

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, October 7, 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, October 7, 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:

Tim Hyland	Interim Superintendent
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
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, Foundation of M CCS
Jennifer Staab	Health Schools Coordinator
Kim Williams	High Ability Education Coordinator
Ed Brown	Director, Hoosier Hills Career Center
Alan Veach	Principal, Bloomington New Tech High School
Linda Black	Principal, Arlington Elementary School
Mary Sudbury	Principal, Childs Elementary School
Gale Hill	Principal, Tri-North Middle School

In addition to the above, three citizens signed the visitor list (which is included as a part of the official record of this meeting). Alexandra May, teacher, and students from her 4/5 grade class at Childs were in attendance for their special presentation 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 Paul Mathis and Randy Thacker, maintenance employees in the Extended Services Department. They were nominated by Arlington Principal Linda Black for their carpentry skills and outstanding work on a student project. Dr. Grossi noted that Arlington's intermediate students embarked on a project with mosaic artist Lisa Hyatt last year. The principal, staff and students wanted to produce a mosaic for the school related to the theme of Peace. Students worked with Ms. Hyatt to develop an outline or cartoon of the mosaic and placed the tile pieces on a sheet of plywood. However,

it was not ready for display. Principal Linda Black reported that Paul and Randy surveyed what needed to be done, loaded the tile into their truck and returned with a finished piece grouted and framed beautifully. Mr. Mathis and Mr. Thacker accepted the award and thanked Dr. Black for this recognition.

3. **FOUNDATION OF MCCS – Accept Gift from Old National Bank for Bloomington New Tech High School**

Representing Old National Bank (ONB), Chris Kroll presented a check to Principal Alan Veach to purchase ten (10) computers for student use at Bloomington New Tech High School. Mr. Kroll said he attended MCCSC schools and was pleased to make this donation on behalf of the ONB Foundation. He said ONB is the largest financial holding company in Indiana and will be celebrating its 175th anniversary next year. He said at the heart of ONB's mission is community collaboration and they are pleased to make this contribution.

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

At 7:12 p.m., the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. **CLASSROOM SHOWCASE: Childs Elementary 4/5 Classroom**

Alexandra (Alex) May, teacher, explained that adults and children are often afraid of people with disabilities and she decided that a good project for the students would be about summer Paralympics. She said the focus of the project was on what different athletes can be capable of accomplishing. Each of the children in Ms. May's class briefly explained some aspect of the project: what is Paralympics, event highlights, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, balance issues when running the 50 yard sprint without arms, individual projects, mascot project, Paralympics mapping and a school survey conducted which determined that 127 out of 471 students know about Paralympics. Board members thanked Ms. May and her students for sharing an outstanding presentation.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: The Foundation of MCCS Update**

Ms. Peterson shared a report of the Foundation's income and spending for the period September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008. She reported total revenue of \$845,018.69, \$637,127 raised and the remainder received from deferred revenue. She said the Foundation has been in place since 1973 but she took the job in 2001 and that is when they got computers. She said since 2001, 74% of income has been spent on programs, 8% for administration and 18% for fundraising. She said every child in the school corporation has participated in at least one program funded by the Foundation. Ms. Peterson said since 2001 the Foundation has had a 1280% increase in spending, with a significant amount going to Bloomington New Tech High School. She said the Foundation has also contributed \$49,449 to Bradford Woods scholarships.

Noting that he works with development, Mr. Muehling said he knows the difficulty and importance of Ms. Peterson's work. He said the Board and school system cannot state enough how much her leadership is appreciated. Board members concurred.

7. **FOR INFORMATION: Comprehensive Health Issues Committee (CHICS)**

Jennifer Staab, Healthy School Coordinator, introduced Sheila Evans from Bloomington Hospital. Ms. Evans co-chairs the CHICS group and the two had developed the presentation that Ms. Staab presented to the Board. She said there are 32 members on the committee, one-half from the schools and one-half are community representatives. She said they developed a strategic plan and this year they applied for eight

grants and received five. She said they just received a grant from the Community Foundation to support an afterschool program for middle school students and they maintain a countywide safety committee. The premise is that healthy kids make better students. Board members thanked Ms. Staab and Ms. Evans for sharing an informative report.

8. **FOR INFORMATION: Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department Request to Purchase Land on Lakeview Elementary Site**

Mr. Scherer presented this request for information, noting that he would like to bring it back to the Board for action at the meeting on October 21.

Mr. Muehling said he would recue himself if this matter comes to a vote because his son is a fireman and a fire department volunteer. He said he was interested in knowing where this property is located in relation to the school. Mr. Scherer referred to the map and said Lakeview is situated on 67 acres and the land was subdivided several years ago. He said the school is on 15 acres and the school system owns a house on a parcel of five acres. He said the school has a 'safe trail' from the school to the fire department; the fire department is already leasing the land but would like to own the approximately 2.2 acre-parcel they would build on. Mr. Scherer said they are willing to pay the appraised value of the land plus all costs for the purchase.

A representative of the fire department said they do want to keep the 40-year lease going for the remainder of the tract; they want to purchase only the some 2.2 acres. He said the purchase would come from the fire department, which is separate from the township. He said they would still maintain all the property under the lease.

9. **FOR INFORMATION: Reduction of Transportation Costs for Strings Program**

As a follow-up to previous discussions, Mr. Scherer shared with the Board that approximately \$15,000 will be saved because the strings program was consolidated. He said strings instructor Jane Gouker worked very hard on this program consolidation. Board members thanked Ms. Gouker and Transportation Director Mike Clark as well as principals who made it possible to maintain the program.

10. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Hyland said he asked Ms. Sudbury to stay for reading of a letter he received from Dr. Suellen Reed, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In the letter, Dr. Reed advised that Childs Elementary School received a Four-Star School Award. Ms. Sudbury thanked the Board for this recognition and said she is fortunate to work with wonderful parents, an outstanding teaching faculty and support staff and great students. She said if she has done anything right, she thinks it was hiring great teachers. She said teachers and parents working together make the difference. Dr. Grossi agreed that working together makes a difference but it is also Ms. Sudbury's leadership in the building that brings them together. She said 'you have done a phenomenal job.'

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on September 2 and September 16, 2008; (b) donations, ECA expenditures and field trip requests; (c) Financial Report; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion.

Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received and thanked donors for their generous support of our schools. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam,

Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **ADOPT RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT FIRE ENGINE FROM CITY OF BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Brown explained that a new program in fire science was started this year at the Hoosier Hills Career Center and two staff members are fire fighters. He said they had discussions with the Fire Chief and they decided to donate a fire engine to be used for training fire science students. He said they will also be doing hook-ups, maintenance and service on the engine. He recommended acceptance of this donation. Dr. Butler moved that the Board adopt the resolution to accept the fire engine from the City of Bloomington Fire Department. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Board members expressed pleasure to see this cooperation with the city, school system and IVY Tech Community College. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as submitted. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

During ensuing discussion, Mr. Brown responded to questions regarding the contract with Associated Builders. Although she had previously forwarded a statement to the Board, Ms. Williams explained the need for the contract with Kingore.com. She said this contract pays for a presentation plus use of her activities and materials and it also includes tools to measure the ability of our students because of state mandates. She further explained that Dr. Bertie Kingore is used by the State of Indiana Association for Gifted Children to present workshops for Indiana educators. She said she hopes to have a minimum of four teachers from each elementary plus literacy coaches and members of the High Ability Task Force attend the workshop. Dr. Butler said she is looking forward to receiving a report on this development workshop as well as other workshops that have been scheduled with presenters this year. Ms. Williams said she will prepare a schedule to share that information with the Board.

There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

14. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers introduced Keith Bush who was unanimously recommended by the screening committee to fill the position of assistant principal and athletic director at Tri-North Middle School. Mr. Bush said he is excited about coming to the MCCSC community and to be a part of Tri-North.

Ms. Chambers pointed out a recommendation to appoint Daniel Rademacher as Director of Health Services. She commended certified staff retirees William Aronis and Mona Gibson for their service to the school system. She said Mr. Aronis began his career with MCCSC in 1979 and Ms. Gibson retires with 30 years in education, 19 with MCCSC. She recommended approval of the Personnel Report as presented. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Dr. Butler expressed thanks to the two retirees and wished them well.

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

15. **RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS AS EXPENDITURE PAYABLE FROM THE BUS REPLACEMENT FUND**

Mr. Thrasher explained that this resolution authorizes the school system to begin coding a portion of transportation costs for contract bus routes to the Bus Replacement Fund. He said the rationale is that a part of the payment to contract bus drivers is for providing a bus to the school corporation and that is a legitimate expense from the Bus Replacement fund. He said he had hoped the amount would be about \$250,000; however, it is based on the age of buses and the actual amount is \$122,650 and that is what the law will permit. He said the requirement is that the Board adopts a resolution authorizing this coding change. He recommended approval of the resolution. Ms. Merriam so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Mr. Muehling commended Mr. Thrasher for his efforts to find a way to meet the shortfall in the Transportation Fund. He also complimented the people who helped to come up with a plan to save money.

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

16. **DECLARE LISTED ITEMS AS SURPLUS TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

Mr. Scherer recommended that the Board declare listed items as surplus to be sold at public auction. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. In response to Ms. Merriam's question, Mr. Scherer said the school system has used Haley Auctioneers since before he joined the staff. There were no additional questions and Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

17. **APPROVE CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSION**

Mr. Scherer recommended a \$16.128 payment to Donna Ooley, driver of bus 167, for a two-day route extension when the roadway was blocked by trees/limbs caused by high winds. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Merriam thanked the corporation for allowing her to attend the recent ISBA (Indiana School Boards Association) conference. She said the sessions were interesting, commenting on a couple of them. She suggested that we need to be more pro-active in educating our Legislators as to the needs of schools. Noting that local Legislators are well informed, she said she hopes the Board can work to educate Legislators from other districts. Dr. Grossi said the struggle is for Legislators to go back to other communities and say funding must be taken from them in order to equalize the school funding formula. Ms. Wanzer suggested that the answer is not to take away but to bring MCCSC and others to equal levels.

Mr. Muehling said Vi Simpson is an expert on funding and she has agreed to come to a work session. He expressed appreciation for her offer to meet with the Board and suggested that it is important to have specific details ready for that meeting.

Dr. Grossi said Ms. Wanzer had indicated that due to schedule conflicts she can no longer serve as the Board's ex officio member of the High Ability Task Force. Dr. Butler volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Dr. Grossi said there appears to be a lot of confusion about the purpose and charge to the Middle School Task Force. She said she and the Superintendent met with the task force today (October 7) and a work

session will be scheduled soon for the Board to give the group direction. Ms. Merriam said after the Middle School Task Force report on August 19, she and Dr. Sabo-Skelton were named as ex officio members; however, she had not received notice of meetings. Dr. Grossi thanked her for the reminder. She said the task force members want to know if they should continue meeting.

Dr. Butler said she also attended the ISBA conference and Jim Muehling was a star presenter on a panel of Board presidents and former presidents. She heard that he did an outstanding job; she thanked him for representing the school corporation. She said she went to some meetings also and one was on strategic planning. She said a school corporation comparable to our size shared information and she thinks the Board needs to think about our strategic plan.

Dr. Butler said she also brought back information from a business that does policy revision and she recalls that MCCSC used this company a few years ago. She said we have talked about policy revision for two years and maybe this would be a way to accomplish that goal. Ms. Streiff said she has worked for a professor at the Indiana University Department of Informatics and they have people who do projects for free. She thought a good project would be to put the school system's policy on the internet. Ms. Merriam pointed out that the Policy Manual is available online within the intranet.

Dr. Butler asked when the Board would be receiving a historical summary of Bradford Woods. Dr. Hyland said that research is in process and the summary should be received by the Board by the end of the week.

20. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:45 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