EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MINUTES
July 23, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Room
1240 State Road 930 East
New Haven, IN 46774

At a meeting (a hybrid in person and virtual meeting) held at the Administration Building, located at 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at approximately 5:30 p.m. on July 23, 2024.

Board members present:
- Mr. Timothy E. Hines, President
- Mr. Ronald W. Turpin, Vice President
- Mr. Steven M. Screeton, Secretary
- Ms. Jennifer L. Blackburn (via Zoom)
- Mr. Todd C. Buckmaster
- Ms. Pamela G. Dukes
- Mrs. Beth Wood

Board members absent:
- None

EACS Administrators and Association Presidents also in attendance:
- Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Superintendent
- Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
- Ms. Deborah Watson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
- Dr. Patrick McCann, Chief Financial Officer
- Mrs. Cassie Lepper, Executive Director of Special Services
- Mrs. Patty Prosser, Executive Director of Human Resources
- Mrs. Angie Thompson, Director of Development and Federal Programs
- Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Information Officer
- Mr. Tim Wiegand, Executive Director of Alternative and Career and Technical Education
- Mr. Chris Baker, Director of Facilities
- Mrs. Janet Good, Director of Transportation
- Mr. Dan Krleski, Director of Food Services
- Mrs. Jennifer Mabee, Director of Title III
- Mr. Keith Madsen, Director of Technology

PUBLIC HEARING

SECOND PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

1. **Statement of Purpose of Hearing**
2. **Educational Need for Projects**
3. **Financial Impact of Projects**
4. **Public Expression**

   Name

   Mrs. Desiree Koger-Gustafson, Mrs. Lindsey Hammond, Ms. Carolyn Richmond

5. **Adjournment of Public Hearing**

   The hearing was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 ROUTINE ITEMS

1.1 Call to Order

President Tim Hines called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Madeline Ottenweller's 2nd grade class from Cedarville Elementary School led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance (pre-recorded and virtually).

1.3 Approval of Agenda

The agenda for July 23, 2024 was approved as presented with addendums to Consent Item 3.1 - Human Resources Report, and Discussion Item 5.2 - Revised Administrative Guideline 4214.1 – Miscellaneous Support Personnel – Benefitted.

Mr. Turpin asked that Action Items 24-0723-4.9 - Selection of A&E Firm for Leo Intermediate School Project, and 24-0723-4.10 - Selection of A&E Firm for Leo Jr./Sr. High School, Southwick Elementary School, Paul Harding Junior High School, and East Allen University Renovation Projects be taken as a separate vote from the rest of the Action Items. There was consensus to do this.

1.4 Recognitions

None.

2.0 PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3.0 CONSENT ITEMS

Superintendent Hissong requested the Board's approval for the Consent Items as presented as follows:

3.1 Human Resources Report and Addendum
3.2 Financial Reports
3.3 Meetings and Conferences
3.4 Minutes – Regular Meeting – July 9, 2024

Motion: That Consent Items 3.1 through 3.4 be approved as presented.

Motion: Turpin Second: Wood

Discussion: None.

Vote:
3.1–3.4 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Hissong requested the Board's approval for the Action Items as presented as follows:

24-0723-4.1 Application and Receipt of Funds for the VEX Robotics Grant

24-0723-4.2 Contract with Certified Phone Repair (CPR) for iPad Repairs

24-0723-4.3 Memorandum of Understanding with Easterseals

24-0723-4.4 Contract with Bridging the Blind Gap, LLC

24-0723-4.5 Contract with Dr. Richard VanAcker

24-0723-4.6 East Allen University Textbook and Course Fees for 2024-2025SY

24-0723-4.7 Elementary Textbook and Course Fees for 2024-25SY

24-0723-4.8 Renewal of Contract with Fort Wayne Philharmonic for 2024-25SY

Motion: That Action Items 24-0723-4.1 and 24-0723-4.8 be approved as presented.

Motion: Screeton Second: Turpin

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.1-4.8 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

*Ms. Blackburn attended the board meeting virtually but was not able to vote.

24-0723-4.9 Selection of A&E Firm for Leo Intermediate School Project

24-0723-4.10 Selection of A&E Firm for Leo Jr./Sr. High School, Southwick Elementary School, Paul Harding Junior High School, and East Allen University Renovation Projects

Motion: That Action Items 24-0723-4.9 and 24-0723-4.10 be approved as presented.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.9-4.10 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Wood; Against: Turpin (Motion carried 5-1*)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

24-0723-4.11 Contract with Northeast Literacy Council on Behalf of International Leadership Middle School

Mrs. Angie Thompson presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: Turpin Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.11 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

24-0723-4.12 Meal Pricing for 2024-25SY

Mr. Dan Krleski presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: Screeton Second: Turpin

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.12 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

24-0723-4.13 Adopt Project Resolution

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.13 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

*Ms. Blackburn attended the board meeting virtually but was not able to vote.

24-0723-4.14 Adopt Preliminary Determination Resolution

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.14 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

24-0723-4.15 Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures

Dr. Patrick McCann presented information to the Board. No questions.

Motion: Buckmaster Second: Dukes

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.15 - Aye: Buckmaster, Dukes, Hines, Screeton, Turpin, Wood (Motion carried 6-0*)

5.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Revised Administrative Guideline 4103 – Employee Technology Handbook (Page 10 only)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.2 Revised Administrative Guideline 4214.1 – Miscellaneous Support Personnel – Benefitted and Addendum

Mrs. Patty Prosser provided information to the Board. No questions.

5.3 Revised Administrative Guideline 4214.2 – Miscellaneous Support Personnel – Non-Benefitted

Mrs. Patty Prosser provided information to the Board. No questions.

5.4 Secondary Textbook and Course Fees for 2024-25SY

Ms. Deborah Watson provided information to the Board. No questions.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

The EACS Dreamland News publication was sent out to all households within the EACS District.

Our Strategic Plan brochures (regarding academics) have been printed. Mr. Screeton represented the Board on this committee. A shout out to Education Elements for their help and guidance in this year long process.

Registration began today for our Harding attendance schools only; Wednesday and Thursday registration will continue at our schools. We are looking forward to the new school year!

Both Harlan (10:00 a.m.) and Monroeville (11:00 a.m.) are holding their parades next Saturday, August 3.

Our New Teacher Academy will be held on Wednesday, July 31. We currently have over 50+ new teachers joining us! Our new Special Education Teacher training is on Thursday, August 1.

Principals and secretaries are back in our buildings since yesterday.

Our Administrator Academy will be held on Monday and Tuesday of next for a day of training and updates.

Superintendent Hissong became a member of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club on Wednesday.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Wood whose birthday is coming up.

7.0 BOARD COMMENTS

Name	Topic
Mr. Ron Turpin	Shared how it's critical to invest in our schools at this time. He believes that this Plan is the best way to be fiscally responsible. Agrees that the taxpayers are overburdened, therefore we need to spend wisely and make our dollars stretch.
Ms. Jenny Blackburn	Thanked Superintendent Hissong and her Cabinet for all of their work on this Plan. She fully supports the project as well as the architect firms; Appreciates the taxpayers giving their input this evening.
Mr. Todd Buckmaster	Appreciates all the work that the Board and the Administrators have given to this project. It's a fiscally responsible Plan.
Mr. Steve Screeton	The Plan addresses our current needs and future growth. It keeps us competitive and forward thinking; As a former teacher he remembers the first two weeks before school begins…
Mr. Tim Hines	In the late 1990's when there was talk of consolidating schools the communities didn't want that. That Board knew it would take a financial commitment to keep all of these schools. Kudos to our A&E people for their designs. COVID taught us that kids learn best when they are at school, and we know that holding classes in trailers is not the best safety-wise. This Plan ensures EACS will be in a good place for years to come and it is important for the longevity of our communities. Thank you to everyone for your time.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Full audio minutes are available on the East Allen County Schools website, under the School Board tab, at www.eacs.k12.in.us.

The next regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the EACS Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana.

These minutes were approved and adopted by the East Allen County Schools Board of School Trustees on August 6, 2024.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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President Secretary