

**FRANKLIN MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 15, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Music Room D111

I. Call to Order

The Franklin Monroe Local Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Music Room D111. President Scott Myers called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Present: Scott Myers, Jana Baker, Rodney Baker, Renae Eshleman, Danette Haddix

Absent: None

III. Visitors Wishing to Address the Board

Scott Myers reviewed the process used to hire the Treasurer, including a comparison of Treasurer salaries in surrounding school districts. He also reviewed the cost of contracting with the Shared Resource Center to provide interim Treasurer services. The District spent more than \$100,000 on Treasurer service fees during the previous year due to significant turnover in the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Myers stated that the Board's goal is to establish stability in the office and avoid similar expenses in the future.

Jana Baker stated that compensation decisions are difficult. She explained that the Treasurer was initially hired at a salary significantly below comparable market rates. At that time, the Board discussed the possibility with Mr. Wendel of adjusting the salary to a more competitive level if the first year went well. Mrs. Baker stated that the Board has been very pleased with Mr. Wendel's performance as Treasurer and invited feedback from members of the public in attendance.

Andy McKibben asked whether the District had ever considered establishing a salary schedule for administrative positions. He also expressed concern regarding school day reductions affecting classified employee's annual wages. In addition, he questioned how a salary increase for the Treasurer could affect public perception as the District prepares for an upcoming levy.

Ethan Tauscher thanked the Board and administration for their service and expressed appreciation for the work being performed by the Treasurer. However, he stated that a salary increase for the Treasurer could create a negative public perception and make passage of the levy more difficult. He also discussed the possibility of providing classified employees with an hourly wage increase to offset the reduction in their contracted workdays.

Allie Brinkman expressed appreciation for the Treasurer's performance. However, she stated that, given the District's current financial condition and the upcoming levy, the timing was not appropriate for a salary increase, even though she believed the Treasurer was doing a good job.

Wanda Heronemus asked several questions regarding the Treasurer's Office, including the qualifications of the Assistant Treasurer, the current condition of the office, and the circumstances that led to the challenges currently being addressed.

Treasurer Dennis Wendel responded that the Treasurer's Office was not in disarray, but that several matters were being addressed as a result of significant turnover during the previous 15 to 18 months. He stated that the former Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer performed their duties well; however, turnover in both positions within a short period created several difficult issues that required attention.

Mr. Wendel also expressed concern regarding the limited availability of qualified school treasurers. He stated that many Treasurer vacancies, particularly in smaller school districts, receive very few qualified applicants.

Brenda Chrisman discussed whether other classified employees could have performed some of the Assistant Treasurer's duties and whether the District could have hired a part-time Assistant Treasurer rather than a full-time employee. She stated that all positions within the District are important but expressed concern that some positions appear to be treated differently from others. She also discussed the current Athletic Director contract and the number of days the Athletic Director serves as a substitute teacher in the classroom.

Jeremy Pequignot discussed the complexity and confidential nature of the Assistant Treasurer's responsibilities. He stated that, for operational and confidentiality reasons, those responsibilities could not reasonably be performed outside the Treasurer's Office.

Regarding the Athletic Director position, Mr. Pequignot discussed the workload associated with the position and the need for the Athletic Director to have sufficient time to perform those responsibilities.

Nathanias Dallas thanked the Board for its service and acknowledged the difficulty of the decisions facing the District. She stated that the District's transparency with the public has improved, although rebuilding public trust will take time. She supported the idea of increasing classified employees' hourly rates to offset the reduction in workdays so that they would not experience a decrease in annual compensation.

Mrs. Dallas also stated that a five-year levy would provide greater accountability for the administration and Board regarding the District's finances and expressed hope that the community would support the levy. She expressed appreciation for the Treasurer's performance, specifically noting his availability and transparency of the financial information, and his presentation at the public finance meeting. However, she also expressed concern regarding the message a salary increase could send during the District's current financial difficulties and in advance of the upcoming levy.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Resolution SP01078-07-15

Motion: Eshleman Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01078-07-15 adopted

V. School Finance Report

Mr. Wendel presented the School Finance report.

A. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held June 29, 2026.
- Approval of Bank Reconciliation, Expenditures, Financial Journal and accompanying documents.
- Approval of the appointment of Scott Meyer as OSBA Delegate and Rodney Baker as Alternate OSBA Delegate for the 2026 Annual Business Meeting.
- Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the American Legion Post 140 Greenville to the Band Account (200-9009).
- Approval of FMLA Leave for Olivia Fox estimated to be from August 17, 2026 to September 28, 2026.
- Approval of the following bill for payment under the Then and Now certification stating that funds were available and appropriated at the time the bill was obligated by employees of the district: MegaCity Fire Protection, \$3,046.85.

Resolution SP01079-07-15

The Treasurer recommended approval of consent calendar items.

Motion: J. Baker Second: Eshleman

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01079-07-15 adopted

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Pequignot provided an overview of the agenda and a facility update. Additional topics included the Semi-annual Title IX Report.

VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. New Business

A. Superintendent's Consent Calendar

- First reading of the following Board of Education policies: DJH, JED, JEDA, JHCD, JHCD-R(3).
- Approval of the Service Agreement with Wayne Hospital Company Professional Services, LLC from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 for bus driver physicals.
- Approval of the Online Day Plan for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Approval for Bus Drivers to receive an additional \$50.00 per trip after completion of 10 trips effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- Approval of the Agreement with Superior Plus Energy Services from August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.
- Approval of the overnight, out-of-state field trip to Washington DC for the sophomore class from March 22, 2027 to March 25, 2027.
- Approval of personnel recommendations and professional leave as listed on the agenda.

Resolution SP01080-07-15

The Superintendent recommended approval of consent calendar items.

Motion: R. Baker Second: J. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01080-07-15 adopted

B. Items Removed for Separate Action

Resolution SP01081-07-15

The Superintendent recommended approval of a one (1) year Administrative Contract for Diane Voress as Middle/High School Principal of the Franklin Monroe Local School District from August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.

Motion: Eshleman Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01081-07-15 adopted

Resolution SP01082-07-15

The meeting entered executive session for the purpose of considering the employment of public employee(s) at 7:12 p.m.

Motion: J. Baker Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01082-07-15 adopted

Resolution SP01083-07-15

The meeting exited executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion: Eshleman Second: J. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01083-07-15 adopted

Resolution SP01084-07-15

The Board recommended approval of the First Amendment to Dennis Wendel's 2025-2027 Administrative Contract with the following changes, \$80,000 replacing \$95,000

Motion: J. Baker Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01084-07-15 adopted

Resolution SP01085-07-15

The Board recommended approval of a ~~two (2)~~ year three (3) year Administrative Contract for Dennis Wendel as Treasurer of the Franklin Monroe Local School District from August 1, 2027 through July 31, ~~2029~~ 2030 with the following changes, \$95,000 to \$110,000. August 1, 2027 to July 31, 2030

Motion: R. Baker Second: J. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01085-07-15 adopted

Resolution SP01086-07-15

The Board recommended adoption of the Resolution to Proceed for a 1.25% traditional income tax for a five-year period of time to be effective on January 1, 2027.

RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE LEVY OF AN ANNUAL TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION OF SAID LEVY

WHEREAS, this Board of Education of the Franklin Monroe Local School District (the "School District") at its meeting on the 29th day of June, 2026 by resolution duly adopted, determined the necessity of raising an additional \$1,713,411 per year for school district purposes (as defined in Section 5748.01(I) of the Ohio Revised Code), and further provided that application be made to the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation to estimate the property tax rate that would have to be imposed by the School District in the current year to produce said additional annual amount and to estimate the income tax rate that would have had to have been in effect for the current year as a school district income tax to produce said additional annual amount; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation has certified to this Board of Education that the estimated property tax rate that would have to be imposed by the School District in the current year to produce said additional annual amount is 13.12 mills (2025 valuation) and that the estimated income tax rate that would have had to have been in effect for the current year as a School District income tax to produce said additional annual amount is one and twenty-five hundredths percent (1.25%);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Franklin Monroe Local School District:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to Section 5748.02 of the Ohio Revised Code as amended (the "Act") a levy of an annual tax for the purpose of current expenses on the taxable income as defined in division (E)(1) of Section 5748.01 of the Ohio Revised Code is hereby proposed and it is hereby determined to proceed with the submission to the electors of the School District the question of levying for a five-year period of time an income tax of one and twenty-five hundredths percent (1.25%) per annum on the School District income for the purpose of current expenses at the election to be held on November 3, 2026. Said tax, if approved by the electors, shall be effective January 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. That the Treasurer of this Board of Education be and is hereby directed to immediately certify the following to the Board of Elections: (a) this resolution and (b) the estimated property tax rate that would have to be imposed in the current year to produce said additional annual amount and the estimated income tax rate that would have had to have been in effect for the current year as a School District income tax to produce said additional annual amount, as calculated and certified by the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation, and to notify said Board of Elections to cause notice of such election to be given as required by law. In addition, the Treasurer is hereby authorized to certify this resolution to the Tax Commissioner as required by Section 5748.02(C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That the form of ballot, upon which the question of levying said additional tax shall be submitted to the electors, shall be substantially as follows, subject to modifications provided by the Ohio Secretary of State and/or the applicable Board of Elections:

PROPOSED TAX LEVY FRANKLIN MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall an annual income tax of one and twenty-five hundredths per centum (1.25%) on the school district income of individuals be imposed by the Franklin Monroe Local School District, for a five-year period of time, beginning January 1, 2027, for the purpose of current expenses?

FOR THE TAX LEVY
AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

SECTION 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of Education concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board of Education; and that all deliberations of this Board of Education and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Motion: Eshleman Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01084-07-15 adopted

IX. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Franklin Monroe Board of Education will be held August 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Music Room D111.

Scott Myers stated that the board is planning to adopt new salary schedules for classified staff at the next BOE meeting. The \$15,000 reduction in the treasurer's proposed salary for next school year will be diverted into classified staff raises for next school year.

X. Future Franklin Monroe Board of Education Meetings

Future meeting dates were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

XI. Franklin Monroe Board Reports

None.

XII. Adjournment

Resolution SP01085-07-15

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Motion: J. Baker Second: R. Baker

Vote: Myers - Yes, J. Baker - Yes, R. Baker - Yes, Eshleman - Yes, Haddix - Yes.

Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution SP01085-07-15 adopted



Dennis Wendel, Treasurer



Scott Myers, President