

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

6:02 p.m.

January 13, 2025

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The Board of School Trustees of the Fort Wayne Community Schools met for an organizational meeting in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:02 p.m. President Maria Norman, 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: Maria Norman, Chairperson
Stephen Corona
Anne Duff
Julie Hollingsworth
Jennifer Matthias
Antonette Payne
Noah Smith

Members absent: Antonette Payne

Oath of
Office

Clerk of the Board Angela Filler administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Board members Steve Corona, Jennifer Matthias and Noah Smith.

Election of
Officers

Maria Norman opened the floor for nominations of officers. Noah Smith re-nominated Maria Norman for the office of President; Noah Smith for Vice President; and Jennifer Matthias for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Steve Corona. There were no further nominations and Maria Norman asked for a vote. Roll Call: Ayes, unanimous; nays, none. The 2023 Officers for the FWCS Board of School Trustees are: Maria Norman, President; Noah Smith, Vice President and Jennifer Matthias, 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 2025, 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 Julie Hollingsworth, seconded by Jennifer Matthias, that the recommendation concerning the Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurers be approved. Roll Call: Ayes, unanimous; nays, none.

Comments

Board Member Steve Corona is happy to be on the Board for another four years. Will be an interesting year from what they are hearing from Indianapolis regarding the General Assembly on Budgets, partisan is a gigantic mistake. Mr. Corona encouraged the community to be active in writing legislators. Member Corona asked a question to the room, students who are currently employed (example was Walmart) do they earn credit? It was confirmed the current diploma permits it now.

Board Member Julie Hollingsworth commented that despite efforts in the state to destroy public education, traditional continues to thrive and deliver. Member Hollingsworth quoted data including that public schools graduation rate is 94.2, which is higher than charter, private, etc. Ms. Hollingsworth congratulated staff as it takes hard work from everyone.

Board Member Jennifer Matthias welcomed everyone back after winter break. FWCS continues to have doors open and we need every voice to speak up especially regarding HB1136.

Board Member Anne Duff commented that many groups, including, ISTA and PTA are posting about HB1136 and she encourages the community to pay attention to their social media and to write your legislators. Member Duff attended a Christmas event that asked attendees to bring flannel (PJ, shirts, etc.), for the James McFadden thrift store at SSHS. This store is run by a former teacher, where items are “free” for students. These include donated clothes and household items.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Daniel talked about the work we have been doing with Stephen Covey and his team. We will be moving this work from Cabinet to the classroom. Culture = increase to enrollment. Working on metrics. He recently asked Principals their opinions on literacy, where we continue to assess and provide interventions. You cannot succeed if you are not at a level with functional literacy. He also asked what does Schools of Success mean to them. Dr. Daniel was interviewed today and he told them that each building is unique with challenges and we rise to the occasion, that is what public schools do for each and every student. Superintendent also announced that Arlington will be a PLTW STEM school next year. We hope to have a Montessori school on the north side of town in the next year as our current Montessori program at Bunche has a waiting lists. We want to meet the needs of the families in our community. We have five local universities who have joined our coalition, dual credit at \$0. We have to increase the number of college graduates in the community. You need to give businesses metrics so that they see results, return on investment. We are receiving good reports on the Freshman Academy and this Friday they choose their academy. All will not get what they want, but competencies is what is most important. Dr. Daniel is glad to have this opportunity with the Board. FWCS is an unique district as we have diversity, business partnerships with both public and private. We need to expand, our doors are open. We want to give our students experiences they have not had before.

Board President Maria Norman spoke about a couple of bills that have stuck out as we are such a diverse district. HB1231 – requiring displaying 10 commandments, not appropriate we have families from all over the world, who worship differently. This does not seem welcoming. SB235 – DEI prohibit from taking actions, DEI “holding trainings” influence employees, banning opinions of 16 topics, prohibit funds for offices/officer. Diversity is our strength, we embrace and celebrate, this starts censorship.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025, 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 Steve Corona, Jennifer Matthias and Noah Smith.

Adjournment
and Dismissal

There being no further business and no general public comment, upon a motion by Noah Smith, seconded by Julie Hollingsworth, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



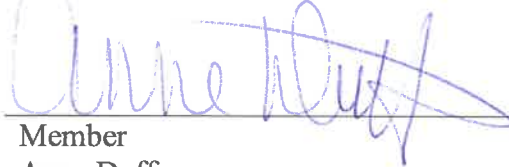
President
Maria Norman



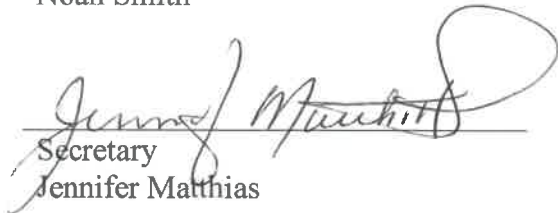
Member
Stephen Corona



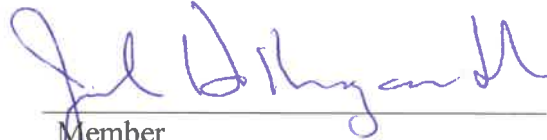
Vice President
Noah Smith



Member
Anne Duff



Secretary
Jennifer Matthias



Member
Julie Hollingsworth

ABSENT

Member
Antonette Payne