

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, April 1, 2008

MINUTES

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Teresa Grossi	President
Jeannine Butler	Vice President
Valerie Merriam	Secretary
Sue Wanzer	Assistant Secretary
Susan Daniels	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Jim Muehling	Member

Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Ed Brown	Director of Hoosier Hills Career Center

In addition to the above, 57 citizens signed the visitor list (which is included as a part of the official record of this meeting) and two representatives of Bloomington Community Access TV were present.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President of the Board, Teresa Grossi, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Grossi explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Donna Clemens, secretary in the Information Services Department, who was nominated by her colleague Deb Woodward. In her nomination she mentioned Donna's strong work ethic and how meticulously she stays focused and on task. She said Ms. Clemens began her tenure with the school system as a teaching assistant in the auto-technology class at Hoosier Hills Career Center. She moved to a similar position in the drafting class before joining the IS department three years ago. She is known to face every day as if it is going to be a good day and she is an asset to the department and to the school corporation. Dr. Grossi said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize Donna Clemens as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Ms. Clemens graciously accepted the award and said she is pleased to be a part of the IS team and is here because of their support. She said she was humbled that a member of that team nominated her for this award. Those present applauded Ms. Clemens' dedication to her job and to the school system.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Dr. Sabo-Skelton introduced a young lady from Belgrade, Serbia, who was visiting the city and school system as a Frank McCloskey Fellow. She shared her impressions of Bloomington, noting that the School Board is not a concept for her. She said she is especially interested in affirmative action measures and this was an excellent opportunity for her to learn.

At 7:10 p.m., the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Binford Elementary School**

Ty Mungle, Binford Elementary School Principal, introduced student council president Jacqueline Forney who served as moderator for the school's presentation. Carrie Costello talked about Binford-Rogers PTO activities. She said they always have a picnic at the beginning of the year as well as fund-raising events including a carnival in the spring. She said the PTO also hosts a teacher appreciation breakfast twice a year and because their student assistance program had additional funds, they sent money to Fairview for students who needed help. She said they would like to increase communication with the School Board; they want to be more of a part of this community. Ms. Costello said Binford needs to come up with a solution for parking. She said they do not know if they will become a middle school but parking is a need today. She said they would like to become more involved in how to gain more support for ESL and self-contained classes. She asked how do we come to the Board with what they want to do at Binford and how do they meet the goal of obtaining the best education possible for their children.

Jacqueline Forney shared that Binford is a Four-Star School and continually ranks in the top 25% of schools in the state. She talked about the diverse and talented students at Binford and said the school meets the needs of two intermediate self-contained classrooms. Students at Binford focus on respect, responsibility and safety.

Seth Cantrell, 3rd grade, talked about the school's Fitness Fun Day and Garrett Fox shared pictures of 3rd graders having fun during this special day at Binford. They mentioned names of community participants who helped make the day a great one. Holden Jastremski said the 4th grade is learning about Indiana and they spent a day role playing at Honey Creek School. Maceo Jack commented on their studies about Native Americans. Taylor Hoke talked about how teachers and classes work together on Bradford Woods and many other projects. She said teachers believe students can learn more when they share projects, strategies and resources.

Jacqueline Forney mentioned some special projects that 6th graders participated in this year including a celebration of Greek Day, the Hannah Festival and honoring World War II Veterans. She said for the program to honor veterans, they learned military and 1940's songs and sang them as a surprise to the veterans who attended. Lisa Zorn, Binford music teacher, directed students as they shared some fun songs they had sung for veterans. Binford singers included: Elisa Berry, Kelli Bumbalough, Isabelle Conrad, Joe Crider, Kayla Eisenbarth, Emily Higgins, Matthew Johnsen, Carissa Knox, Eva Marsh, Courtney Mitzel, De Lisa Portland, Adi Reuveny, Ethan Sandweiss, Hannah Scott, Meital Shachaf, and Anna Weinberg.

Board members thanked Mr. Mungle and Binford students, parents and faculty for sharing this informative and enjoyable presentation.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey said at the last Board meeting he shared that Fairview and BHS South had been named *Healthy School Award* winners. Jennifer Staab, Healthy Schools Coordinator, Criss Beyers from BHS

South, and Trudy Litz from Fairview, were present to talk about activities in their schools that led to this honor. Ms. Litz said Fairview teacher Lee Heffernan wrote about nutritious lunches the school serves and the fact that the janitors keep the school very clean as well as the school garden and the integration of plants in the curriculum for all grade levels. She said they coordinate the garden project with an Indiana University biology class and they took the plants to the greenhouse during the winter. She added that Bloomingfoods would like to buy any produce the students have left from their garden.

Criss Beyers said BHS South won the award for the CPR program. He said in the fall of 1992 they started teaching CPR as part of the health curriculum and approximately 6,000 students have been certified in CPR since its inception. He said he knows of at least five former students who have saved someone's life because they had the training. He shared specifics about two of those incidents.

Board members thanked Ms. Staab, Ms. Litz and Mr. Beyers for sharing this information and extended congratulations for their programs and for winning this award.

Mr. Harvey congratulated Business Professionals of America students and their advisor Jeff Fisher for winning first place at the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis in March.

Tina Peterson, Executive Director of the Foundation of MCCS, reported that April is the beginning of *Thank A Teacher* season. She explained that elementary students take home a form and the form is mailed to parents of middle and high school students inviting them to contribute \$15.00 to the Foundation. For that donation the Foundation will send a card with a note from the donor to teachers. She talked about some of the amazing notes they receive from students who want to express appreciation to their teachers.

Ms. Peterson reported on the success of the grant reception and thanked *The Herald-Times* for nice coverage of the event. She announced that after thirty-five years in existence the Foundation passed the one million dollar (\$1,000,000) mark. Noting the Foundation began by giving six grants in 1976, she said this year 88 grants were funded in the amount of \$808,000. She mentioned some on-going projects that are funded by the Foundation and said the Personal Achievement Banquet is scheduled for May 13. It will be held in the Tudor Room at the Indiana Memorial Union and Geraldo Gonzales will be the speaker.

Mr. Harvey stated that the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) hearing on upcoming building projects was held on March 20. He said the project was approved by a vote of seven to two and now will go before the DLGF Commissioner for final approval. He thanked Ms. Merriam for her help in getting this favorable vote. He extended special appreciation to Tim Thrasher, Mike Scherer and Debbie Moore for their work in pulling together documentation and preparing an all inclusive notebook for the hearing. He said comments were made at the hearing that this was the first time they had seen such complete documentation. Mr. Harvey also thanked Kelly Abel, Karl Sturbaum and Lonnie Therber for their assistance with cost estimates and financial accountability documentation.

6. **EARLY COLLEGE NORTH CAMPUS, SOUTH CAMPUS**

Dr. Lovejoy introduced Marcus Debro and Kara Parker, Assistant Principals at BHS North and BHS South respectively, who shared plans for the implementation of Bloomington Early College High School (ECHS) at both campuses beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. A copy of their presentation is included with the agenda for this meeting.

Mr. Debro explained that ECHS students can receive dual credit (college and high school) for classes taken at Ivy Tech or Indiana University. He said ECHS encourages a strong background in science, math and technology. He noted that this program offers 21st Century Scholars an opportunity to receive free college credit in that high school students who qualify for free and reduced lunch do not pay tuition for

college classes. He talked about recruitment efforts and stated that they currently have 35 to 40 applications. Their goal is to enroll 50 students this fall. He said there will be a two-tier support system, i.e. tier one will be a low level of support and tier two will provide additional supports. Mr. Debro said they will ask middle school teachers to identify which students should be in tier one or tier two. He explained the tutoring schedule, field trips, program options, etc. He said the program allows each student to learn at his/her pace. He said they are excited about having this program in their building.

Ms. Parker mentioned that South teachers worked on eight committees and ten teachers attended a workshop on differentiated instruction and those teachers presented techniques to other faculty members. She said they contacted families to meet with teachers and learn about the 21st Century Scholars and ECHS programs, resulting in 84 students signing up for 21st Century and 74 for ECHS. She said the current ECHS enrollment is 86 and they are expecting to have three sections for this program, offering classes the first and second trimester with possible remediation the third trimester. She discussed preliminary schedule plans for the program and how additional help will be offered to students.

In response to a question, Mr. Debro said if students do not qualify for ECHS or 21st Century but are taking dual credit classes they will pay the normal fee. Dr. Butler expressed appreciation for this presentation and said she is excited to see what will happen with the students who participate in ECHS. Mr. Debro responded to Mr. Muehling's question by confirming that applications are still being accepted. He said they are looking at 8th graders who are 21st Century Scholars or first-generation college bound students.

Mr. Harvey noted that if middle school students are eligible for free or reduced lunch they are eligible for the 21st Century Scholars program but if they do not register while in middle school, they forfeit this option – they must register before they enter high school. He urged parents and/or students to contact Mr. Debro or Ms. Parker if they have questions.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on March 4, March 5 and March 18, 2008; (b) donations and field trip requests; (c) Contracts; (d) Personnel matters; (e) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Due to a conflict of interest, she removed the Aurora AHS trip from this motion. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion.

Ms. Chambers commented on the pending retirement of several teachers. She said Elizabeth 'Betty' Davidson began teaching at Batchelor in 1981. She moved to Jackson Creek when it opened in 1999 and retires from there with 27 years devoted to teaching. Charles 'Chuck' Jones began with MCCSC as a social studies teacher in 1976. During the intervening years he taught social studies, PE and health and he is completing 32 years with MCCSC and 33 years in education. Carol McGregor began teaching at BHS South in 1992. She is completing her 16th year with MCCSC. Janet Nowling was a home economics teacher at Binford and Unionville and then transferred to teach special education classes at BHS South in 1984. She is completing her 36th year with MCCSC. Bedford Blakely joined the MCCSC support staff in 1967 as a utility maintenance employee. During his tenure he also worked as a garage mechanic and supervisor and boiler mechanic. Ms. Chambers shared that Katherine Stephens recently died while on leave from her position as a teacher at BHS North. She said Ms. Stephens had taught special education at Meadows and served with MCCSC as a math teacher for ten years. Board members thanked Ms. Chambers for sharing information about retirees and extended condolences to Ms. Stephens' family.

During ensuing discussion, Ms. Merriam noted a correction in the minutes of the March 4 meeting and Mr. Harvey reviewed the generous donations made to the school system. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda without the Aurora field trip. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi,

Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

Dr. Butler moved approval of the field trip request submitted by Aurora Alternative High School. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Dr. Grossi explained that she is co-project director for this trip and considered hers to be a conflict of interest. Dr. Butler noted that this is a wonderful experience for the students.

Aurora teachers Becky Rupert and Barb Curry and teacher assistant Lisa Thompson reviewed preparation and class activities leading up to this trip and said it includes English, history, environmental science and war lessons for the students. Ms. Rupert noted that this is an opportunity for a few of their students to go to a national service learning conference to speak about what they have done with veterans and what they have done in their classes. Dr. Grossi explained some aspects of the program, including oral histories with veterans. She said it is pretty powerful and the histories will be submitted to the Library of Congress. Ms. Rupert said the Board will be receiving their request to go to Washington in May.

Board members voted on the motion to approve Aurora's field trip request. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Abstain: Grossi. Motion carried.

8. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There was no response to Dr. Grossi's invitation for public comments.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Wanzer said she was glad to hear that the state and federal government will increase support to all schools and in general make public education a priority – then noted this was an April Fool's joke. However, she said she does feel fortunate to be in this community where people do value education and show respect for educators. She said we do receive financial support, service, time and effort – this is a community that truly values what we do in education. She said 'thank you.'

Ms. Daniels said she really enjoyed the Foundation grant reception and is very excited to see the grants awarded. She said she has learned so much being on the Board and when she thinks of the grants she thinks about a lot of money but it is neat to see that some of these grants are for a small amount that makes a big difference. She said although an individual's budget may not allow a large donation, it is a wonderful opportunity to make a contribution in a big way. She mentioned examples such as \$15 to thank a teacher and Bradford Woods costs just under \$150 for each student. She said it is really great to be in a community that supports education. She encouraged people to contact Tina Peterson and make a contribution.

Mr. Muehling thanked the principal and others from Binford for their presentation. He said it is encouraging to see what is happening in our schools. He said the ECHS program is really exciting because it provides an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many students who often may not be as connected. He said it is important to make sure they know about these opportunities that will make a real difference in their lives. He noted that it provides an education and opportunities for kids to get involved in college credit and college work because they often qualify for aid but they do not know about how to apply. He said this and New Tech High School offer tremendous opportunities and he appreciates those who are leading the way.

Ms. Merriam said there will be one more opportunity to see BHS North's theatre production of *Dust* on June 6. She mentioned that this weekend BHS South will have a dance marathon to raise money for Riley Hospital and BHS North's Science Olympiad Team won state and will be going to national competition.

Dr. Butler thanked *The Herald-Times* for publishing the excellent article on Fairview Elementary School. She said it pointed out problems and uniqueness yet it pointed out lots of good things that are occurring at Fairview.

Noting there was an addendum to the specifications for contract bus routes Dr. Butler asked if the Board needed to approve those addenda. Mr. Scherer said no, there is a provision built into the contract that changes can be made. He said this is done on all bids; however, they did contact the school attorney to ask if they needed to re-advertise and received confirmation that the contract permits an addendum. Mr. Muehling understood that in this case it had to do with fuel costs and fuel specifications are built in to absorb changes. Dr. Grossi noted that the Board agreed to meet in work session from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 4, to talk about contract bus routes. She said a brief executive session will follow.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said the MCCSC Advisory Council for Special Education brought a film "Including Samuel" to the area. She said it was a very moving film, beautifully documented about how a family copes with a child with disabilities. She said the viewing was followed by a wonderful panel, including Dr. (Kathleen) Hugo as well as Indiana University students and parents. She said this movie served as a reminder that in every classroom we need to learn about inclusion and acceptance. She thanked the organization for bringing it here and hoped that others have a chance to see it.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Teresa Grossi, President

Jeannine Butler, Vice President

Valerie Merriam, Secretary

Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

Susan Daniels, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Jim Muehling, Member