

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

6:03 p.m.

January 9, 2023

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The Board of School Trustees of the Fort Wayne Community Schools met in regular session in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 6:03 p.m. President Anne Duff, with there being no speakers on Public Comment Regarding Agenda Topics, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and the following members in attendance:

Roll Call                      Members present:              Anne Duff, Chairperson  
   Rohli Booker  
   Stephen Corona  
   Julie Hollingsworth  
   Jennifer Matthias  
   Maria Norman  
   Noah Smith

Members absent:              None

Oath of Office                      Clerk of the Board Angela Filler administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Board members Rohli Booker, Anne Duff, Julie Hollingsworth and Maria Norman.

Election of Officers                      Anne Duff opened the floor for nominations of officers. Julie Hollingsworth nominated Maria Norman for the office of President; Rohli Booker for Vice President; and Noah Smith for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Matthias. There were no further nominations and Anne Duff asked for a vote. Roll Call: Ayes, unanimous; nays, none. The 2023 Officers for the FWCS Board of School Trustees are: Maria Norman, President; Rohli Booker, Vice President and Noah Smith, Secretary.

Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurers                      Dr. Daniel presented the following recommendation concerning the Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurers:

**RELATED RECOMMENDATION:** It was recommended that Sherry L. Nidlinger be appointed as treasurer, Stefan W. Pittenger and Elizabeth Riedinger as deputy treasurers for calendar year 2023, and that bonds for these positions be set as follows:

Treasurer	\$200,000
Deputy Treasurer	\$50,000
Deputy Treasurer	\$50,000

It is further recommended that the administration be granted authority to execute any corporate resolutions required by the various banking depositories.

**RELATED INFORMATION:** IC 20-26-4-1 provides for appointment of a treasurer and deputy treasurers at the same time that the new Board organizes.

Ms. Nidlinger serves as the full-time treasurer for the corporation, Ms. Riedinger as the full-time deputy treasurer, while Mr. Pittenger serves the district as Director of Fiscal Affairs.

IC 20-26-4-5 provides that the treasurer and deputy treasurers give a bond for the faithful performance of duty in an amount determined by the governing body.

A motion was made by Steve Corona, seconded by Julie Hollingsworth, that the recommendation concerning the Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurers be approved. Roll Call: Ayes, unanimous; nays, none.

Comments

Board Member Steve Corona congratulated new officers. Member Corona also commented that it will be an interesting long session in the general assemble as many of the Governor's recommendations could have a negative impact or other concerns/issues that may not be good for the district. Need to stay in close contact with our legislators.

Board Member Julie Hollingsworth congratulated the new Board Officers and is proud to say she knew Maria as an Elmhurst student. Member Hollingsworth commented that it is important to keep an eye on the Indiana legislative session. She is happy to see the possibility of not having parents pay textbook fees, she encouraged everyone to reach out to legislators to tell them you support. Once again FWCS exceeded the state average with regard to graduation rates. These rates are the ultimate measure and goal is to have a student graduate. Ms. Hollingsworth spoke about FWCS rates and noted that we were higher than nonpublic, slightly less for private; however, charter schools was at an embarrassing 47.7% Which should cause parents and policy makers to reflect on what they are doing and how they are accountable. She also mentioned that an Indianapolis Charter School gave notice to parents the last week of December that they would be closing before the end of January, stating that this is not how a good education system should be operating.

Board Member Jennifer Matthias congratulated one of our Snider students who had an amazing accomplishment, Julianna Ocampo who is the first female to win the Al Smith Wrestling Invitational. Member Matthias welcomed employees and students back tomorrow.

Board Member Anne Duff, commented on a recent ISBA webinar she participated in with regard to if textbook fees are no longer charged as there may be strings attached like telling us what textbooks must be used as well as other strings. Member Duff reminded the audience that this Board signed a Resolution to have a 95% passing and to keep in mind this is what we need to work towards. Ms. Duff also commented on the great television coverage that was shown over winter break regarding our Instrumental program.

Board Member Rohli Booker hopes everyone is refreshed and ready to return to school tomorrow. Member Booker also encouraged the public to follow Indiana public broadcasting news, especially during legislative session, to help keep an eye out on things happening in Indianapolis concerning education, environment, etc. You can sign up for a weekly text to receive information.

Board Member Noah Smith thanked Anne for her past presidency and welcomed Maria.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Daniel also thanked Anne for her leadership for the last two years and welcomed Maria. The Superintendent is excited to start second semester. As a reminder we will be focusing on well-being, literacy and defining culture. He reminded the Board that the next meeting will be an update on the StratOp process. The Superintendent also mentioned that he will be holding some individual meetings with the Board, to discuss where the district is on Transportation and Safety. He hopes everyone had a chance to recharge over break. He started today at Bunche and it was great to see teachers getting ready for students coming back to school tomorrow.

Board President Maria Norman, thanked Anne for her past president leadership, for being her campaign partner and for joining her in advocating for public education. President Norma also thanked Julie for encouraging her to become involved in Leadership roles. Ms. Norman looks forward to service FWCS as the Board President. She also welcomes employees and students back tomorrow. Maria thanked her parents, sister, husband and son for being here this evening to support her.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center.

Signatures

Documents to be signed by members of the Board were the Amendment of the Contract of Employment Between Fort Wayne Community Schools and Dr. Mark Daniel; Oath of Offices were signed by re-elected members Rohli Booker, Anne Duff, Julie Hollingsworth and Maria Norman.

Adjournment  
and Dismissal

There being no further business and no general public comment, upon a motion by Anne Duff, seconded by Noah Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



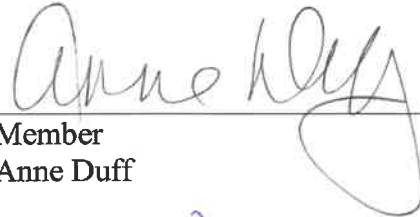
President  
Maria Norman



Member  
Stephen Corona



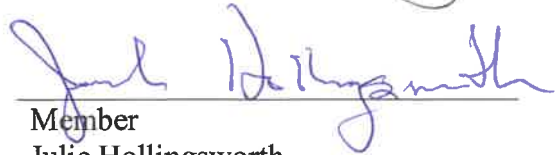
Vice President  
Rohli Booker



Member  
Anne Duff



Secretary  
Noah Smith



Member  
Julie Hollingsworth



Member  
Jennifer Matthias

