

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session, March 4, 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, March 4, 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 {arrived when indicated in minutes}, Lois Sabo-Skelton and Sue Wanzer {arrived when indicated in minutes}.

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; Ed Brown, Director of the Hoosier Hills Career Center; Joann Novak, Teacher and Technology Coordinator of Hoosier Hills Career Center; Jeff Henderson, Principal of Bloomington High School North; Betty Anderson, BHS North Assistant Principal; Marcus Debro, BHS North Assistant Principal; Andrea Mobley, BHS North Assistant Principal; Janet Tupper, Administrative Assistant; Linda Richardson, MCEA President; and Mercedes Rodriquez, Reporter for *The Herald-Times*.

President of the Board, Teresa Grossi, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members received information about and discussed high school status progress reports from the Hoosier Hills Career Center and Bloomington High School North.

1. **Hoosier Hills Career Center** – (5:00-5:55 p.m.) Mr. Brown shared with the Board specific information regarding the structure of the Hoosier Hills Career Center (HHCC) and how this organization came about. He described the services provided to students, including the program's mission and goals: (1) to prepare students with marketable and transferable skills and (2) to launch students onto a pathway that can lead to a satisfying career through initial employment and additional education. He explained that career and technical education (CTE) is a variety of different courses spread over several years and noted that changes in the HHCC curriculum are evolutionary. He said the structure of CTE is a central site to offer specialized career directed programs to prepare students for the workforce; these are performance based programs for applied learning with an emphasis on longer learning sessions. Mr. Brown said the program requires expert community involvement and that is accomplished with advisory committees for each program area. He further explained that there are 47 CTE districts in Indiana and although HHCC includes four school corporations, some have more or less; the structure varies around the state. He added that governing boards for these districts vary; however, MCCSC School Board serves as the governing Board for HHCC. He shared information regarding the role of the HHCC director and explained that the program operates a lot of businesses, such as Day Care Center, Culinary Arts Program, three automotive programs, cosmetology, construction (Building Trades) and horticulture. {Mr. Muehling arrived}

Mr. Brown pointed out that some programs are located at Martinsville, Edgewood High School and BHS South. He said they have a school improvement plan that is unique since test scores are not included; test scores are included at students' home high school. He said they receive a large grant from Perkins and their school improvement plan looks a lot like the Perkins Grant plan. He added that grant management is very important because the Perkins Grant (\$246,000 this year) is one of the major sources of funds for equipment. Mr. Brown shared detailed information to depict the funding structure and how CTE classes are rated insofar as high wage/high labor market demand, low wage/high labor market, etc. He mentioned new programs added last year for freshmen level students and the success of those classes as well as additional classes offered has resulted in an anticipated enrollment of 756 in 2008-2009 as compared to 564 this year. He said recent CTE directives include improved student academic subject level knowledge through integration of academic subject content in technical programs. He said other successes include

improved graduation rates for CTE students and positive placement for students completing the program.

Mr. Brown reviewed issues impacting CTE, talked about the community life sciences partnership and student portfolios. He said they have changed some of the ways they offer classes; they are very individualized and competency based so some students may come for part of the class time. He said biomedical classes have been started at BHS North and BHS South and the machining class is no longer offered but metals fabrication has been added and it is combined with welding. He reported that they have dual credit agreements with Ivy Tech Community College in several areas, most recently culinary arts. He said they are adding academic classes so that students could attend HHCC all day except when they are participating in internships. {Ms. Wanzer arrived} Mr. Brown talked about the idea of providing course options outside the regular school day but noted that transportation is always an issue, although many may have their own transportation. He suggested that if a shuttle system is developed younger students could be included in CTE programs. Mr. Brown shared staffing and facilities needs and responded to specific questions from Board members.

2. **Bloomington High School North** – (5:55-6:50 p.m.) Principal Jeff Henderson and Assistant Principal Andrea Mobley presented a status progress report for BHS North. Mr. Henderson talked about BHS North's future directions, beginning with a summary background of the school's history insofar as curriculum development and efforts to secure grant money to implement small learning communities. He said in 2003 and 2005 faculty members visited small learning community schools in New Hampshire and Vermont and decided to write the grant proposal. He said the three-year planning grant was not funded by the federal government. They had an opportunity to re-apply in 2006 and 2007 but were again unsuccessful and they learned that our community does not seem to be in enough dire need to qualify for the grant, i.e. there is not a large enough minority population or low SES population. He said they had an opportunity to reapply this year and elected not to because of the amount of work required on an extremely short timeline.

Mr. Henderson said in spite of not receiving grant money, they have done some components of small learning communities (SLC). Noting the Graduation Work Group (GWG) began in 2005, he said the task was to examine issues of high school transformation. He said they asked four critical questions: (1) What is working for our students in the way high school functions? (2) What is not working for our students in the way high school functions? (3) What should a successful MCCSC graduate look like? (4) What is your vision of what high school should be? He said they combined that information to determine what are their guiding principles as they move forward? Mr. Henderson said from that came their eight guiding principles: (1) flexibility with schedule, location, instructional delivery, length of day, and school year; (2) engagement with students, parents, educators and community; (3) smaller school and classes – intimate environment; (4) personalization; (5) relationship development with each other, adults, and educators; (6) good school environment – positive, safe; (7) relevant and broad curriculum; and (8) educating for life in a democratic society. He noted that 21st Century skills were included in their analysis: critical thinking, content literacy, civitas, productivity, communication and collaboration.

While analyzing 21st Century skills, Mr. Henderson said the faculty looked at 22 models with promise and compared those to the guiding principles. He said New Tech was the main focus in 2006-2007 and Early College has been a focus during this school year. He said they developed a crosswalk of courses that may be dual credit courses and the faculty got together to determine quality and rigor of courses. He said they have chosen to target low SES students and the groups that are of critical concern are those who are in the middle and who might be low income. He said they believe they are meeting the needs of AP (advanced placement) students who are scoring at or above the 95th percentile around the state. When they compared growth of special needs students to regular students they found they are growing at the same rate but not at a level to pass GQE (graduation qualifying exam). He said the low SES population targets sub-groups

but they wanted to come up with a system to address the unique characteristics of this population.

Mr. Henderson reviewed discussions he and the faculty held to identify ways to address the needs of all students. He said they want to reduce the anonymity of students and increase the sense of community at the school. He talked about how they might improve connections between faculty members, require a senior project or community service project for graduation, and improve parental involvement and communication. Ms. Mobley explained the pilot for freshmen that included a counselor and administrator assigned for each 70 students. She said students included in the pilot were chosen based on classes they selected. She said the pilot was very successful and they have developed a 'CARE' list in conjunction with middle school counselors to prepare for next year's freshmen. She and Mr. Henderson reviewed HSSSE (High School Survey of Student Engagement) data and plans for reorganization of the school's structure to address concerns. Mr. Henderson explained the plan for changing the basic organizational structure of the school, which would assign 425 students to each of four 'Houses' and include a 'House Director', counselor and teachers. He said they would like to implement the program in the 2009-2010 school year and dovetail it with other programs in place and with Early College High School.

In response to a question about how Block 8 scheduling relates to future plans, Mr. Henderson said it has been a topic of discussion and they feel they should do a better job of offering help within the school day. He said most schools have a planning period and duty period every other day. He said they do not have that flexibility but some teachers have said they want to volunteer time to open a resource center or computer lab. He understands that as long as it is voluntary that it would be okay for them to do that.

If Board members have additional questions, they will forward them to Dr. Grossi who will share them with Mr. Henderson and/or Mr. Brown. Board members thanked Mr. Brown, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Mobley for sharing these informative reports. They also expressed heartfelt appreciation to Hermann Serfling, instructor, and members of the HHCC Culinary Arts Class for providing box dinners for this meeting.

The work session adjourned at 6:50 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