Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 23, 2024
Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology
1605 Wentworth Ave.
Calumet City, IL 60409
MINUTES



## 1. Call to Order/Roll call

President Stepp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call: Present: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Absent:

## 2. Pledge

#### 3. Communication/Informational

- A. Special Recognition--TFN Drama Team State Champions—team members and coach were recognized.
- **B. Public Comments** 
  - 1) Robert Malkas—wrote a book called Road to Redemption and is promoting his book. He is a former assistant principal at an all-girls high school.
  - 2) LaMar McGee—father of student being recommended for discipline due to behavior. His son has humbled himself because of this situation and this snapshot doesn't tell the whole story of who he is.
  - 3) Tyra McGee—mother of student being recommended for discipline due to behavior. She stated children will make mistakes and requests to not have alternative placement for full year. She added they are active parents, attend parent/teacher conferences and believe in education; he understands he has to learn from his mistakes.
  - 4) Byron McGee—He apologizes for what happened and is sorry for all that has fallen on his parents. He stated he has learned from his mistake.

#### C. Freedom of Information Report

DATE	REQUESTOR	REQUEST	DATE RESPONDED
4/2/24	Sheri Reid	general purchasing records from 12/21/2023 to the current request date of 4/2/2024.	4/4/24

- D. Monthly Suspension Reports—provided in packet
- E. Future Meetings--May 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole; May 28, 2024 Regular Meeting
- F. Building Reports—Building principals provided reports.
- G. Superintendent's Report

Program Spotlight--Curriculum and Instruction—Assistant Superintendent Becky Szuba and Director of Teaching and Learning LaQuesha Martin-Dean presented an overview of their department. They highlighted the overall aim is to develop, implement, and advocate for high quality instruction recognizing the curriculum is a roadmap for teachers. There are three main goals:

- To increase awareness of the Guiding Principles of Effective Curriculum
- To utilize the Curriculum C.A.R.E. plan to assist with instructional decision-making
- To evaluate current programs and recommend adjustments for improvement which impact student success and professional learning opportunities.

Curriculum is where most of the budget and resources are allocated. The district conducted a curriculum audit in 2018 and has almost completed rewriting all of the core curriculum. The curriculum is constantly being revised, often based on student feedback. Various initiatives were reviewed such as publishing a quarterly newsletter, conducting staff listening sessions and hosting feeder school articulation meetings. Each educator has had access to over 30 hours of professional development since last summer. A goal is to plan for an American sign language course and the district will apply for the implementation grant.

4. Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, independent contractors, specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, collective negotiating matters, student disciplinary matters and litigation.

I move to recess to closed session at 6:52 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, independent contractors, specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, collective negotiating matters, student disciplinary matters and litigation. This motion, made by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Newman, passed.

# **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

Member Newman moved, seconded by Member Townsend that the Board of Education adjourn to open session at 9:24 p.m. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

#### 5. Consent

I move to approve the consent agenda as presented with item #7 of the personnel report removed for separate consideration. This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Wilson, passed on roll call vote.

- A. Approve Minutes from the February 27, 2024 Drivers' Education Fee Hearing, March 26, 2024 Open and Closed Sessions, April 20, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- B. Approve Personnel Report
  - 1) It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the report of the **resignation** of **Myron Titsworth**, Deans' Assistant at T.F. South, effective March 28, 2024.
  - 2) It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the report of the **retirement** of **Tammy Quinn**, Bookstore Manager at T.F. South, effective June 30, 2026.
  - 3) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the **probationary dismissal** of **Pauline Parker**, Special Education Paraprofessional at T.F. North, effective April 23, 2024.
  - 4) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 employment contract of Eric Mastey as Assistant Superintendent of Career Development.
  - 5) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the **employment** of **Daisy Reyes** as a Custodian at T.F. North, effective April 24, 2024.
  - 6) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the **employment** of **Steven Southard** as a Custodian at T.F. South, effective April 29, 2024.
  - 7) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve formal discipline for Ryan Richardson, Deans' Assistant at T.F. South, as discussed in closed session.
  - 8) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **formal discipline** for **LaJuan Townsend**, Custodian at T.F. North, as discussed in closed session.
  - 9) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **FMLA leave** for **Matthew Cervantes**, Special Education Teacher at T.F. North, effective May 13, 2024 through May 24, 2024.
  - 10) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve intermittent FMLA leave for Carolina Ortiz, Science Teacher at T.F. South, effective February 8, 2024 through June 4, 2024.
  - 11) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve **FMLA leave** for **Pietro Pisello**, Music Teacher at T.F. North, effective April 22, 2024 through May 10, 2024.
  - 12) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve intermittent FMLA leave for Joseph Stephan, III, Social Studies Teacher at T.F. North, effective December 1, 2023 through May 10, 2024.
  - 13) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve intermittent FMLA leave for Armando Urbina, Social Studies Teacher at T.F. South, effective March 11, 2024 through June 4, 2024.
  - 14) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following **Division Leader** appointments at **T.F. South**, effective for the 2024-2025 school term:
    - Jaimie Metoyer English

- Margaret Blahunka Math
- Amanda Hanson Science
- Chester Hanson, IV- Physical Education/Health Education/Driver Education/Art/Music
- Matthew Cherry Social Studies/World Languages
- 15) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following **Curriculum Writing Team Members** for summer 2024 and the 2024-2025 school term:
  - Alejandra Garcia, Michelle Jones, Sara McCarthy, Jordan Oliva, Kerry Schuldes, Eric Siemann, William Weber.
- 16) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following extra-curricular releases, resignations, and appointments for the 2024-2025 school term:
  - Resignations:
    - o Da'Shun Brown, Esports Club Co-Sponsor, T.F. South
    - o Timothy Cocco, Boys' Tennis Head Coach, T.F. North
    - o Timothy Cocco, Girls' Tennis Assistant Coach, T.F. South
    - o **Timothy Cocco**, Wrestling Assistant Coach, T.F. South
    - o Jacquice Cooper, Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach, T.F. North
    - o Franklin Hogan, Esports Club Co-Sponsor, T.F. South
    - o Jessica Pritchett, Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach, T.F. North
    - o Douglas Schlesser, Literary Magazine Sponsor, T.F. South
  - Appointments:
    - o Antonius Finch-Ell, Football Co-Assistant Coach, T.F. South
    - o Edson Gonzalez, Boys' & Girls' Soccer Volunteer Assistant Coach, T.F. North
    - John Hallberg, Football Assistant Coach, T.F. South
    - o Darryl Matthew Humphrey, Boys' Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach, T.F. North
- 17) It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following Volunteers for the Spring 2024 semester: Christopher Choice, Asia Smith, Christopher Smith, Brittany Younger.
- C. Approve/Accept the following Financial Items
  - 1) Accept March 2024 FTD Monthly Financial Statements
  - 2) Approve March 2024/April 2024 Payables, \$3,003,807.27

# Accounts Payable - List of Bills - Mar 2024/Apr 2024

Fund	Amount
Educational	1,488,440.00
Special Education	-
Operations and Maintenance	240,132.75
Debt Service	11,677.02
Transportation	481,330.12
Capital Projects	781,737.38
Tort Liability	490.00
Total	\$ 3,003,807.27

3) Approve March 2024/April 2024 Activities Bills, \$55,864.28

#### Student Activities - List of Bills - Mar 2024/Apr 2024

Fund	Amount	
TF North Activities		31,649.50
TF South Activities		24,050.41
Admin/TF Center Activities		164.37
Total	\$	55,864.28

# 4) Approve March 2024 Payroll, \$4,782,997.21

## Payroll Report - March 2024

Fund	Amount		
Education		4,495,401.50	
Operations and Maintenance		285,730.19	
Transportation		1,865.52	
Total	\$	4,782,997.21	

# 5) Approve Imprest March 2024/April 2024, \$6,827.89

## Imprest - List of Bills - Mar 2024/Apr 2024

Fund	Amount	
Educational		1,140.00
Special Education		_
Operations and Maintenance		5,687.89
Debt Service		-
Transportation		-
Capital Projects		-
Tort Liability		-
Total	\$	6,827.89

- D. Approve vendor contract with Clowning Around Entertainment, Inc.
- E. Approve vendor contract for Carla Stone for \$1,472.50
- F. Adopt Resolution to Dispose of Fixed Assets
- G. Conduct First Reading of Updated Board Policies
- H. Approve destruction of closed session recordings for October 25, 2022 Regular Meeting in accordance with Policy 2:220

## **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

I move to approve Item 7 of the personnel report as presented. This motion, made by Member Jackson and seconded by Member Wilson, passed.

#### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none Abstain: Newman

#### 6. Action

A. Accept Special Education Transportation bid from Kickert School Bus Lines, Inc.

I move to accept the special education transportation bid from Kickert School Bus Lines, Inc for 2024/2025 through 2026/2027 as presented. This motion, made by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Townsend, passed.

## **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

B. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Calumet City Park District for use of athletic facilities

I move to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Calumet City Park District for use of athletic facilities at TF North through September 25, 2025 as presented. This motion, made by Member Jackson and seconded by Member Townsend, passed.

#### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

C. Approve Rancilio & Associates as residency verification consultant

I move to approve Rancilio & Associates as resident verification consultant as presented. This motion, made by Member Terrazas and seconded by Member Wilson, passed.

### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

D. Approve new curriculum resources

I move to approve the new curriculum resources in the amount of \$74,846.01 as presented. This motion, made by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Terrazas, passed.

### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

E. Approve contract renewal for Apex/Edmentum

I move to approve the contract renewal for Apex/Edmentum as presented. This motion, made by Member Terrazas and seconded by Member Townsend, passed.

#### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

F. Approve revised 2024-25 Student Handbook

I move to approve the revised 2024-25 Student Handbook as presented. This motion, made by Member Wilson, and seconded by Member Terrazas, passed.

# **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: Jackson

G. Approve agreement with Milestone Therapy, LLC for OT/PT services

I move to approve the annual agreement with Milestone Therapy, LLC for OT/PT services as presented. This motion, made by Terrazas and seconded by Member Wilson, passed.

#### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

H. Approve student 2023-24N alternative placement

I move to approve the alternative placement for student 2023-24N as discussed in closed session. This motion, made by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Townsend, passed.

## **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

I. Approve student 2023-240 alternative placement

I move to approve the alternative placement for student 2023-240 as discussed in closed session. This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Terrazas, passed.

## **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

#### J. Approve student 2023-24P alternative placement

I move to approve the alternative placement for student 2023-24P as discussed in closed session. This motion, made by Townsend and seconded by Member Wilson, passed.

#### **Upon Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Nays: none

## 7. Board Reorganization

#### President

Member Terrazas nominated Member Stepp as president. Having no other nominations, Member Stepp was appointed President by acclimation.

#### Vice President

Member Jackson nominated Member Wilson as vice-president. Having no other nominations, Member Wilson was appointed vice-president by acclimation.

#### Secretary

Member Newman nominated Member Ballard as secretary. Having no other nominations, Member Ballard was appointed secretary by acclimation.

# Approve 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar

I move to approve the 2024-25 board meeting dates as presented. This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Wilson, passed on voice vote.

#### 8. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. This motion, made by Wilson and seconded by Member Townsend, passed on voice vote.

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President

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Recording Secretary