Our *Faces of Education* honoree this evening is Tina Peterson. She serves our school corporation as the Executive Director of the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools, and she is nominated by MCCSC Media Specialist and FMCCS Building Representative Verna DeLuce, who said, “I feel Tina deserves this award for her dedication to her position. She has increased our funding significantly during her tenure, and she has developed different kinds of grants to fit specific areas of need within the corporation.

The FMCCS awarded its first grants in 1976 and is expected to exceed $1 million dollars in cumulative funding to the school corporation this school year. This remarkable level of expansion and attainment in recent years is due to the vision, leadership and community partnership that Tina inspires. From vision screenings to Bradford Woods scholarships, to the FMCCS Science Initiative, to health and fitness initiatives, to grants for professional development or engaging the community in a conversation around 21st Century Education, Tina has helped shape our community’s support of education. Verna added in her nomination, “I have worked with Tina for several years now on each grant cycle. She is always prepared, patient and yet diligent in our meetings. These are, by nature, long and tedious meetings as we determine which requests are awarded the monies. I have never seen her lose her temper; rather she continues to keep us on task, guiding us toward completion…”

Tina has also demonstrated that giving to education can be fun and filled with elegance, grace and style. One need not look any farther than FMCCS New Year’s Eve Gala for an example. Tina created the fundraiser approximately four years ago, and it grows in support, beauty and scope with each passing event. The gala is described as “breathtaking,” “energizing,” and “glamorous.” “It appears that she spares no expense to make this a memorable event for all attendees,” Verna said. However, we all know that an enormous amount of work and partnership helped make the gala the special success that it has become.

Tina, your dedication to the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools has truly deepened the bond between Monroe County and its schools. You have expanded our definitions of generosity and philanthropy. The MCCSC Board of School Trustees is honored by your commitment. Therefore, it is our pleasure to recognize you as one of our shining Faces of Education. Thank you for your dedication to education and our school community.

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Faces of Education is a new feature of every regular Board of School Trustees Meeting. It is designed to recognize current MCCSC employees or volunteers, who have made a difference in our school community. Nomination forms can be found at each MCCSC site or on the web at www.mccsc.edu.