

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session, February 5, 2008

MEMORANDA

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in work session, for which proper notice had been given, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the School Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Jeannine Butler, Susan Daniels, Teresa Grossi, Valerie Merriam, Jim Muehling, Lois Sabo-Skelton and Sue Wanzer

Also present: James Harvey, Superintendent; Peggy Chambers, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel; Mary Lovejoy, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mike Shipman, Director of Assessment and School Operations; Karen Portle, Director of Information Services; Carl Zager, Instructional Media Coordinator; David Ernst, Contractor; and Janet Tupper, Administrative Assistant.

President of the Board, Teresa Grossi, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members received information about and discussed the following:

1. **Paperless Meetings** – (5:00-5:55 p.m.) This discussion was scheduled as a follow-up to information shared on this topic at a work session on November 20, 2007. Ms. Portle shared with the Board various ways that other organizations are conducting paperless meetings. She introduced David Ernst, former Director of Hoosier Net and now an independent contractor, who had developed the program to accomplish paperless Board meetings. Mr. Ernst discussed how the agenda will be created, what will be the public view of the agenda and how changes can be made.

In response to questions posed by Ms. Portle, Board members agreed that for the present time only the 'agenda' page will be projected from the MCCSC web site at Board meetings. If there is interest, attachments could be opened from that site. As per Board member responses to her questions, Ms. Portle will plan to have flash drives loaded on laptop computers for each Board member at the meeting. She said the plan is to have a 'trial run' the first meeting in March.

2. **CAPE Project** – (5:55-6:50 p.m.) CAPE representatives present included: Barbara Horvath, Executive Director; Shari Woodbury, President of Community Foundation; and Family Resource Center Coordinators Annamaria Mecca (Richland-Bean Blossom Schools), Theresa Malone, and Karen Serfling. Ms. Woodbury shared an historical account of CAPE, noting that it is funded by a major grant from Lilly Foundation. She said that although grant funds will be ending in May 2009, \$60,000.00 per year could continue operation of the Family Resource Centers.

Noting they were bringing knowledge that they acquired over the last seven years, Barb Horvath reviewed in detail the work and activities carried out by CAPE. She said they have made great strides in determining how to engage parents, i.e. looking at how parents are a part of the decision-making process. They have developed a comprehensive survey that will be test-marketed with the faculty at Templeton on February 6. She said they may change some wording before using it with parents. She said questions to be addressed include how to engage parents who are working and are we making school visits. She said there are ways that CAPE can help schools make these connections.

CAPE representatives responded to questions as they discussed with Board members the importance of meaningful relationships between parents and teachers, how to get parents involved, how to help parents feel welcome to ask questions, professional development for teachers, and developing measurable goals.

Ms. Horvath said the CAPE project focuses on growth. She talked about differences in how the Family Resource Centers operate because they are different environments. She mentioned ways they have been trying to work with all elementary schools. She said many community agencies would be happy to participate and she believes we need to encourage that. She said in the last reporting period they had over 9,000 children and families that they worked with; however, she thinks they are probably missing the more needy groups.

Board members were interested in what the Board could do to realistically affect sustainability of the programs started. They also asked at what level, i.e. sustain in all schools, in Title I schools, current schools, etc. Ms. Horvath and Ms. Woodbury will meet with the Superintendent to talk about what other districts are going to do, what might be able to piggyback on some things already in place, etc. Ms. Horvath said they are looking for other money too.

The work session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Teresa Grossi, President

Jeannine Butler, Vice President

Valerie Merriam, Secretary

Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

Susan Daniels, Member

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member