

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, September 2, 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, September 2, 2008, at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, 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:

Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Staab	Health Schools Coordinator
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>
Joe Childers	Principal Designee for Binford Elementary
Lucy Papier	Assistant Principal Designee for Batchelor Middle School

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 Melanie Hunter, Marketer and Public Relations Coordinator for Adult Education and media related special projects for the school system. Melanie was nominated by Sherry Dick, Director of the Broadview Learning Center. Dr. Grossi said Ms. Hunter has been with the school system for three years but is known for being able to take an idea or need for publicity and turn it out into a creative, enticing marketing piece while staying on budget. Melanie also serves as volunteer coordinator for the Adult Education program. Ms. Dick noted in her nomination that Ms. Hunter even recruited her husband as a volunteer and she willingly covers for the secretary when needed. Ms. Hunter accepted the award and said it really touched her that Ms. Dick nominated her for this recognition. She also thanked her husband who brings her food, drives her around, etc.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Dr. Grossi said since our interim superintendent Dr. (Tim) Hyland was not present, Peggy Chambers, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel would be acting superintendent for the meeting and for the remainder of the week.

Dr. Grossi noted that for the last few years some members of the community have asked what are we getting for our taxes, citing low test scores. She said she receives *Education Insight* and the latest issue lists the top seven high schools in Indiana whose students have scored above our state average and two are Bloomington High School North and Bloomington High School South. She extended congratulations to the faculty that really makes this happen.

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

4. **FOR INFORMATION: Transportation Recommendations**

Dr. Grossi explained that this report is a follow-up to work sessions when the Board has been talking about transportation costs. She said the administration has been working with high school athletic departments and high school and middle school principals to look at ways to reduce transportation costs.

Mr. Scherer reviewed recommendations that will be presented to the Board for action on September 16. He said fuel costs are expected to continue to rise; therefore, ways to reduce transportation costs will continue to be a topic of discussion.

Dr. Grossi understood that we need to cut \$150,000 by December 31, noting that these recommendations would not accomplish that goal. Mr. Scherer said short of eliminating some ECA (extracurricular) trips, they were unable to save that much money by December 31. Mr. Thrasher added that getting through the rest of this year is a significant problem because we cannot transfer expenditures to other accounts until 2009. He said they may be able to delay some fuel payments.

Mr. Muehling thanked participants working on ideas, including middle school and high school principals and staff. He noted that this is not a problem particular to MCCSC and some districts have eliminated transportation. He suggested that the last thing we look at is re-negotiating the amount people are paid to drive athletic and ECA trips. Mr. Scherer said a report run today – which did not separate ECA and athletic trips – indicated we had 25,000 labor hours in non-route trips last year. He said they will attempt to sort out how many were ECA field trips.

In response to a question regarding the transfer of \$250,000 in contract driver costs, Mr. Scherer said their total costs are well over \$1,000,000. Mr. Thrasher explained that we hope to be able to phase in \$250,000 and have a minimal impact on the tax rate. He said the deadline for budget adoption was extended to December 1. He said we did get a good report last week from DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance); they do not expect a significant negative impact on our assessed valuation. He said we have an excellent tax base and information they have seen indicates the homestead credit will reduce taxes for residential but that will shift to business property.

Ms. Merriam asked if the recommendation to eliminate transportation for summer school for elementary students includes those who have required remediation. Mr. Scherer said yes, that is total elimination. Mr. Shipman explained that remediation plans are developed at the school site and it may or may not include summer school. He said in the past we have indicated that summer school may be part of the plan if funding is available; it is always included as an option but not a requirement.

During ensuing discussion regarding the number of miles buses travel, Ms. Wanzer asked if children live on a city bus route could we pay for a bus pass and it would be cheaper than driving so many miles within

the city. Mr. Thrasher said we could investigate whether it would be cheaper and whether it would be legal to pay that expense. Dr. Butler said she would not like to think about primary-age children riding public transportation.

Mr. Scherer said he plans to group recommendations into two categories: short-term and long-term. As one of the long-term items, he will ask the Board to authorize negotiations with AFSCME on salaries. Dr. Grossi was surprised that the short-term list is so small. Mr. Scherer said it is very difficult to make many cuts prior to January; for example, strings teachers are under contract. He said principals have said they would help. Dr. Grossi suggested that principals be present when recommendations are presented at the September 16 meeting. Dr. Butler said she would like for Mr. Thrasher to talk about the tax levy when long-term recommendations are presented. She also would be interested to know what our costs will be to purchase activity buses, even though it will come from another fund.

## 5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on August 5, August 16 and August 19, 2008; (b) donations, ECA expenditures, field trip requests and disposal of obsolete textbooks; (c) Contracts: Bradford Woods, Theraplay-Occupational Therapy Services, Lola M. Schaefer, Indiana Arts Commission Grant, BHS South Athletic Trainers, Federal Alcohol Prevention Grant for R-BB Schools, Federal Alcohol Prevention Grant for the Chamber of Commerce, Federal Alcohol Prevention Grant Training Agreement, Stay-in-School Coordinator for Aurora, Teen Parent Network Agreement for Aurora, Bell's Towing, Lifetouch Publishing, contract with Acting Superintendent Dr. Timothy Hyland; (d) Personnel matters; (e) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Ms. Wanzer suggested that contracts and personnel be removed from the consent agenda for extended discussion. Although these items were not removed from the Consent Agenda, Board members agreed with Dr. Grossi that they need to revisit the 'Consent Agenda' procedure.

Ms. Merriam offered a correction to the minutes of the August 19 meeting; she did not 'abstain' but voted 'nay' on the motion to table the recommendation for reinstating the Director of Title I position. [NOTE: The correction has been made to the official minutes.]

Ms. Chambers reviewed donations received and thanked donors for their generous support of our schools. Ms. Staab, Dr. Hugo, Mr. Holloway and Mr. Shipman responded to specific questions regarding various contracts included for approval on the agenda.

Ms. Chambers introduced Joe Childers, assistant principal at Tri-North who was recommended to fill the principal position at Binford. She reviewed his credentials and also introduced four members of the screening committee who were present. Mr. Childers said he is very excited and appreciates the opportunity to move to this position.

Ms. Chambers introduced Lucy Papier, Batchelor teacher who was recommended to fill the assistant principal position at Batchelor. She reviewed Ms. Papier's credentials and indicated her agreement with the committee's recommendation. Ms. Papier said she is also excited about her appointment.

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

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

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

Mr. Muehling extended congratulations to Mr. Childers and Ms. Papier and thanked Mr. Childers for giving 20 years of service to the military.

Ms. Merriam voiced her pleasure with our high school students' high SAT scores. She said students scoring that much above the state and national average should be commended. She said she enjoyed Aurora's open house last week and commented that there are a lot of exciting things going on at Aurora. Ms. Merriam also extended kudos to Janis Stockhouse, Tom Wilson and BHS North music students for hosting an outstanding 'Jazz under the Stars' fund raiser this year.

Ms. Merriam suggested that the Board get something going on our website similar to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com). She said she has heard that next year we will have only all-day kindergarten and that 6<sup>th</sup> grade will go to middle school next year even though there has been no Board action taken on either of these topics. She said perhaps the Board needs to address these kinds of questions. She said another question raised is why we start school so early and she has said at previous Board meetings if people have different opinion they should contact her. She said last year only one person contacted her and she will be interested in knowing the daily count today (after Indiana University classes started) versus the first two weeks of school. She believes we have additional people coming in after school starts. Ms. Wanzer thinks there are others who believe we start school too early but it is partly because of ISTEP in the fall; however, that is changing.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Ms. Chambers for her service this week, filling in as superintendent. She said she saw a comment on *The Herald-Times* online blog asking if we cannot just have someone already on staff assume the superintendent's role until a new superintendent is appointment. She noted that it is hard enough to do any job in public education, let alone assuming a second position.

Dr. Butler commended the work of screening committees who recommended Mr. Childers and Ms. Papier for appointments approved at this meeting. She noted that we now have a domino effect with openings at Tri-North and Batchelor. Mr. Muehling said it is nice that we are able to find capable people on staff.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Teresa Grossi, President

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Jeannine Butler, Vice President

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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