



August 11, 2025
Board of School Trustees

FCMS - Auditorium
625 Grizzly Cub Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
6:00 PM

Debbie Gill: Present
Brett Jones: Present
Jennifer Mann: Present
Becky Nelson: Present
David Yount: Present

1. WATCH MEETING LIVE
YouTube Live Stream
2. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
Mrs. Becky Nelson
Mrs. Becky Nelson called the meeting to order.
3. **RECOGNITION**
Dr. David Clendening & Dr. Brooke Worland
 - A. Individual Student Growth
 - ISSMA Concert Choir State Championship
 - FCMS Indiana State School Music Association All-Music Award
 - Superintendent's All A Honor Roll
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Mrs. Becky Nelson
 - A. Public Comments on any Consent Agenda Item
Public comments regarding consent agenda items are limited to 3 minutes.
 - B. Allowance of Claims and Vouchers
 - C. Approve Minutes

- D. Centerstone MOU
- E. Donations
- F. Liability Insurance Renewal
- G. Overnight and/or Out of State Trips
- H. Resolution to Transfer Amount from Cub Care Fund & Interest Income to the Employer of Choice Fund

- I. Personnel Report
- J. Salary Schedules
Speech Language Pathologist School Psychologist
- K. Software Renewals
- L. Superintendent Membership Dues

M. Surplus

N. Consent Agenda Vote

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Jennifer Mann and seconded by Debbie Gill, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Dr. Clendening shared that our liability insurance with AFM/EMC (the same company as last year) increased by 6.4%. Karen Stafford is retiring after 17 years of service as a certified bus driver. As noted on the surplus list, we are removing the current teacher desks at Webb Elementary. This is due to the school receiving new desks to replace the old ones.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

A. Back-to-School Update

Dr. David Clendening

We had an outstanding opening day ceremony to kick off the new school year. Our theme this year is "One District, Many Stories". Student enrollment is up by approximately 180 students, which is a positive trend. While we had a few transportation challenges during the first few days, those issues have been addressed and resolved. At the elementary level, we are committed to maintaining a 25:1 student-teacher ratio. All elementary schools are currently below this threshold, though we are closely monitoring higher-enrollment classes as new students continue to enroll. Virtual school continues to be a strong option, with about 111 students currently enrolled. Our official ADM (Average Daily Membership) count day is October 1st. Looking ahead, the fall sports season is just around the corner. Next week marks the start of football,

volleyball, and soccer, and we look forward to cheering on our student-athletes as they represent our district.

B. 2024 Energy Update

Mr. Jeff Bright

This program has been in use since 2013. The motto for this program is to use the equipment when needed, but shut it down when not needed. We ask staff to help by shutting down computers at the end of the day, turning lights off when not in use for an extended period of time, no personal space heaters or refrigerators. The bulk of our savings in this program comes from our automated building systems. Our district's Energy Conservation Program, in place since 2013, continues to play a key role in managing utility costs and promoting sustainability. The program's motto is: "Use the equipment when needed, but shut it down when not needed." We ask all staff to support these efforts by: Shutting down computers at the end of each day Turning off lights when rooms are not in use for an extended period Avoiding the use of personal space heaters or refrigerators While staff efforts are crucial, it's important to note that the majority of our energy savings come from our automated building systems, which help regulate heating, cooling, and lighting districtwide

Our district's energy conservation program, in place since 2013, continues to play a key role in managing utility costs. The program's motto is: "Use the equipment when needed, but shut it down when not needed." We ask all staff to support these efforts by:

- shutting down computers at the end of each day
- turning off lights when room are not in use for an extended period
- avoiding the use of personal space heaters or refrigerators

While staff efforts are crucial, it's important to note that the majority of our energy savings come from our automated building systems, which help regulate heating, cooling and lighting districtwide. 2024 was a good year in comparison to 2023 (-\$58,028) and our previous baseline of 2012 (-\$150,526). Back in 2012, a Six Sigma project was done to look at ways to become more efficient.

In 2024, electricity accounted for the majority of our utility expenses, making up 73% of total costs. By contrast, natural gas represented just 12.3% of our utility spending. Electricity charges are based on our rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh). In early 2025, we began seeing the impact of Duke Energy's announced rate increase - a 10% rise for 2025. Looking ahead, Duke will pass along an additional 4% increase in 2026, though there may be some small offsets that will help reduce the overall impact.

We replaced three chillers at the HS, and with reduced usage being down vs 2023, this translates to an estimated savings of \$34,000. At Creekside and Northwood, heat pumps and heat exchangers were replaced, and with usage being down vs 2023, this translates to an estimated savings of \$12,059 at Creekside and \$24,255 at Northwood. The Department of Public Works (DPW) bills us based on our water meter readings, which track usage at specific buildings. This includes water used by sprinkler systems and cooling towers - water that does not go down the drain. After subtracting the water usage that doesn't enter the drainage system from our total meter readings,

we have saved nearly \$100,000 over the past twelve years. With our 2012 baseline year, compared to 2024, we have saved \$150,526. Our average annual savings are \$240,495. For the last twelve years, we have saved \$2,885,945.

C. Quarterly Financial Report

Ms. Tina Jobe

The Quarterly Financial Report will be tabled until the September board meeting.

D. 2026 Budget Workshop Presentation

Ms. Tina Jobe

This budget workshop is designed to provide an overview of where we are headed with the funds available. On September 8th, we will hold a public hearing on the 2026 budget and get approval of the 2026 Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans. On October 20th, the Board of School Trustees will adopt the 2026 budget. Districts are required to spend at least 62% of "Total Tuition Support" on teacher salaries. For the 2024-2025 school year, we spent 67.55% on teacher salaries. Our funding floor for teacher salaries is required to remain equal to or greater than the previous year. The board goal is set at 15% to spend in each of the Education Fund, Operations Fund, and the Rainy Day Fund and at the end of this year we are projecting to be at 25.71%. We have significant changes in revenue for 2026. The Education Fund (based on 4,883 students + 120 virtual students) has a projected revenue increase of \$1,208,983. The Operating Fund levy (what we receive in) is capped at 4% with a projected revenue increase of \$346,640. There is no cap in 2026 for the Referendum Fund Levy, with a rate based on \$0.23 projected revenue increase to be \$446,298. We have revenue/savings opportunities as well as increased costs in certain areas for 2026. Our budget is made up of 52% education, 25% debt service, 15% operations, and 8% referendum for a total proposed budget of \$79,945,213. At the end of 2026, we will have paid off the HS bond. Our assessed value has continued to increase, and we should receive our assessed valuation for 2026 soon. We are requesting \$1.9160 tax rate with an anticipated approval of \$1.3984.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Public Comments on any Action Item

Public comments regarding action items are limited to 3 minutes.

There were no public comments.

B. Notice of Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget

Ms. Tina Jobe

Motion to approve to advertise the 2026 budget. This motion, made by Brett Jones and seconded by Jennifer Mann, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

We are asking for board approval to publicize the 2026 budget. The public hearing will take place at the September 8, 2025, school board meeting. Adoption of the 2026 budget is scheduled for October 20, 2025.

- C. Permission to Advertise Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans
Ms. Tina Jobe

Motion for permission to Advertise Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plans. This motion, made by Debbie Gill and seconded by David Yount, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Per state law, we are requesting approval to advertise the resolutions for capital projects and the bus replacement plans.

- D. Contracted Services for Speech and Language for the 2025-2026 academic school year
Mrs. Jenn Scott

Motion to approve the agreement for Contracted Services for Speech and Language for the 2025-2026 academic school year. This motion, made by Brett Jones and seconded by Debbie Gill, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Asking for approval to continue with the contracted services for speech and language for the 2025-2026 school year with Chelsea Bernett.

- E. Recommendation to Hire Individual Under SEA 342
Motion to approve the recommendation to hire an individual under SEA 342. This motion, made by Jennifer Mann and seconded by Brett Jones, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

After June 30, 2023, the state legislators and the general assembly gave us the ability to hire people with a minor infraction. We must conduct a separate vote focused on the recommendation to hire the candidate proposed under SEA 342. This vote will be independent of other hiring decisions to ensure clarity and transparency in our selection process. The infraction was disclosed during the hiring process.

F. Policies: Second Reading

Dr. Clendening

Motion to approve the policies, guidelines and forms as presented. add medical licensed to approved....subject to the change. This motion, made by Brett Jones and seconded by Debbie Gill, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

Motion to approve the policies as presented, subject to the change mentioned. This motion, made by Brett Jones and seconded by Jennifer Mann, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea

David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

There are recommended changes to C175 that are marked in green. Indiana is a compulsory attendance state, which means that students are required to be in school when it is open. The nation and the state are having discussions about chronic absenteeism. A draft of the new accountability rule for the state of Indiana has been sent out for feedback, which includes regular attendance requirements for students in grades K-12. This will be part of our accountability grading for all schools moving forward for the next school year. David Yount suggested that we add the word "medical" under Medical - This includes: c. Recovery from accident as verified by a "medical" licensed professional.

7. **DISCUSSION**

A. Public Comments on Discussion Items

Public comments regarding discussion items are limited to 3 minutes. There were no public comments.

B. POLICY Board Member Stipend

The state law changed on July 1, 2025, which allows a school board member's salary to be up to 10% of the teacher's baseline salary. For FCS school board members, this would be \$5,000.

8. **BOARD / ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

A. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

B. Administrative Comments

There were no board comments.

9. **CALENDAR**

A. Calendar of Events

- Labor Day Holiday - No School: September 1

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion, made by Brett Jones and seconded by Jennifer Mann, Passed.

Debbie Gill: Yea

Brett Jones: Yea

Jennifer Mann: Yea

Becky Nelson: Yea


David Yount: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

11. I.C. 5-14-9-1

David Yount is an appointed member of the Franklin Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees representing Needham Township appointed by Franklin Community School Board. The date of appointment was January 30, 2025, and the term expires December 31, 2026.


Board of School Trustees


Becky Nelson, President


Debbie Gill, Vice President


Jennifer Mann, Secretary


Brett Jones, Member


David Yount, Member