

May 10, 2021
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, at Franklin Elementary School, 1501 Figuers Drive, Franklin. A link to the recording may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6Jo4sfZQ54> .

The following members were present: Chair Robert Blair, Alicia Barker, Robin Newman, Tim Stillings and Kevin Townsel. Not present: Allena Bell

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

Franklin Elementary Principal Mrs. Anne Riley 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. Classified Employees of the Year (descriptions on file):

- 2021 Classified Employee of the Year – Amy Fisher, R.N. (District Nurse)
- Department and School Level Employees of the Year:
 - Sandra Deal, R.N. (FES School Nurse)
 - Dywonne Whitmore (LES Café Manager)
 - Sherry Sanders, R.N. (MES School Nurse)
 - Vicky Gish, R.N. (PGES School Nurse)
 - Vicki Dean (PGMS Paraprofessional)
 - Jamie King (FIS Custodian)
 - Sondra Ellison, R.N. (FMS School Nurse)
 - Marne' Price (CO/Annex Food & Culinary Services Operations Assistant)
 - Caleb Hime (Transportation/Maintenance/Landscaping)

Thanks to First Horizon Bank for sponsoring 2020 and 2021 Classified Employees of the Year with monetary gifts; Joe Walker of First Horizon was on hand for the presentation.

2. Extraordinary Service Awards (descriptions on file): These recognitions were given to thank a group of incredibly dedicated essential workers:

- Sheila Albert, R.N. (FIS School Nurse)
- Liz Cowan, R.N. (PGMS School Nurse)
- Sandra Deal, R.N. (FES School Nurse)
- Sondra Ellison, R.N. (FMS School Nurse)
- Jennifer Florida, R.N. (LES School Nurse)

- Vicky Gish, R.N. (PGES School Nurse)
- Sherry Sanders, R.N. (MES School Nurse)
- Amy Fisher, R.N. (JES School Nurse and District Nursing Coordinator and FSSD COVID-19 Response Team Member)
- Celby Glass (FSSD Safety and Attendance Supervisor and FSSD COVID-19 Response Team Member)

Each recipient received a crystal award with gold accents.

3. **Good News Awards: Highlighted were FSSD Student Artists of the Month** – artwork from these artists appear on birthday cards given to employees (descriptions on file):
- May - Ava Shaw (FIS 6th grader)
 - April - Audrey Townsend (PGMS 5th grader)
 - March - Kate Walters (FES Kindergartner)
 - February - Seanna Bucknor (FMS 8th grader)
 - January – Molly Moore (PGES 4th grader)
 - December – Gunnar Guidry (PGES 2nd grader)
 - November - Kinley Holland (JES 2nd grader, recognized at November meeting)
 - October – Peyton Easley (LES 4th grader)
 - September – Alexandra Morris (MES 4th grader)

Each Artist of the Month received a \$15 gift card from Sonic as well as having their art on display in a poster size dry mount for the meeting.

4. **Tennessee Behavior Supports 2021 Model Schools** (descriptions on file): Five of our schools have been awarded RtI²-B Model of Demonstration schools by the Tennessee Behavior Supports Project at Vanderbilt University: PGES, PGMS and LES; FIS and FMS have been named Bronze Level award recipients.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

No one addressed the Board during Public Input.

V. REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

1. **Teaching and Learning Spotlight:** *"Get to Know the Teaching and Learning Team"*, the focus is on Dr. Looney this month. Dr. Gina Looney gave her background and the overview of her role as District Reading and RtI Coordinator. More can be found in the Summary of T&L Activity for May.
2. **Construction Report** – presented by Dr. Esslinger (on file).
3. **Mitigation (Safety) Protocols** – Dr. Snowden presented the FSSD COVID-Response Team's recommendations for changes in protocols and guidelines effective June 1, 2021, after expressing appreciation of the COVID-19 Response Team led by Dr. Esslinger. Recommendations from the team were given for screening, masks, illness guidelines, distancing/cohorting, transportation, cleaning protocols, hand washing/sanitizing, visitors, school events and field trips. Board questions and discussion followed. Beginning with the recommendations set forth for the Summer, Dr. Snowden was cautiously optimistic with the possibility of further reducing the restrictions prior to the beginning of the school year. Dr.

Snowden noted that if the Board were to vote on a Return to Learn 2021 Plan, it would ideally need to be in June instead of July. Mr. Townsel noted to the Board that a vote on the plan may limit the Director of Schools and guidance of the COVID team to be able to weigh in on any modifications.

The Board has given the Director of Schools authority in the Return to Learn 2020 Reopening of Schools Plan adopted at the Board meeting of July 20, 2020, and will continue to give Dr. Snowden the authority to modify this fluid plan, as outlined in the original plan.

4. **Virtual Teaching and Learning** – Dr. Snowden presented discussion points from the first budget work session as well as challenges moving forward FY 2021-22. Review of this past year for the Virtual Teaching and Learning Model, significant technology training during the summer 2020 and its significance, the survey given to parents of virtual students, as well as overview of the State Board’s CLP rule expiration at the end of the current year and the TDOE’s movement into the creation of virtual schools for virtual teaching and what that would mean for our district were presented. Recommendation from the administration for the Board moving forward, with the current trend of lower spread of COVID-19 and the opportunity for vaccination, was to not pursue the creation of a totally virtual school for the upcoming school year. With Board question and discussion, Dr. Snowden answered that K-2 has always been planned as being in-person only this coming year. Our Teaching & Learning Department has been developing plans for serving those students that may be at home excluded (quarantined) and those that are receiving homebound services, which may include synchronous and asynchronous learning.

VI. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the board agenda as presented. Kevin Townsel **seconded** the motion, which **carried 5-0**.

VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 5-0**.

Approved under Consent Agenda (on file) were:

1. **Minutes of Board Meeting dated April 12, 2021**
2. **Minutes of Budget Work Session dated April 26, 2021**
3. **Director of Schools Official Statutory Bond**
4. **Bids: Food and Culinary Services – FES Serving Lines**

VIII. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

There was no business for vote this meeting.

IX. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- **PAC Topping Out Ceremony** – On May 7 there was a ceremony conducted by Nabholz placing the final beam on the PAC. Thanks for Mr. Blair, Mr. Townsel and Mrs. Bell who attended the event.
- **School Lunch Hero Day** – The FCS staff were celebrated on May 7 to recognize their part in making this year successful for in-person learning. In addition, countless hours of preparation went into providing for families this past year and will go into the summer feeding program in the upcoming months. This department plays an integral role for our students, families and staff and they are certainly appreciated each and every day. This is the 8th year for this day. May 3-7 is National School Food Service Appreciation Week.
- **National School Nurse Day** – We celebrate our nurses, with May 12 being a nationally recognized day to show our appreciation.
- **Retiring Teachers and Staff** – We will honor the retirees that would like to celebrate with their families on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Freedom Intermediate cafeteria. Guests will be limited at this celebration for the health and safety of our retirees and their guests. We look forward to the Board members attending this event, if possible, to celebrate this occasion.
- **Summer Learning Camps** – To be held beginning June 1 and continuing each Monday through Thursday for the next four weeks, Summer Learning camps will be held at Franklin Elementary. Students are being accepted at the camps based on their need to attend and other factors as outlined by the TDOE. Changes in protocols will apply.
- **Young Scholars Institute** – To be held the weeks of June 7th and June 14th at Freedom Intermediate, registration went online April 1st and is already at capacity. As you are aware, our T&L team has redesigned the camp structure to ensure health and safety protocols can be followed and has accepted a smaller number of students into the camp this year for that reason. They continue to offer the large variety of classes to appeal to the many learning interests. Since we were not able to host YSI last summer, we are excited to offer this opportunity to our students and families this year. Changes in protocols will apply.
- **Budget Process FY 2021-2022** – The April 26 meeting reviewed the Operations Budgets for both Finance & Administration and Teaching & Learning. The previously scheduled May 20 work session has been cancelled, with Revenue and Personnel being a focus, along with the cumulative impact of the budget work to be reviewed on June 21 to facilitate the possible completion of the budget process. If a work session is needed before the June 21 date or after, we will schedule that accordingly.
- **Update of Monitoring of COVID-19 Data Spread** – We will continue to require the use of masks in all schools and district offices through the end of the year to provide as safe a

learning environment as possible. Our active cases and quarantine numbers are very low and we hope that trend continues.

- **Waiver approved** – A ½ day waiver for the August 7, 2020 additional personnel planning time prior to students being in our buildings was requested from the Office of the Commissioner and approved. The approval means there will not be a need to make up that time at the end of the year.
- **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):

- Demographics Report for May 2021

Finance & Administration – David Esslinger, Associate Director for Finance & Administration, provided the following (on file):


- Personnel Change Report April/May 2021
- Summer Learning Camp Employees – Additional Assignments
- Investment Report dated 3/31/21
- Revenue and Expenditure Reports dated 5/4/21
- Sales Tax Revenue Comparison Report for May

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sales tax collections are 2.3% higher than last year at this time. The ADA adjustment has been made; there is a .05% decrease FSSD vs WCS student numbers in the ADA formula.
- Dr. Wiemers reports that for TCAP accountability Hold Harmless participation, 99.29% of students have been tested as of this date.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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




Robert Blair, Chair

6/14/21

Date

ATTEST:



Kevin Townsel, Secretary

6/14/21

Date