families this year. 341 are currently registered for Week 1 and 285 registered for Week 2.
- **Budget Process FY 2021-2022** – As we have noted before, the proposed dates for the budget work sessions are **April 26 (Monday), May 20 (Thursday) and June 21 (Monday)**. The first session will concentrate on the Operations Budgets for both Finance & Administration and Teaching & Learning. Revenue and Personnel will be the focus in the second work session. The third work session will review the cumulative impact of the budget work from the first two sessions and facilitate the possible completion of the budget process.
- **Retiring Teachers and Staff** – Although we would certainly like to honor our retirees with a district celebration they so deserve, we are still hesitant to gather in such large groups. Our Leadership group will be discussing alternative ways to honor our teachers and staff at our next meeting.
- **Conferences and meetings** – Updates have been provided to Board members.

X. UPDATES

Teaching & Learning – Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director for Teaching & Learning, provided the following (on file):

