

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, August 5, 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, August 5, 2008, at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Teresa Grossi	President
Jeannine Butler	Vice President
Sue Wanzer	Assistant Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Vicki Streiff	Member

Board member absent:

Valerie Merriam	Secretary
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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
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director of the Foundation of MCCC
Jennifer Staab	Health Schools Coordinator

In addition to the above, six 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 Choonhyun Jeon, ESL (English as a Second Language) Coordinator who was nominated by the Human Resources Department. Dr. Grossi said Mr. Jeon began working for the school system as an intern in the ESL office in 2002 where he has served as a translator and interpreter. He also served as an outreach and data coordinator for the department and assumed his current role three years ago. Dr. Grossi said the ESL program has grown tremendously; it no longer is just ESL instruction but it now includes support services. She commended Mr. Jeon for his commitment to diversity and our international families. She said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize Choonhyun Jeon as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Mr. Jeon accepted the award and said this recognition leaves him nearly speechless. He said he will use this as encouragement and continue work even harder.

3. **FOUNDATION OF MCCS**

Ms. Peterson introduced Alan Veach, Principal of Bloomington New Tech High School (BNTHS), and Andy Williams, Vice President and General Manager of Rogers Group, Indiana – a company that is officially 100 years old this year. She said at age 19 Ralph Rogers started a stone crushing business in 1908 and it is now the largest stone crushing business in the United States. She was present to celebrate the fact that Mr. Williams, Rogers Group and Rogers Investment want to join others in supporting BNTHS. She said it is even more significant because Rogers Building and Supply started in 1951 in the building where BNTHS now has a home. She said they believe in hard work and innovation and it was amazing to her what they had to say about education on their website. On behalf of Rogers Group Mr. Williams presented a check to Mr. Veach to help support BNTHS. Mr. Veach thanked the community and Rogers Group for being strong backers of New Tech and the option it gives kids. Mr. Williams said they are proud to support BNTHS, especially in this new concept that integrates the business world. Ms. Peterson concluded that this check is the first of a three-year commitment.

4. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Dawn Hewitt said she works for *The Herald-Times* and lives not far from the near Westside. She talked about the wonderful birds – swifts – that habitat in the chimney at Fairview Elementary School. She said that she and others are concerned about the planned demolition of Fairview because it is a form of habitat destruction. She said these birds have been on the decline over the last 30 years and their future looks grim because brick chimneys are coming down. She said she does not have a solution but as migratory bird species they are protected by law and she hopes the Board will do what it can to protect this species.

Mr. Harvey explained that we have asked our architects and structural engineers to look at this. He said the chimney was evaluated about 20 years ago and engineers are doing a careful inspection to see if it can be free standing. He said the problem is that the oldest part of the building sets in the middle of where the new playground will be and it would reduce playground space significantly. He voiced appreciation for the comments about constructing one and said we are looking at that as an option as well. He reiterated that this is a concern and we are sensitive to it. He added that we have a more significant problem in that the building is considerably over budget.

Dr. Grossi said this came up in the Board's last work session and we are balancing – keeping it green and making sure we are looking at all of the other requests as well as how we meet needs of students.

Bob Dodd from the Audubon Society said you do not have to wait until late September to see swifts; they are out now and eating mosquitoes. He wondered if the architects have considered including the chimney in the new building, as a vent shaft perhaps, thereby solving two problems at once. Mr. Harvey said this building will be a geo thermal building and would not likely have a chimney, but he will share these comments with the architects.

Ms. Wanzer said she has often observed the swifts at Fairview and she wondered if the architects could give a figure regarding how much it would cost to keep the chimney; she thought the group could do some fund raising. Mr. Harvey said a question has been asked if we can accept donations. He said if we get donations we have to reduce the bond issue by that amount. Any donations received means you do not need to sell bonds for that amount. He said that question was asked when we realized the project was over budget. Paul Shriver said in a town in Colorado there is a 250 foot chimney that has been there for 100 years. He said money was raised and the chimney was saved. He said it may be possible if it is declared a historical or natural environment.

Nancy Martin, science teacher at Jackson Creek Middle School, said she appreciates the green the Board

is doing. She suggested that what we have is a teachable moment with our students, i.e. a tangible and real species we are supporting. She encouraged the Board to do whatever we can do to lead by example. Dr. Grossi said on behalf of the Board we will continue on that path, knowing we have rules and regulations we must follow.

Marti Crouch said she lives in the neighborhood and used to teach biology to elementary school teachers. She said she has discovered how little children know about the natural world today. She said she is afraid that people are so self-absorbed with cell phones, computers and videos that they are forgetting to look out at nature around us. She said they were talking about having a chimney swift cam to see what is going on there. She said these birds go all the way to the Amazon and perhaps we could contact people in that area to see what they do there. She said it is an amazing educational opportunity and maybe a focus for the entire community to make Fairview feel really special.

At 7:25 p.m., the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: SICK LEAVE BANK**

Ms. Chambers reviewed the history and changes in the guidelines for the Sick Leave Bank policy. Mr. Harvey commended Ms. Chambers, MCEA President Linda Richardson and UniServ Director Sandy Steele for their work on this policy. He explained that this is a frozen policy and can only be changed by mutual consent. He said we are pleased we could get this accomplished and will ask the Board to approve changes in the policy at the next meeting.

In response to questions, Ms. Chambers shared statistics regarding the number of sick leave bank days used; for example, 25 employees used 1000 days from the sick leave bank last year. She said usually when people exhaust their sick leave they can notify us that they want to take a medical leave and it will be granted while their position is protected.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on July 8 and July 22, 2008; (b) donations and a field trip request; (c) Contracts: Indiana Prevention Resource Center, Theraplay renewal, Education Logistics, Inc., Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center; (d) Personnel matters; (e) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Harvey shared information about donations received and thanked donors for their generous support of our schools.

Ms. Chambers pointed out that Batchelor teacher Michele Brown is retiring after 26 years in education. She noted a correction on the Personnel Report; that is Claudette Bell's name should be removed from the support staff appointments.

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

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

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

Dr. Butler noted in the newspaper that BHS North lost a student due to an accident. She extended sympathy to the family and to all the people at BHS North as well as to the student's mother who is the secretary at Rogers Elementary School. She offered prayers and support to the young man who was injured in the same accident.

Dr. Grossi concurred. She also issued a reminder that school is starting in about a week and school buses will be on the road and kids will be driving – she suggested that we remember to slow down. She welcomed faculty back for another school year.

Mr. Muehling thanked Betsy Walsh for stepping in again to help fill in at Binford Elementary. He expressed appreciation to Jim Harvey who has done an outstanding job and more than we asked him to do. He mentioned BNTHS and all the initiatives that will be continued and improved as well as building projects on board and moving forward. He commended the work he has done to ensure funding for that and the work he put in getting that accomplished. He said he wants to make sure that Mr. Harvey understands that the board appreciates what he has done.

Ms. Wanzer said she knows we are all committed to see what we can do at Fairview. She wondered if there might be a cooperative effort we could have with the city.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton also expressed thanks to Mr. Harvey. She said we could not have done this without you. She said as they walked around BNTHS she could see the pride in his face and the excitement that he had for the school. She said without his guidance with this and with individuals he met and talked with, it would not have happened. She told Mr. Harvey that his spirit will stay with us and take us even further. She said it was a delight to work with him and said we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Dr. Sabo-Skelton said you allowed us the time to grow and we will be able to go on because of your talent. [Her comments met with the applause of those present.]

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Teresa Grossi, President

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Jeannine Butler, Vice President

ABSENT

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Valerie Merriam, Secretary

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Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Vicki Streiff, Member