

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, July 22, 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 22, 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
Vicki Streiff	Member

Board member absent:

Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
-------------------	--------

Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
John Carter	Director of Planning
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 18 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 Beverly Elkins, secretary in the Social Services Department who also filled in for the Administrative Assistant to the Board for a couple of weeks this summer. She said the Board nominated Ms. Elkins for her efficient assistance and her willingness to assume this assignment. She noted that Ms. Elkins began her career with MCCSC in 1978 as a secretary at Bloomington High School North. Jim Harvey, our superintendent, was the principal, and MCCSC Board of School Trustees Vice President Jeannine "Doc" Butler was the dean of students and her immediate supervisor. She worked for BHS North for eight years and then worked for the Transportation Department before assuming her current position in 2006. Dr. Grossi expressed appreciation to Ms. Elkins for her years of service to MCCSC and for going about her duties in a calm, quiet, professional way. She said her support of her colleagues and supervisors is to be commended. Dr. Grossi said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize Beverly Elkins as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Ms. Elkins said it had

been nice to renew friendships and it was an honor to help out. She accepted the award and expressed appreciation for this honor.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Mr. Harvey recognized members of Boy Scout Troop 170 who were present to complete one of the requirements for citizenship, one step closer to earning Eagle Scout status.

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

4. **SUMMER ACADEMY**

Jan McCollough, Assistant Director of Special Education, introduced Pat Barber and Kathy Bruner, coordinators for the Summer Academy Program. Ms. McCollough said in March, Dr. (Kathleen) Hugo, Director of Special Education, submitted a grant proposal for money for a summer school program. She said the grant was approved and it included one week of intensive training for teachers. She said the program includes five classrooms and seven MCCSC teachers from pre-school and community-based classrooms. The program also includes occupational and physical therapists as well as a speech pathologist and fifteen dedicated paraprofessionals.

Ms. Bruner shared a video clip, highlighting one student with a lot of examples of structured learning. She said the program started the week focusing on structured learning devised to each student's needs in a work center. She noted that by Wednesday the student understood and followed the plan for his day. She said the benefit is that so many paraprofessionals are involved; they are the backbone for a lot of the work done in the classrooms. She noted how structured learning is tailored to each student and said it will follow through in the classroom this fall. She invited Board members to stop by to see the program in action. Ms. McCollough said they will evaluate what worked, what did not and what can be taken back to the classroom.

Ms. Merriam asked how parents can be involved. Ms. Bruner said a lot of parents would like to come in and they have a lot more information and video tape to share but did not have permission to share on television at this meeting. She said the next step is sharing with teachers who could not attend and with parents. Ms. Barber added that teachers and paraprofessionals wrote notes to share with parents regarding what did and did not work in the classroom.

Dr. Grossi noted that these skills will transfer. Ms. Bruner said yes, everything is connected – starting with pre-school. Dr. Grossi said she heard excellent feedback from the speech pathologist that is anxious to start the new year.

5. **JOB DESCRIPTIONS: School Improvement Administrator and Director of Learning**

Mr. Harvey said we received notification from the Department of Education (DOE) that the revised Fairview Restructuring Plan has been approved. As a follow-up to discussion at the July 8 Board meeting, for information he shared job descriptions for the School Improvement Administrator (SIA) and the Director of Learning (DOL).

Referring to the SIA job description, Dr. Butler said she thought that it was not an evaluative position but rather a supervisory and consultation. Mr. Harvey said it was his understanding that this position would be a line position. Dr. Butler said her understanding was this position would not provide evaluation of the principal and staff at Fairview. Mr. Harvey understood this position was created to provide additional support for instructional leadership and that would include working with people on professional growth

plans and this person would have authority to make suggestions for changes in behavior. He noted that the Superintendent's Cabinet members participate in evaluation of first line administrators. He thinks the DOE expected this would be the role of this position.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey recognized Jane Gouker, orchestra instructor, for her leadership. He noted that the BHS North and BHS South orchestra had been chosen to represent Indiana at the American Celebration of Music in France in June 2009.

Referring to a new welcome brochure designed to inform the public about School Board meetings, Mr. Harvey also mentioned that beginning August 5 School Board meetings will be held at Bloomington High School South in the Large Group Room next to the Auditorium. He explained that the administration center will be moving to the Miller Drive property in October and there is not a room large enough to accommodate School Board meetings. He said all Board meetings will be held in separate rooms at BHS South.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations and a field trip request; (b) Contracts, including an agreement for the Challenge Course at BHS North and an agreement with Indiana University's Jacob School of Music on behalf of Fairview Elementary; (c) Personnel matters; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

The field trip request was for the orchestra trip to France in June 2009. Ms. Gouker said it was an honor to be selected for this trip and it speaks to the caliber of the orchestra program. She said their reputation has become great throughout the music field and it was wonderful to be contacted by them to do this. She explained some significant events they will participate in and noted that this will be the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, a perfect time for them to play in the American Cemetery and on Normandy Beach. She believes it will be a tribute to our country, our school and our program. She said they will also see many things in Paris. Board members congratulated Ms. Gouker and the orchestra students for this recognition.

Regarding contracts, Mr. Carter shared additional information about the Challenge Course. He said he became a part of this in April when the agreement was received at BHS North. He said the program has been ongoing since 2003 and Jennifer Staab was the low ropes coordinator before joining the MCCSC staff. He said the science department expressed some views about the mulch used but that has been resolved. In response to questions, Mr. Carter said schools and students will continue to be able to use the nature center at BHS North by contacting assistant principal Marcus Debro. He said he will have to check with Charlie Warthan (track coach) to make sure the path material will be effective for runners.

Regarding fees, Mr. Carter said we do not receive any revenue from fees charged. He added that the Parks & Recreation (P & R) Department and MCCSC have had partnerships for a number of years. He believes that Mr. Shipman will be bringing a new facilities use agreement to the Board. He said we do not charge P & R and they do not charge us. He said it is monitored on a yearly basis but we use more of their facilities than they do ours. He said if we charged each other, P & R would owe about \$30,000 and our fees would be about \$50,000. He said we will continue to monitor. Ms. Wanzer said she understands the partnership but asked if there had been discussion about sharing the fee that is charged for this activity. Mr. Carter said no, it is a reasonable fee but it would be good to know the amount of revenue produced over the year.

Ms. Chambers advised that another teacher has been recalled, which would leave one person on the RIF

list. She anticipates an opening coming up and she hopes to recall the last teacher before school begins. She noted that a certified change of status creates a domino effect and that is what they are doing right now in the Personnel office. In response to Ms. Merriam's question she explained how a reduction in science at BHS South and someone taking a voluntary RIF leave but then resigned so a series of events occurred.

Dr. Butler asked about the practice used for hiring people with experience. Ms. Chambers confirmed that individuals with experience are given a maximum of five (5) years on the salary schedule. She said if they are willing to accept five years experience it does not matter how many years they have taught but education has not been a factor for us. She said if one candidate had a doctorate degree and another has a master's degree, we would look for the best candidate while honoring the collective bargaining agreement with a five-year cap on experience.

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

8. **AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE INDIANA BOND BANK'S 2008 MID-YEAR SERIES B&C WARRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Mr. Thrasher said we are still experiencing uncertainty from the county regarding tax advances. He said he hopes to get additional tax advances but it is necessary to be prepared in case that does not happen. He recommended that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing participation in the Indiana Bond Bank's 2008 Mid-Year Series B&C Warrant Assistance Program. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Mr. Thrasher said we typically invest in short term certificates of deposit. He said all funds are kept in accounts that pay interest. Board members voted on the motion to adopt the resolution as recommended. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Muehling complimented those who had developed and worked with the structured learning process in the Summer Academy Program. He said it is very encouraging and he knows some people in our community that have a sincere interest that we address those needs.

Mr. Muehling said he would like to receive feedback from the orchestra students when they return from their trip overseas as well as from the BHS North theatre students who are going to Scotland.

Ms. Merriam said a few Board members attended a couple of ISBA (Indiana School Boards Association) meetings and found the sessions to be very interesting. She said one was about copyright and registering your trademarks. She said schools need to protect their trademarks; she noticed some BHS South T-shirts had registered trademark notations and assumed some money went to the school. However, she learned that is not the case.

Mr. Harvey reported that work on the Bloomington New Tech High School (BNTHS) facility is progressing and we hope to have an occupancy permit as of August 11. He said on August 5 the Board will have a work session devoted to the budget and he wondered if Board members will be available to meet earlier to tour the BNTHS facilities that afternoon. He added that an open house cannot be planned

until we have an occupancy permit. Board members agreed that those who can will meet at 4:00 p.m. at BNTHS on August 5 for a preliminary view of the facility. Mr. Harvey said *The Herald-Times* has asked permission to create a virtual tour of the building for the website.

Dr. Grossi noted that the room was uncomfortably warm and said that is one of the reasons for renovating this building. She thanked principal Mark Fletcher and assistant principal Jay True for opening BHS South facilities for Board meetings during the renovation of the Administration Center.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

---

Teresa Grossi, President

---

Jeannine Butler, Vice President

---

Valerie Merriam, Secretary

---

Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT

---

Jim Muehling, Member

---

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

---

Vicki Streiff, Member