EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MINUTES
September 7, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

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

At a meeting (in person and Zoom) held at the Administration Building, 1240 State Road 930 East, New Haven, Indiana, the Board of School Trustees of East Allen County Schools met at approximately 6:30 p.m. on September 7, 2021.

Board members present:
Mr. Todd C. Buckmaster, President
Mr. Timothy E. Hines, Vice President
Mrs. Gayle C. Etzler, Secretary
Ms. Jennifer L. Blackburn
Mrs. Paulette Nellems
Mr. Steven M. Screeton
Mr. Ronald W. Turpin

Board members absent:
None.

EACS Administrators and Association Presidents also in attendance:
Mrs. Marilyn Hissong, Superintendent
Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Mr. Kirby Stahly, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Ms. Deborah Watson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Dr. Patrick McCann, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Tina Grady, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Wendy Hoering, Director of Development and Title I
Mrs. Cassie Lepper, Director of Special Services
Mrs. Tamyra Kelly, Public Information Officer
Mr. Keith Madsen, Director of Technology
Mrs. Jennifer Mabee, Director of Title III
Mrs. Michelle Wenglikowski, Director of Student Services
Mr. Tim Wiegand, Executive Director of Alternative and Career and Technical Education
Mr. Chad Houser, Principal, Leo High School
Mr. Steve Walter, Principal, Heritage Elementary School
Ms. Kelly Andrews, Administrative Intern, New Haven Primary School
Mrs. Andra Kosmoski, President, East Allen Educator's Association

1.0 ROUTINE ITEMS

1.1 Call to Order

President Todd Buckmaster called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Board member Mr. Steve Screeton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

The agenda for September 7, 2021 was approved as presented with an addendum to Consent Item 3.1 - Human Resources Report.

Mr. Ron Turpin asked that Action Items 21-0907-4.4 and 21-0907-4.5 be voted on separately from the other Action Items.

Motion: That Action Items 21-0907-4.4 and 21-0907-4.5 be voted on separately.

Motion: Turpin Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Screeton, Turpin; Against: Nellems (Motion carried 6-1)

1.4 Recognition

None.

2.0 PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS – AGENDA ITEMS

Name	Topic
Carrie VanDaele, Amy Frecker, Brian Thompson, Mike Rian, Ed Whitacre, Robin Murphy, Benjamin Reidy, Joseph Reidy, Meredith Palmison, Megan Payton, Daniel Groves, Devon Graber, Lindsey Hammond, Dwayne Greber, Loretta Urbine, Brian Thompson, Milinda Abel, Graham Renbarger, Valeria Walker, Jen Schumaker, Justin Hicks, Rochelle Metz, Ric Runestad, Mark Wager	Masks

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 – August 17, 2021
3.5 Minutes – Special Board Meeting – August 31, 2021
3.6 Minutes – Executive Session – August 31, 2021

Motion: That Consent Items 3.1 through 3.4, and 3.6 be approved as presented.

Motion: Turpin Second: Screeton

Discussion: None.

Vote:
3.1–3.4, 3.6 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Nellems, Screeton, Turpin
(Motion carried 7-0)

Motion: That Consent Item 3.5 be approved as presented.

Motion: Etzler Second: Blackburn

Discussion: None.

Vote:
3.5 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Screeton; Abstained: Nellems, Turpin
(Motion carried 5-0-2)

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

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

21-0907-4.1 Application and Receipt of Funds for High Ability Grant for 2021-22SY

21-0907-4.2 Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana/Kentucky

21-0907-4.3 Revised Administrative Guideline 4122 – Teacher Appreciation Grant

Motion: That Consent Item 21-0907-4.1 through 21-0907-4.3 be approved as presented.

Motion: Turpin Second: Hines

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.1-4.3 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Nellems, Screeton, Turpin
(Motion carried 7-0)

21-0907-4.4 Agreement with Underwriter (Stifel)

21-0907-4.5 Agreement for Bond Counsel (Ice Miller)

Motion: That Action Items 21-0907-4.4 and 21-0907-4.5 be approved as presented.

Motion: Etzler Second: Hines

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.4- 4.5 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Nellems, Screeton; Against: Turpin
(Motion carried 6-1)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

21-0907-4.6 Memorandum of Understanding with Vincennes University Early College for Reach Grant

Mrs. Wendy Hoering presented information to the Board.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 21-0907-4.6 be approved as presented.

Motion: Hines Second: Etzler

Discussion: None.

Vote:
4.6 - Aye: Blackburn, Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Nellems, Screeton (Motion carried 6-0)*
*Board member Turpin left the room prior to the vote.

21-0907-4.7 Revised Return to School Plan – Updated Mask Policy

President Todd Buckmaster presented information to the Board.

Discussion: Each board member expressed their opinion and concerns for the plan.

Motion: That Discussion/Action Item 21-0907-4.7 be approved as presented.

Motion: Nellems Second: Blackburn

Vote:
4.7 - Aye: Blackburn, Nellems, Screeton; Against: Buckmaster, Etzler, Hines, Turpin
(Motion failed 4-3)

5.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Student Discipline Report

5.2 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.3 Memorandum of Understanding with Fort Wayne Dance Collective

Mrs. Cassie Lepper provided information to the board.

5.4 GO Bond Resolutions - Additional Appropriation Resolution and Final Bond Resolution

Dr. Pat McCann provided information to the board.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Hissong expressed her appreciation for the conversation tonight. The administrators, teachers, and staff will continue to do what's best for their students. We want our kids to be the winners in the midst of dealing with the pandemic.

Varsity football games are this Friday night throughout our district. It's nice to support our students!

7.0 BOARD COMMENTS

Name	Topic
Mrs. Gayle Etzler	Loves this school district – has had a relative continually in the Woodlan attendance area since 1964; Believes keeping the Plan the same is the right thing to do at this time.
Mr. Ron Turpin	We all serve on the Board, not for money, but because of our passion for kids; Mrs. Hissong is an outstanding Superintendent; He wishes we could do something to lower the number of students having to quarantine.
Ms. Jenny Blackburn	Appreciates the parents who came out; Knows that the student quarantines put pressures on families. Will respect the choice made tonight on the Plan. Doesn't want this to turn into a battle.
Mr. Steve Screeton	As a former teacher and coach, he is passionate for kids and just wants what's best for our students and staff. We need to unite.
Mr. Tim Hines	Collectively, let's do what's best for our students. COVID will be here for some time. Let's work for the betterment of our whole community.
Mr. Todd Buckmaster	Thanked everyone for coming. We don't always agree, but at the end of the day the majority vote prevails; we will continue to have ongoing discussions about the Plan.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Screeton and Mrs. Nellems moved to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 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 board meeting of the Board of School Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:30 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 September 21, 2021.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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President Secretary