

**FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Fort Thomas City Building – 130 N. Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075  
August 12, 2024  
6:30pm

**Attendance Taken at 6:25 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mr. Jeff Beach  
Mr. Clem Fennell IV  
Mrs. Sarah Foster  
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein  
Mrs. Ann Meyer

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Board Chair Ann Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Recognitions**

**1. Board Bravos and Updates**

Board members shared the following:

- HMS back to school night was a hit with parents
- Groundbreaking is Thursday, August 15 at Tower Park
- Great Opening Day breakfast; well attended
- HHS Theatre & Choir teachers were introduced earlier tonight
- Hall of Fame induction is this weekend
- First day of school is Wednesday, August 14
- HHS Broadcasting received 4 Emmys
- FCCLA competed at STAR Nationals; 1 gold and 2 silver
- Jennifer Nash is the new Assistant Principal at HHS
- Good luck to all the fall sports teams

**2. Tradition of Excellence Award**

**a. Juli Neace**

Juli Neace was presented with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of her achievement as a 2024 KYSHAPE Teacher of the Year.

**b. The Heiert Family**

The Heiert Family was presented with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of their dedication and commitment to supporting and encouraging students both in and out of the classroom.

**c. Matt Kremer**

Matt Kremer was presented with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of his partnership and dedication to enhance the experiences and opportunities for FTIS students and citizens of Fort Thomas.

**d. Mike Clines**

Representative Mike Clines was presented with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of his partnership and dedication to enhance the experiences and opportunities for FTIS students and citizens of Fort Thomas.

**3. Recognition of Ann Meyer**

Ann Meyer was presented with a Tradition of Excellence Award in recognition of her service and commitment to advancing the FTIS Mission and Vision. The Board thanked Ann for her leadership, tireless support of teachers, focus on the schools and students, and for always setting high expectations for others to follow. Ann was also presented with a plaque commemorating her board service and a gift from FTEA.

**C. Community Forum**

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (GESCC)**

**1. Project Update**

Jerry Wissman shared that Comfort Systems has completed their work and that CMTA is making minor adjustments to finish up the project. He anticipates we will receive the final pay application and close the project next month.

**2. CMTA Pay Application #16**

**Order #2564 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #16 to CMTA, Inc. in the amount of \$63,382.32 for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract program passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**B. Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Renovation**

**1. Project Update**

Jerry Wissman shared with the Board that Riegler completed the retaining wall and continues to work on the road. While Jerry acknowledged Riegler is not as far along as anticipated, he is hopeful there will be a safe connection from the neighborhood to the park once paving is complete.

**2. Morel Construction Co. Pay App #1**

**Order #2565 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay Application #1 to Morel Construction Co. in the amount of \$646,758.00 for the Highlands Athletic Complex at Tower Park Project passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**C. Employee Perfect Attendance Incentive**

**Order #2566 - Motion Passed:** Approval to authorize the Superintendent to award a yearly perfect attendance bonus and develop monthly incentive drawings September 2024 through May 2025 passed with a motion by Mr. Clem Fennell IV and a second by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**D. Policy Revisions**

**1. Policy 09.226 Revision for 2024-25 First Reading**

**Order #2567 - Motion Passed:** Tentative approval of Policy 09.226 based on a First Reading of the policy revisions passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mr. Jeff Beach.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**2. Parent and Family Engagement Policy First Reading**

**Order #2568 - Motion Passed:** Tentative approval based on a First Reading of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy passed with a motion by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**E. Board Member Resignation**

**Order #2569 - Motion Passed:** Approval to accept resignation from Ann Meyer as board member from Fort Thomas Independent Schools Board of Education effective August 13, 2024, creating a vacant seat passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Areas of Emphasis for SY 2024-25**

Superintendent Brian Robinson shared with the Board the 2024-25 areas of emphasis, which include:

- Enhance FTIS status as a destination district
- Strategic plan
- Instructional focus
- Expanding FTIS partnerships and voice

**B. Board Committee Updates**

The Board had no further updates.

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Order #2570 - Motion Passed:** With all Board members having had the opportunity to review and pursue any questions about all of the items contained therein, approval of the consent agenda passed with a motion by Mrs. Sarah Foster and a second by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 8, 2024 and Special Annual Working Board Meetings of July 10, 2024 and July 11, 2024, and Working Board Meeting of August 8, 2024**

**B. Financial Report for Month of July 2024**

**C. Authorization for Payment of Claims**

**D. District Data Security and Breach Procedures**

## **E. Revised Salary Schedules**

### **1. Extra Service Salary Schedule**

## **F. Notification and Approval of Student Trips**

**1. HHS Girls Soccer - Evansville, IN - August 30-31, 2024**

**2. HHS FCCLA - Versailles, KY - September 16-17, 2024**

## **G. Personnel Action Taken Since July 8, 2024**

### Employment of the following Certified Employees

Denisse Fernandez - Teacher - MES

Joni Ficke - Teacher - HHS

Susan Messmer - Teacher - WES

### Change of Position for the following Certified Employee

Jennifer Nash - Teacher - HHS - Assistant Principal - HHS

### Employment of the following Classified Employees

Katie Knight - Instructional Assistant - WES

Sarah Messmer - Instructional Assistant - HHS

Karen Sprecker - Bus Monitor - Districtwide

Rebecca Thomas - Instructional Assistant - WES

### Employment of the following Extra-Service Positions

Stephanie Beiting - Art Club Sponsor - HHS

Samantha Corman - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Andy Eckerle - Fine Arts Dept. Chair & frac12; split - HHS

Marti Jo Houlehan - Literacy Leader - WES

Steven McClamrock - Special Education Dept. Chair - HHS

Amy Opitz - Chess Club Sponsor - JES

Stephanie Pinguely - Literacy Leader - WES

Lindsey Reckers - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Laura Rittinger - Social Studies Dept. Chair - HMS

Laura Rittinger - Grade Level Leader - HMS

Employment of the following Paraprofessional Positions

Brian Runyon - Boys Varsity Assistant Soccer Coach - HHS

Tony Spaulding - Boys JV Soccer Coach - HHS

### Resignation of the following Certified Employees

Barbara Carrasquel - Teacher - MES

Jennifer Forgy - Assistant Principal - HHS

Heather Turner - Teacher - WES

### Resignation of the following Classified Employees

Jessica Eades - Instructional Assistant - WES

Nicholas Kalonda - Custodian - HHS

Judy Matthews - Cafeteria - WES

Susan Morrow - Bus Monitor - Districtwide  
Julie Sarakatsannis - Guidance Counselor Secretary - HHS

Resignation of the following Extra-Service Positions

Andy Eckerle - Art Club Sponsor - HHS  
Katie Huber - Chess Club Sponsor - JES  
Mary Ryan - Special Education Dept. Chair - HHS

Resignation of the following Paraprofessional Positions

Jeremy Baioni - Head Baseball Coach - HHS  
Ian Chang - Boys JV Soccer Coach - HHS  
Jeremy Donelan - Boys Track Coach - HMS

**H. Grant Extended Leave**

1. Chris Middendorf - Medical Leave (July 30 - August 26, 2024)
2. Avram Steuber - Medical Leave (August 2 - September 2, 2024)
3. Dale Bartel - Medical Leave (July 31 - September 16, 2024)

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION per KRS 61.810 (1)(f) Discussion which might lead to the appointment of an individual member**

**Order #2571 - Motion Passed:** Approval to enter into Executive Session at 7:28pm per KRS 61.810(1)(f) which might lead to the appointment of an individual member passed with a motion by Mr. Jeff Beach and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**Order #2572 - Subsidiary Motion Passed:** Approval to exit Executive Session at 8:26pm per KRS 61.810 (1)(f) passed with a motion by Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein and a second by Mr. Clem Fennell IV.

Mr. Jeff Beach	Yes
Mr. Clem Fennell IV	Yes
Mrs. Sarah Foster	Yes
Mrs. Julie Kuhnhein	Yes
Mrs. Ann Meyer	Yes

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Ann Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.

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Chairperson

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Superintendent