

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, June 17, 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, June 17, 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
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member

Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Wendy Perry	Director of School Age Care Program
Jennifer Staab	Healthy Schools Coordinator
Lou Johnson	Director of Food Services
Mercedes Rodriguez	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 1 citizen 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 Lou Johnson, Director, who was present to represent the MCCSC Food Services Department. Dr. Grossi noted that the Food Service Department was nominated for this recognition by School Board member Sue Wanzer. In her nomination, Ms. Wanzer said the Food Service Department came to the rescue of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank on June 5th when freezers went down at Sam's Club due to a power outage. She said Sam's was prepared to donate the food to the Food Bank, but the lack of storage forced the staff to seek other storage venues. Linda Hobbs, MCCSC Food Services Assistant, said there was never a question about helping; the department was more than willing to share its freezer space and staff resources. Ms. Wanzer congratulated the Food Services team for a job well done. Dr. Grossi said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize the MCCSC Food Service Department as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. On behalf of Linda Hobbs, Nathan Covey and Gina Arthur, Ms. Johnson accepted the award and expressed appreciation for her dedicated staff.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** – There was no response to Dr. Grossi's invitation for public dialogue.

At 7:06 p.m., the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. **EXTEND THE BELL PROGRAM**

Jennifer Staab, Healthy Schools Coordinator, and Wendy Perry, Director of School Age Care Program, shared an update on their plan to create an after-school program for elementary students that will be a merge between the Extended Day Program and the Beyond the Bell Program. Ms. Staab said the Beyond the Bell Program has been very successful; however, it is funded with grant monies and that has come to an end. She said the steering committee looked at how to continue to support students who have exhibited academic improvement and reduced behavioral referrals through this program and this merge idea came from those discussions. Ms. Perry said this program could be developed and funded if the fee for after-school care is increased from \$32.50 to \$35.00 per child. Noting that students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will still qualify for fee remission for the program, she suggested that the program could be started in a few schools and eventually offered at all elementary schools. Ms. Perry said although she does apply for and receives grant monies, she has learned that grant funding comes and goes so you cannot count on continued funding. She has not talked with parents about this potential fee increase; however, there has not been an increase in this fee for six years. Mr. Harvey advised that a recommendation will be presented to the Board at the meeting on July 8.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey noted that he, Ms. Chambers and Dr. Hugo as well as four Board members attended an Indiana School Boards Association law seminar on June 13 and received additional information regarding public access. He reviewed the complaints and rulings and said he believes this Board follows the law insofar as public access. He did suggest that it might be prudent for us to remind the public that we provide the agenda to the Board and media in advance of the meeting and that it is posted on our web site. He further suggested that all items on the consent agenda are included in the motion, noting that the motion is based on documents that have been distributed to the Board and available to the public.

During ensuing discussion, Ms. Wanzer mentioned that the City Council reads the entire agenda at the beginning of each meeting. Dr. Grossi agreed that we need to continue to remind the public that the agenda is on our web site and that paper copies are available at the meeting. Ms. Wanzer suggested it would be nice if *The Herald-Times* would post the agenda on the day of Board meetings.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations; (b) Contracts, including Stevens Puppets, Inter-State Studio, Ivy Tech Community College Memorandum of Understanding for Early College High School Dual Credit, Ivy Tech Community College Memorandum of Understanding for Early College High School use of facilities, and Indiana University-Bloomington Memorandum of Understanding for Early College High School Dual Credit; (c) Personnel matters; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Butler so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Mr. Harvey reviewed donations received and thanked donors for their generous support of our schools. Ms. Chambers reported that all except two teachers who were on the RIF (Reduction in Force) list have been recalled and she expects they will soon be brought back. She noted that Sharon Onkst who has served as a playground supervisor, instructional aide and health aide, will be retiring on July 30 with 23 years of service to MCCSC.

Following a time for additional comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **DECLARE OUT-OF-DATE TEXTBOOKS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR DISPOSAL**

Mr. Harvey recommended that the Board declare out-of-date textbooks as surplus property and authorize the Assistant Comptroller, working with building Principals, to dispose of this property. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. In response to questions, Mr. Harvey said we actually have two years of books to dispose because new materials are arriving and we do not have storage space. He said the books are made available to state agencies, some are sold and some are recycled. He said any money received will go back to the Textbook Rental Fund. Board members voted on the motion to declare out-of-date textbooks as surplus property and to authorize their disposal. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION – ADDITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH**

As a follow-up to textbook adoptions approved by the Board on May 20, 2008, Mr. Harvey recommended that the Board approve the adoption of an additional textbook for Middle School English: Writers Inc Student Handbook, soft cover, 2006. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. In response to Dr. Butler's question, Mr. Harvey said this is a workbook, specifically for writing, and it will be an additional cost to parents. There were no questions or comments from the public. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **FOOD SERVICE BIDS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009**

Ms. Johnson recommended that the Board award Food Service bids for school year 2008-2009 as proposed: (1) Bid FS 08-1 Food, Supplies & USDA Commodities – B and B Foods for \$96,621.83; Commercial Food Service for \$81,736.00; Gordon Food Service for \$515,098.76; (2) Bid FS 08-2 Fresh Bread: Interstate Brands Corp. for \$26,754.00; (3) Bid FS 08-3 Fresh Pizza: Wilson Pizza (D.B.A. Dominos Pizza) for \$76,275.00; (4) Bid FS 08-4 Non-Carbonated Beverages: Commercial Food Systems, Inc. for \$50,058.00; (5) Dairy: renewal of the bid with Meyer Dairy for one (1) additional year. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Following a time for questions and comments during which Ms. Johnson discussed the uncertainty of food prices and length of contracts, Board members voted on the motion to award Food Service bids as proposed. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Wanzer shared a copy of a *Guide to Meeting Procedure* brochure that the Bloomington City Council makes available to the public. She suggested that a similar brochure might be helpful for visitors to School Board meetings. Ms. Tupper will follow up on this suggestion.

Ms. Wanzer mentioned that Jill Long Thompson (candidate for Governor) was at City Hall today with her running mate and they were talking about what they would do if elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor and she took the opportunity to note that we did not have much support for education during the past administration. She said Ms. Long Thompson said their emphasis will be on education and they will advocate for reform of the *No Child Left Behind* law. They also want to change the emphasis from teaching to the test to more individualized instruction; they want the state to pay more attention to teachers and teaching.

Mr. Scherer shared with the Board details of storm damage in the school system, as much from lightning as from water, although there have been a few roof leaks. He said a total of \$40,000 to \$50,000 will be sent to insurance. Mr. Thrasher said we do carry flood insurance and one of the companies excluded Childs Elementary because it is close to the flood plain. He said we have \$250,000 deductible; however, he is not sure it is a good idea to lower the deductible because the premium would be substantially higher and this year's claims are rare.

Ms. Merriam said her family saw BHS North's play *Dust* on Friday and it was wonderful. She said the original music was written by former BHS North students.

Ms. Merriam noted that the Red Cross is out of disaster relief funds but there are so many still in need. She hopes that schools will be in order to open in August.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Teresa Grossi, President

Jeannine Butler, Vice President

Valerie Merriam, Secretary

Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member