

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, October 21, 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 21, 2008, in the Large Group Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Teresa Grossi	President
Valerie Merriam	Secretary
Sue Wanzer	Assistant Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member

Board members absent:

Jeannine Butler	Vice President
Vicki Streiff	Member

Also present:

Timothy F. Hyland	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Jeff Henderson	Principal, Bloomington High School North
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald Times</i>

In addition to the above, 24 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 Jeff Henderson, Bloomington High School North principal, who was nominated by Ryan Gunterman, BHS North teacher and publications adviser. She read the nomination, noting that Mr. Henderson was recognized for providing the perfect atmosphere for student publications, and the journalists that produce them, to succeed. In his nomination, Mr. Gunterman said he also values student empowerment and supports everyone's First Amendment rights. Dr. Grossi shared examples of Jeff's supportive leadership as principal. The Board applauded Mr. Henderson for his ability and willingness to support the voices and aspirations of both his students and staff members. Dr. Grossi expressed appreciation to Mr. Henderson for his dedicated leadership and said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize him as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Mr. Henderson said it was a real honor to be recognized in this manner but he believes the recognition goes to the students and Mr. Gunterman for doing a good job as they tackle difficult situations. He expressed appreciation for their support and hard work.

Mr. Gunterman was joined by BHS North students Aliya Mood and Anna Connors (newsmagazine editors in chief) and Jamie Kamen (yearbook editor in chief) as he surprised Mr. Henderson with another honor – the Indiana High School Press Association’s **Administrator of the Year** award. Board members congratulated Mr. Henderson for receiving this prestigious award.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** – There was no response to Dr. Grossi’s invitation for public comments.

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

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Unionville Elementary School**

Dave Marshall, Unionville Principal, congratulated Mr. Henderson and recalled his first year as principal at BHS North. He said his son was a student there and he said his principal was so cool because standing next to him in the lunch line he asked how are the cheese fries. He said it was obvious that Mr. Henderson immediately began interacting with the students.

Mr. Marshall said without question the Unionville faculty wanted students to talk about their school. He introduced Unionville 6<sup>th</sup> graders Drew Ludwig, Chris Parker, David Bright, Brooke Calvin, Anna Rommel, Elle Ratliff and Claire Burdette. They shared an informative power point presentation about their school’s history, activities, projects, before and after school events and their principal, faculty and staff. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Grossi thanked the students and their teachers for this delightful presentation.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: Secretarial and Maintenance Staff Review**

Ms. Chambers said it has been several years since job descriptions were updated and the secretarial and maintenance employee structure has been reviewed. She introduced Kim Woodward of Woodlinn Enterprises, Inc. who had completed this review. Ms. Woodward said that she visited Unionville, along with 11 other schools, and interviewed about 50 of the 84 secretaries included in the study. She reviewed details of her findings and recommendations (a copy of her presentation is included with the official record of this meeting).

Ms. Merriam asked about the cost for adding two maintenance positions. Ms. Woodward said she shared competitive data with Mr. Scherer and understands it is proposed that these would come out of existing positions already functioning in that department.

Regarding the secretarial recommendations, Ms. Woodward said all individuals would be brought to the minimum and a few individuals would be above the maximum. She said these recommendations are for salary only; they had not yet looked at benefits.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Grossi thanked Ms. Woodward for her work and for sharing this information with the Board. She acknowledged some secretaries who were present at the meeting, noting that they are valued and this is the Board’s way of looking at maintaining competitive salaries.

Ms. Merriam asked if the goal is to look at equity for other employees. Ms. Chambers said yes; secretaries came to the forefront because in the old system if a secretary wanted to have her/his job reviewed, a committee of peers would make the decision. She said there were many things that did not create a system of fairness. She said knowing how hard they work and how valuable they are she felt it was a priority and then the maintenance needs came forward. She said we will begin to look at other groups as well and look at benefit packages of those groups and develop a long-term plan for review.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Proposal for IUNano and MCCSC Partnership**

Dr. Lovejoy reviewed the background leading to this partnership proposal. She introduced Dr. Jill Robinson who holds a teaching faculty position at Indiana University. She explained the idea of the partnership is to promote energy and nanotechnology education by creating programs that would benefit schools, teachers and students. She said funding will come from Indiana University and they are also submitting several federal grant applications. She said they would like to provide an opportunity for teachers to network with each other and faculty teachers would be paid; they would leave with materials for classroom use. Dr. Robinson said the activities would not be just for MCCSC but would go to national meetings. She said they would like to have an experienced teacher on their team to help them be as effective as possible. She said they need that expertise and the tentative proposal is to work with BHS North teacher/MCCSC science education coordinator Jean Schick. They hope to fund a science teacher part-time out of the grant – working one-half time with the team and one-half time with teachers.

Mr. Muehling thanked the I.U. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for thinking of MCCSC for this partnership. He noticed that middle schools are not included, noting that it would also be important to them. Dr. Robinson said this is where the teacher would make connections with teachers at all levels. She said one grant has been presented but did not include Ms. Schick's proposed position, but it will be included on other grant applications. She said the entire project depends on getting funding. Board members thanked Dr. Robinson for sharing this report.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Dr. Grossi recognized members of an Indiana University social workers class who were attending the meeting with their instructor Gary Plaford, former MCCSC Social Services Director.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations and a field trip request; and (b) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received. Referring to donations, Dr. Grossi commended Glenda and Patrick Murray for their consistent support of Fairview, financially and personally. Following a time for additional comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton and Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Ms. Merriam moved approval of contracts as recommended: KJS Enterprise and Lakeview for fundraiser; Sheldon School Pictures and Bloomington New Tech High School for school pictures; Human Services, Inc.-Head Start for use of buses; Acuity (CTB McGraw-Hill) for Acuity Training at Fairview; CareerStaff Unlimited for physical therapy services; Verizon Wireless for a trial demo; and a construction credit from Keusch Glass Inc. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following a time for questions and comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as recommended. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, and Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers called attention to Ronald Helderman's pending retirement, noting that he has served as a custodian for the school system for ten years. She recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, and Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR PERRY/CLEAR CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT TO**

**PURCHASE LAND ON LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SITE**

This matter had been presented to the Board for information at a meeting on October 7. Mr. Scherer explained that this recommendation was to move forward with the appraisal and then come back to the Board with a final recommendation on this request. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Mr. Muehling said because his son serves on this Fire Department as a volunteer, he will abstain from voting on this recommendation. Following a time for questions, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department's request to proceed with a property appraisal. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, and Wanzer. Abstain: Muehling. Motion carried.

**11. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE 2009 BUDGETS, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN AND SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Thrasher explained that the advertisement for the 2009 budgets notifies the public of the hearing on November 5 and the plan to adopt the budgets on November 18. He said the advertisement also advises how citizens may file an objection to the budgets. He noted that a maximum levy is set for each of the funds. Noting that Form 3 has changed, Mr. Thrasher mentioned that both the old and revised forms are included with the budget information for easy comparison. He recommended that the Board authorize the administration to advertise 2009 Budgets, Capital Projects Fund Plan and School Bus Replacement Plan. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Mr. Thrasher said we know what our funding formula will look like because it will be all state support whereas it used to include a portion from local taxpayers. Mr. Muehling asked if we have some hope for more equity built into the formula. Mr. Thrasher said he would like very much to see that happen, although support has been determined for 2009. He thinks that the minimum guarantee works in our favor. He said we hope the circuit breaker will not impact us in Monroe County, adding that for the first time we are all in this together. He said he just received notice of the county's hearing to review budgets. He said to the extent the assessed valuation continues to increase and we have been fortunate that ours has continued to increase, that is in our favor. Ms. Merriam said with recession and home values going down, we may not see that increase in assessed valuation. Mr. Thrasher said there is some shifting going on in that residential property will see a decrease but business property will see an increase in property tax.

Ms. Merriam understood that when the budgets are advertised, we will advertise the maximum since it can be reduced but cannot be increased. She was interested to see the estimate for investment income. Mr. Thrasher said in terms of the total budget, investment income has not been significant because of fluctuations although we are grateful for every penny. Dr. Grossi said she was glad the point was made that we will advertise the maximum tax rate since it cannot go higher once advertised. She understood that there are no plans to change the formula at this time. Mr. Muehling said there is a movement in the Legislature to build in more equity into the formula. Mr. Thrasher said our revenue per pupil is in the bottom 25% of the state and we have been concerned about that for some time. Mr. Muehling noted that politics play a part because if the formula is changed, Legislators would have to take money from other schools to make it equitable. Board members agreed that we need to keep educating the public and Legislators.

Board members voted on the motion to authorize the administration to advertise 2009 Budgets, Capital Projects Fund Plan and School Bus Replacement Plan. Aye: Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

**12. INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – There was no response to Dr. Grossi's invitation for public comment.**

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

Dr. Sabo-Skelton commented on and read the press release received from Jeff Rudkin, B-TV teacher at Batchelor. The press release reviewed numerous national and international awards won by B-TV students. (A copy of the press release is included with the official record of this meeting.) Board members joined Dr. Sabo-Skelton in congratulating Mr. Rudkin and B-TV students for these outstanding accomplishments.

Ms. Wanzer pointed out that the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5 because November 4 is Election Day and we do not have school. She said this provides an opportunity for staff and students to be involved in the election process and volunteers are needed at the polls. She encouraged people to volunteer and urged all to vote.

Ms. Merriam said she was happy to attend one of Anne Henderson's presentations. She asked if her findings could be included on our website.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ABSENT

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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

ABSENT

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Vicki Streiff, Member