

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, July 8, 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, July 8, 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
Vicki Streiff	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
Wendy Perry	Director of School Age Care Program

In addition to the above, 7 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. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Tom Bunger, Attorney, administered the oath of office to Victoria (Vicki) Streiff, newly appointed member of the Board. A copy of the signed oath is included as a part of the official record for this meeting.

3. **HEARING AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2008 GENERAL FUND AND 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

Mr. Thrasher reviewed the resolution and explained that this was necessary to re-appropriate money. Dr. Grossi convened a public hearing on the proposed additional appropriation. Hearing no comments, the hearing was closed. Mr. Muehling moved approval of the resolution authorizing an appropriation out of the funds indicated for the purposes specified and for the years indicated, subject to the laws governing the same. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. There were no comments or questions. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

4. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Grossi explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Kenny Dovenbarger, former custodian at the Administration Center who recently transferred to Binford. She noted that he accepted a position with MCCSC in 2000 and had transferred to the Administration Center in 2005. Kenny was nominated for this award by John Carter, Director of Planning. Dr. Grossi shared comments received from various individuals at the Administration Center, noting he has a great attitude, is an excellent custodian and the fact that he goes beyond the expected on the job. Noting that he will be missed in the Administration Center, on behalf of the Board and those who worked with Kenny, Dr. Grossi said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize Kenny Dovenbarger as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Mr. Dovenbarger accepted the award and said he will miss the people at the Administration Center but looks forward to working around children in a school. Those present applauded Mr. Dovenbarger's dedication to the school system and his excellent work ethic.

5. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Mr. Harvey said a woman came to talk at the work session about chimney swifts at Fairview. He said when Fairview was discussed in the work session, the architect was asked to look at the possibility of keeping the chimney in place. He noted that it may not be possible from a cost standpoint but the architect and construction manager have been asked to look at it.

At 7:15 p.m., the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

6. **FOUNDATION OF MCCS – Update**

Ms. Peterson added comments regarding Kenny Dovenbarger's tenure in the Administration Center. She said he has been a great supporter of the Foundation, including wearing the Foundation's T-shirt to work and on other occasions. She said he had persistently asked the Foundation to be a sponsor for his tractor pulling contests. She said since he has transferred to another building, they had talked about it and decided to be a sponsor. She presented Mr. Dovenbarger with sponsorship documents.

Ms. Peterson announced that Rogers Supply will present a donation to Bloomington New Tech High School at the Board's August meeting. She noted that it is great to have a partnership with those people who are celebrating their 100th anniversary in business. She said the Foundation also received a gift from the Bloomington Board of Realtors. She added that they have received well over what they need to pay their bills for BNTHS, which is \$190,000.

Ms. Peterson said she tries to point out important donors throughout the year and there is a group that she does not mention often and that is people who serve on the Foundation Board of Directors. She said they work tirelessly with almost 100% attendance on the Board and 100% give financially to the Foundation. She said they have 21 voting members on the Board and four ex officio members and they have given \$20,000 this year out of their own pockets and organizations they work for or own have given \$186,000 this year. She said they deserve a big thank you.

Noting the Foundation is in the throes of the annual budget cycle, Ms. Peterson said she expects the budget to be approved by the end of July. She said they will be giving out more dollars for teacher grants this year and they will be adding two new programs, including helping with field trips – probably starting with elementary grades.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey said the school system has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for nearly \$1.1 million. The grant, which will be given over three years, will support evidence-based programs and strategies to reduce alcohol use among Monroe County high school students. Jennifer Staab, author of the grant application, explained the programs that will be funded with the grant and mentioned that only 70 grants were awarded over the country and there were more than 1,000 applicants. She said a lot of the expense will be initial training. She thanked Leslie Skooglund and Matt Wysocki for their assistance in writing the grant application.

Mr. Harvey reported that University Elementary School is featured on an award winning WTIU program, *The Friday Zone*. He expressed congratulations to Kim Williams and Becky Gensler and their students from University Elementary School for being featured in this program.

Mr. Harvey asked the Board to delete item 13 on the agenda: "Ratify Actions of the Comptroller in Connection with the Sale of Tax Anticipation Warrants". This change in the agenda was approved by consensus.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on June 3, June 17, June 18, June 25 and June 30, 2008; (b) donations, ECA expenditure and field trip requests; (c) Contracts; (d) Personnel matters; (e) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Mr. Harvey shared information about donations received and thanked donors for their generous support of our schools. In response to questions, Kim Williams shared additional information about the *Great Books Training* included in the contract with The Great Books Foundation.

Ms. Chambers noted a recommendation for the appointment of assistant principals at BHS South as well as an addendum added that afternoon regarding Ty Mungle's resignation as principal at Binford. Mr. Mungle had accepted an appointment as superintendent for Eastern-Greene Schools. In response to questions, Ms. Chambers said two people are still on the RIF list; she hopes to bring them back. She explained that because school is about to start, an interim principal will be appointed until the search for a replacement can be completed. She said Mr. Mungle understood the timeliness and made a special trip to submit his resignation; the posting will go out tomorrow. Mr. Muehling pointed out excellent ECA appointments at BHS South and BHS North for soccer, baseball and tennis.

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, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **APPOINT GRANDVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Noting that he supports the recommendation received from the Grandview Elementary screening committee, Mr. Harvey recommended that the Board approve the appointment of James A. Rose as principal at Grandview Elementary. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Lily Albright (Assistant Principal at Grandview and member of the screening committee) said the committee is very excited about this recommendation. Board members voiced personal support for Mr. Rose's appointment. There were no additional questions or comments. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **CREATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, SET TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZE POSTING AND FILLING POSITION**

Mr. Harvey said the Friends of Fairview have been meeting since the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year to develop a restructuring plan for Fairview. He recommended that the Board create the position of School Improvement Administrator, set terms and conditions of employment as noted and authorize posting and filling the position. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Mr. Harvey said it is not necessary to state that the position is .5 FTE for one year because a one year contract would be issued and there is no statutory provision to do otherwise. He said the individual would be notified in December that this position will end at the end of the year and people who are interviewed would be told this is only a one year option. He said there will be no contractual problems because this position is not covered by statute as requiring a two-year contract.

Mr. Harvey said there has been a revised plan submitted to the Department of Education (DOE) and DOE said the original plan would be accepted if we made changes that they wanted regarding this position. He said we have made those changes and re-submitted the plan; although we do not have anything in writing that it has been approved, they are on record saying this. In response to questions, he said the job description is based on what we put in the plan which spells out qualifications and responsibilities of this position. He said what is in the plan is descriptive and that would be included in the job description. Ms. Merriam mentioned that they asked the DOE what would happen if we could not find the right person and they said we would have to keep posting and keep trying. Mr. Harvey said in all likelihood we will not have someone in place at the start of school. He said DOE addressed responsibilities that the person would have and this option is only available to us for the 2008-2009 school year.

Dr. Grossi said she would support this but it is difficult for her to see money taken away from direct service to kids; she knows we are where we are because of Fairview and DOE. Mr. Harvey confirmed that it is been approved and is in the Title I budget; DOE understands that. Other Board members voiced agreement with Dr. Grossi's position.

Dr. Butler voiced concern about adding this position. She understood DOE to say we have to have a half-time position but she does not agree that it should be created. She hoped this position would be a part of the Director of Learning responsibilities. She said she understood that Title I said we have to have that position but she believes it is our decision as to how it is filled. She said she will not support a new position but would support including it as part of the Director of Learning.

Mr. Harvey said the reference that central administrators do not impact instruction is not correct. He said the only central office position we added was an additional position in the area of special education. With regard to comments about adding this to the Director of Learning position, he said it is in a sense an assistant for curriculum and instruction and our primary purpose is teaching and learning. He noted that we eliminated the Director of Literacy position and if this position is approved, it would reduce the number of central administrators by .5 FTE. He does not find the central office staff to be overstaffed.

Ms. Wanzer asked if this position is a building level administrator. Mr. Harvey said it would be a position responsible to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction with direct authority over the Fairview principal and staff. He said it may be housed at Fairview but DOE made it clear that it is a central office position. He said if we do not do it that way we will jeopardize Title I money. Ms. Wanzer understood that the half-time assignment does not have to be a new position. Mr. Harvey said there is nobody else to assign this responsibility. He added that if we do not create a new position we are in danger of supplanting instead of supplementing.

In response to questions, Dr. Lovejoy said she does not know what the ramifications would be to eliminate the Directory of Literacy and add a .5 FTE person. She said it is quite difficult dealing with this position, i.e. someone who has taught at middle, high school and elementary levels and was an elementary principal, has had experience in high poverty schools and is collaborative in nature. She said the list becomes longer and longer in the type of individual needed for the position. Mr. Muehling asked if we would benefit from hiring a 1.0 FTE person to serve one-half time at Fairview and one-half time in other Title I schools. Others agreed it is difficult to get someone with necessary qualifications for a half-time position. Ms. Merriam mentioned that DOE said this would be of interest to retired principals and they would give us a list. She agreed it is not realistic but noted that it is a mandate. Mr. Muehling said he wants to make sure the outcome of performance is successful. Ms. Streiff said we have to put forth a good faith effort to find someone but if it is impossible to find, what does that look like? Dr. Butler suggested that we would have to lengthen the timeline in order to find someone.

Board members voted on the motion to create a School Improvement Administrator position as recommended. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Nay: Butler, Sabo-Skelton. Motion carried.

11. **FEE INCREASE FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Ms. Perry recommended that the Board approve a fee increase of \$2.50 per week (\$32.50 to \$35.00 per week) for full time after-school Extended Day Care effective August 1, 2008. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Ms. Merriam understood that the increase will be for all elementary schools but the money would be used to supplement the *Beyond the Bell* program at two or three schools. Mr. Shipman confirmed that was correct; he said not only is this part of the Bell program there will be additional services in all buildings in training and we will start to examine all partnerships to see how we can evolve into that program.

Board members voted on the motion to approve this fee increase. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **DECLARE VARIOUS OLD TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE DONATION AND DISPOSAL**

Ms. Portle said we are replacing about 225 computers and will retain some of them. She recommended that the Board declare old computers that are being replaced as surplus property. She further recommended that the Board declare other non-functioning technology such as printers and VCR's as surplus property and authorize her as the Director of Information Services to dispose of them in the most cost effective manner. Additionally, Ms. Portle recommended that the Board authorize the donation of twelve (12) of the surplus computers to Options. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Karen Scherer, Director of Options, said they would greatly appreciate receiving the surplus computers, which they will put in homes for clients to learn to use.

Board members voted on the recommendations as proposed. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **BOOK RENTAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES (Elementary), 2008-2009**

Mr. Harvey recommended that book rental and instructional fees for the 2008-2009 school year be established for grades K-6 as outlined in his report to the Board. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-

Skelton seconded the motion.

Ms. Wanzer said it is hard for people to understand what is listed as consumable fees, general fees and support fees. Dr. Lovejoy said she thinks some of those categories can be collapsed in that there is not a lot of difference in some instances. Mr. Harvey explained that the cost of textbooks is collected over six years but amortized over five years and consumables are used this year. He said the state only reimburses for the cost of textbooks and they control the cost of textbooks because we adopt off the state list that they control with state contracts. They reimburse for what they can control. In response to additional questions, Mr. Harvey said we do support textbooks out of the General Fund because we do not collect enough to pay for it. Dr. Lovejoy said this represents a 16% increase and the last time there was a 12% increase when Reading and Language Arts books were adopted.

Board members voted on the motion to approve book rental and instructional fees as recommended. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Dr. Grossi welcomed Ms. Streiff to the Board.

Dr. Butler said she had a conversation with Dr. Hugo and they were doing some special summer school classes with students with disabilities. She thought it would be good to hear a presentation on this program. Mr. Harvey said Jan McCollough (Assistant Director of Special Education) was in his office today and they are scheduled to share an information report on this program at the July 22nd Board meeting.

Dr. Grossi extended kudos to Dr. Hugo and her staff; she has partnered with various organizations and a lot of staff development is occurring. Dr. Butler agreed and noted that Dr. Lovejoy had someone come in to conduct differentiated instruction workshops. She suggested it would be good for the Board and the public to hear about those workshops.

Mr. Muehling congratulated Jeff Rudkin (Batchelor B-TV teacher) for the many honors the B-TV program has received this year. Mr. Rudkin gave credit to his students. He said it has been a great year and although he does not have the results from national competition, they had 84 entrants this year. Mr. Muehling noted the generous donations made to the program. Mr. Rudkin said he was contacted in March by C-Span because Batchelor was leading the nation in the number of entrants. He said they made special arrangements for students to tour the C-Span campaign bus and about 125 B-TV members came to a special convocation. He said they are excited to receive the \$100,000 Best Buy Award. Board members commented on the incredible program Mr. Rudkin has developed and expressed appreciation for spending the extra time and energy to make the B-TV program one that is recognized nationally.

16. **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

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Vicki Streiff, Member