

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
1200 SOUTH CLINTON STREET
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802

5:32 p.m.

March 18, 2013

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Roll Call

The Board of School Trustees of the Fort Wayne Community Schools met for a special Board meeting in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 5:32 p.m. President Mark GiaQuinta called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and the following members in attendance:

Members present: Mark GiaQuinta, Chairperson
 Stephen Corona
 Becky Hill
 Julie Hollingsworth
 Glenna Jehl
 Jordan Lebamoff
 Lisa Olinger

Members absent: none

Legislative
Update

Dr. Wendy Robinson, superintendent, introduced Randy Borrer and Camille Blunt from Bose Public Affairs. Bose provides consultation for FWCS on educational issues before the Indiana General Assembly. Mr. Borrer shared an overview of the services provided by Bose and a review of the status of educational bills before the assembly.

Board members asked for information on how Bose has impacted legislation for FWCS in the past. Dr. Robinson commented that Bose has provided access to the appropriate individuals to have deeper conversations on issues important to FWCS.

Resolution
in
Opposition
to HB
1003

Board President Mark GiaQuinta presented the following resolution for Board consideration:

RESOLUTION OF THE FWCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1003

WHEREFORE, the State of Indiana's current voucher program has resulted in students receiving a voucher upon leaving FWCS schools that have performed at the State's highest level of school achievement;

WHEREFORE, the current voucher system diverts funds from FWCS that are necessary to carry out the mission and goals of the District; and,

WHEREFORE, the State of Indiana is now considering HB 1003 which will expand the voucher system by allowing vouchers to students who have never enrolled in FWCS, thereby further diluting educational funding for the state's public schools; and,

WHEREFORE, the passage of HB 1003 will dramatically increase taxpayer funding for parochial and private schools by an estimated \$21 million dollars, while FWCS funding continues to suffer the effects from a \$10 million dollar unplanned cut to the district's budget during the "Great Recession";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FWCS BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES that the District is opposed to the passage of HB 1003 and any expansion of the Indiana school voucher program because the voucher system diverts funding from FWCS without regard to the quality of FWCS instruction and further because the expansion of vouchers under HB 1003 is estimated to draw \$21 million dollars that would otherwise be available for tuition support for Indiana's public schools in general and FWCS in particular, which has yet to recover the unplanned cuts to its budget as the result of the budget shortfalls in 2009-2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE FWCS BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES urges all legislators, but especially those from northeast Indiana to vote against HB 1003 in order to preserve and promote quality education in the State of Indiana's public schools, especially that which occurs daily in the FWCS District schools. Alternatively, we would encourage legislators to amend HB1003 to only include language that would create a study committee to evaluate the effects of vouchers before any expansion is considered.

Comments	<p>Steve Corona commented that he thinks it important that the Board is on record on this issue and is true to district goals. He will vote to adopt the resolution.</p> <p>Glenna Jehl commented that money going to preschool is not well spent. She will vote to pass the resolution.</p> <p>Becky Hill appreciates the time spent on composing the resolution and hopes that it will make a difference when presented to legislators. She will vote to pass the resolution.</p> <p>Julie Hollingsworth commented that she does not support the funding of two parallel school systems of which one is allowed to discriminate. She will vote in favor of the resolution.</p> <p>Lisa Olinger commented that the Board adopting resolutions may have unintended consequences and makes the Board sound like whiners. She commented that people pay taxes and never use the school system and being able to use vouchers relieves part of that burden. She will vote against adoption of the resolution.</p> <p>Jordan Lebamoff commented that tax dollars are paid by everyone for the public good. He will vote to pass the resolution.</p> <p>Mark GiaQuinta thanked Lisa Olinger for explaining her vote against the resolution. Mr. GiaQuinta commented that the State needs to study the impact of vouchers on public schools. He will vote to pass the resolution.</p>
Resolution in Opposition to HB 1003	<p>A motion was made by Becky Hill, seconded by Julie Hollingsworth and Steve Corona, that the Board adopt the Resolution in Opposition to HB 1003. Roll Call: Ayes, Steve Corona, Becky Hill, Glenna Jehl, Julie Hollingsworth, Jordan Lebamoff and Mark GiaQuinta; nays, Lisa Olinger. The motion passed and the resolution was signed by Board members.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center.</p>
Adjournment	<p>There being no further business, upon a motion by Steve Corona, seconded by Becky Hill, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.</p>

President
Mark E. GiaQuinta

Vice President
Stephen Corona

Secretary
Julie Hollingsworth

Member
Becky Hill

Member
Glenna Jehl

Member
Jordan Lebamoff

Member
Lisa Olinger