

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

4:03 p.m.

May 26, 2020

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The Board of School Trustees of the Fort Wayne Community Schools met in special session in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:03 p.m. President Julie Hollingsworth called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and the following members in attendance:

Roll Call

Members present: Julie Hollingsworth, Chairperson  
Stephen Corona  
Anne Duff  
Maria Norman  
Glenna Jehl  
Tom Smith

Selection of a  
Superintendent  
and Approval of  
Superintendent  
Contract

Julie Hollingsworth, President of the Board, presented the following recommendation concerning the Selection of a Superintendent and Approval of Superintendent Contract:

**RECOMMENDATION:** It was recommended that the Board approve the selection of a Superintendent, approve the final Superintendent contract for employment and award the final contract for employment.

**RELATED INFORMATION:** In June 2019, this Board began its search for the next FWCS superintendent with a training session given by Michael Adamson of the Indiana School Boards Association. Last fall, the Board took proposals from four search firms and selected Hazard, Young and Attea (HYA) to assist with the search process. In December 2019, HYA held three public meetings and many small group meetings of both internal and external stakeholders to survey the community as to characteristics desired of the next superintendent as well as input regarding the future direction of FWCS. The report to the Board and the community at a public meeting, helped determine the desired qualifications of candidates and guided the Board in its search.

In March 2020, just as schools were closed statewide, the Board met to receive from HYA its slate of the top candidates qualified for the position. Throughout April, the Board held virtual interviews of six candidates in first round interviews followed by virtual interviews of three finalists. Speaking for the Board, our one regret in this process is that we lost the advice and input of our friend and colleague, Jordan Lebamoff, who passed away in early March. I believe he would be proud of the work we have done.

On May 18, a 6 p.m. public hearing was held to receive public comment on the terms and conditions of a proposed Superintendent contract for employment.

Tonight, the Board meets to approve a final Superintendent contract for employment and award the final contract for employment. A copy of the approved, final and awarded contract for employment will be posted on the FWCS website.

A motion was made by Steve Corona that the FWCS Board of Trustees select Dr. Mark Daniel as Superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools, that the Board approve the Final Contract of Employment, and that the Board award the Final Contract to Dr. Mark Daniel. The motion was seconded by Tom Smith. Roll Call: Ayes, unanimous; nays, none.

Board Member  
Comments

Board Member Steve Corona reviewed information gathered from the public, parents, and staff at the beginning of the search for a new superintendent. He feels that most of the desired qualities and characteristics are found in Dr. Daniel.

Glenna Jehl found there to be an abundance of very qualified candidates who applied for the superintendent position. She feels that the Board did their due diligence in finding the best candidate. She has great confidence that Dr. Daniel will take our District to the next level.

Tom Smith feels that Dr. Daniel will be a great superintendent.

Anne Duff had a long list of pros while selecting Dr. Daniel. While he is a North Side grad, he has experience in different school districts. The fact that he has stayed abreast of the District and the community is a definite plus.

Maria Norman said this is a feel-good story, a Fort Wayne teacher coming home to be Superintendent. Dr. Daniel knows where we've been and how we got there and will lead the charge forward.

Board President Julie Hollingsworth feels Dr. Daniel brings very broad experience with him; from being a teacher, a principal, and a superintendent in two different districts. He is proven success in collaborating with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and business and community leaders. These skills will be important. Ms. Hollingsworth thanked the many, many people involved in the superintendent search.

Comments by  
Dr. Mark Daniel

Dr. Daniel thanked the Board. He is very humbled and proud to accept the position of Superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools. He looks forward to advancing the educational opportunities in the District. He looks forward to visiting all the schools, sitting down with principals and talking to teachers and students. With his knowledge and experience he will seek to do his very best to provide the best service the Board, to Cabinet, to the teachers and most importantly to the kids and community.

Comments

Steve Corona noted the passing of a former leader in the District, Frank Houk. Mr. Corona also noted the terrific leadership the District has been under with Dr. Robinson. She has brought creditability back to the District for families.

Tom Smith welcomed Dr. Daniel and knows he will fit in well with the Fort Wayne community.

Maria Norman spoke of the unusual end to the school year and thanked all staff for supporting each other and families. She knows FWCS is the best district in northeast Indiana and that teachers and administrators care deeply about our students. Ms. Norman knows that when and how students return in the fall they will be safe. Ms. Norman congratulated the 2020 graduates and will be there to cheer them on at many of the parades. Lastly, she spoke about Superintendent Robinson. Ms. Norman is sorry that Dr. Robinson is leaving at the time of the pandemic but she is glad she was here because she brought so much wisdom, vision, and sense of calm through this uncharted experience. She thanks her for all of the years and dedication she put into the District.

Board President Julie Hollingsworth closed by thanking staff and parents for everything they did over last few months. She congratulated Dr. Daniel on his new position and looks forward to working with him.

Next  
Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lester L. Grile Administrative Center.

Signatures

Document signed by members of the Board was the Contract of Employment between Fort Wayne Community Schools and Dr. Mark Daniel.

Adjournment  
and Dismissal

There being no further business and no speakers, upon a motion by Steve Corona, seconded by Glenna Jehl, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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President  
Julie Hollingsworth

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Vice President  
Maria Norman

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Secretary  
Anne Duff

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Member  
Steve Corona

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Member  
Glenna Jehl

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Member  
Thomas Smith