



**Franklin County  
Regional Delivery System**  
**ROE #21, 901 Public Square, Benton, IL 62812**

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**Franklin County Regional Delivery System Board of Control Meeting  
December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., Campbell Building, Benton, IL 62812**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:**

- ✓ Lorie LeQuatte, ROE #21 Superintendent of Schools, FCRDS BOC Chair
- ✓ Benjy Johnson, Superintendent, Benton Consolidated High School District 103
- X Richard Towers, Superintendent, Christopher Community Unit School District 99
- ✓ Matt Donkin, Superintendent, Frankfort Community Unit School District 168
- ✓ Jason Henry, Superintendent, Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District 196
- ✓ Lindsay Robinson, Superintendent, Thompsonville Community Unit School District 174 *(by Phone)*
- ✓ Quent Hamilton, Superintendent, Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District 188

**Others in attendance:**

- X Amanda Spannagel, Director, Franklin County Regional Delivery System
- ✓ Alison Cross, ROE Accountant and Fiscal Agent for Franklin County Regional Delivery System
- ✓ Nancy Kinsey, Assistant Director, Franklin County Regional Delivery System

**FY24 Second Quarterly Meeting was Called to Order at 2:04 p.m. on December 6, 2023**

A motion was made by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes from both the September 21, 2023, and October 19, 2023, meetings. The minutes for both meetings were approved by a unanimous 6-0 Voice Vote.

**Under New Business:**

Having no old, unfinished business to discuss, Mr. Hamilton made a motion for payment of reimbursements and other bills; it was seconded by Mrs. Robinson and passed unanimously by a 6-0 Roll Call Vote.

Fiscal Officer Alison Cross provided an update on spending of grant funds; she indicated the new spending plans and purchasing procedures are working well and FCRDS is on track to spend all funds well in advance of the grant deadlines at the end of the fiscal year.

Board Chair Lorie LeQuatte provided highlights on activities and projects for which no action was needed. Updates included:

- Counselors' Annual Meeting was held at Joe's Pizza with all Franklin County High School Counselors participating. Two semiannual Assessment Reports were discussed; an extensive Local Needs Assessment (LNA) must be completed by every Franklin County High School with a due date of March 1, 2024; and a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment will be completed from a regional perspective by FCRDS staff with a due date of April 1, 2024.
- EDGE Annual Luncheon was sponsored by the EDGE Board and held at Seasonings Bistro; student activities and future plans were highlighted with emphasis on the very successful recent Runway Rodeo organized and hosted by the nine EDGE students.



- Career Fairs – FCRDS Director and Assistant Director worked on planning and participated in both the Annual Rend Lake College Career Days and the first Annual ROE Career Fair held at the Pavilion in Marion. Mrs. LeQuatte announced the date and location have been set for next year's Career Fair – October 9, 2024, at the Marion Pavilion.

Board Chair LeQuatte shared news that FCRDS had received word that they would be awarded funding from the METT (Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades) Grant; further information is expected in mid-December regarding funding details, approved expenditures and timelines. Sesser-Valier High School also wrote for and will be awarded \$50,000 under the METT Grant. No Board action was needed.

Mr. Donkin asked for an update on an earlier suggestion for forming a Regional Work-Based Learning Program. He indicated his Principal is persisting in plan development and has asked what the next steps would be. A brief discussion took place on the Work-Based Learning meeting held at the FCRDS facility with all Superintendents/Principals invited to attend. Sesser-Valier and West Frankfort had expressed interest at that meeting. Mrs. Robinson was also in attendance and provided her insights on establishing a WBL program as Thompsonville High School is providing WBL opportunities in their new program this year. Benton High School has a well-developed and active WBL program. Both Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Johnson shared the structure and documentation on their WBL programs following that meeting. It was recommended at the end of the regional meeting that some type of interview or survey of current high school juniors be conducted at the high schools to determine interest in Work-Based Learning. There was a general agreement that the soonest a Regional WBL Program could be implemented would be Fall of 2024. Dr. Henry reminded everyone that a decision on creating a Regional WBL program will need to be made early to mid-Spring Semester to work with student schedules; his deadline at Sesser-Valier is the end of March 2024.

Materials on WBL programs and the significant role they will play in the future in the State of Illinois are being compiled and shared as new relevant information becomes available. Neither Mr. Towers or Mr. Hamilton were able to attend the regional meeting in Benton and no response has been received to inquiries about their interest. However, Mr. Hamilton said at the BOC meeting on December 6 that he will be discussing the WBL issue with his staff and will be informing the Board and FCRDS of their interest in a possible Regional WBL program. No immediate Board action was required on the WBL issues.

The final topic of discussion was led by Lorie LeQuatte as she shared news that FCRDS Director Amanda Spannagel is in communication with Man-Tra-Con personnel on a new grant-funded program. Man-Tra-Con will provide funding to pay students who could work in a mentoring environment through Internships or Apprenticeships or other similar arrangements. Franklin County is one of the eligible counties, and the timeline for this unique funding opportunity for students is January through May 2024, so time is of the essence. The FCRDS Board Chair suggested to BOC members that they might reach out to businesses or organizations that may be willing to mentor high school students during the Spring Semester. Lorie indicated more information is available through Man-Tra-Con of Marion or by contacting FCRDS Director Amanda Spannagel. No Board action was needed at this time.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Donkin seconded it; a Voice Vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously at 2:44 pm.