

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, November 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, November 5, 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
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Ed Brown	Director, Hoosier Hills Career Center
Jim Rose	Principal, Grandview Elementary School
Linda Black	Principal, Arlington Elementary School

In addition to the above, 20 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. and welcomed visitors. She congratulated Jim Muehling for his re-election to the Board and to Board member-elect John Hamilton as well as Lois Sabo-Skelton and Sue Wanzer who were elected to another term on the Board.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Grossi explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Jane Gouker, strings instructor at Jackson Creek, Tri-North, BHS North and BHS South. She noted that Jane also coordinates the elementary school strings program, which currently has about 170 students enrolled. Nominated by Assistant Superintendent Peggy Chambers, Ms. Gouker was recognized for her collaboration with the Human Resources and Transportation Departments to address not only rising transportation costs but also contractual issues with the before-school strings program. In her 29<sup>th</sup> year with MCCSC, Jane held her first fifth grade strings class in 1980 and things started to grow. Today, students have a chance to experience strings in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades and continue on through middle and high school. The Board commended Ms. Gouker for her dedication and for her efforts to build a world-class strings program. Ms. Gouker accepted the award and thanked the Board for this recognition. She said in 1980 Dr. Ronald Walton, Superintendent, and Leon Whaley, Personnel

Director, challenged her to make the strings program one of which we could be proud. With their encouragement and endorsement, she said the program has evolved and the students are like family to her; the program is her passion and love. She said the kids are awesome and she has had unbelievable parent support. She said we also have a great music staff and an administration that has been behind her, the curriculum and the program. She thanked School Board members as well as past personnel directors and superintendents who have helped maintain the program, adding "Thank you for making me look so good."

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

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

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

Jim Rose, new principal at Grandview this year, shared an informative presentation regarding how he sees Grandview and why Grandview is so grand. He talked about Grandview's dedicated and talented faculty and staff, involved parents and awesome kids. He said volunteers work in the classrooms, as mentors and with the PTO, and pre-service teachers are placed at Grandview by Indiana University and Ivy Tech Community College to help with reading and math – all under the watchful eye of Grandview's professionals. He talked about Grandview's positive behavior support system and said there are no problems on the playground because the kids are problem solvers. One example: they came up with a list of rules to play kickball. Mr. Rose said Grandview is about family and because of the positive climate in the school, teachers set up the kids for success. Several Grandview teachers were present and at the Board President's request, introduced themselves. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Grossi thanked Mr. Rose for sharing grand things about Grandview.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING: 2009 BUDGETS, THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN, AND THE SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN**

President of the Board, Teresa Grossi, convened a public hearing on the 2009 Budgets, the Capital Projects Fund Plan and the School Bus Replacement Fund Plan.

Mr. Thrasher had shared a brief overview of the 2009 Budgets, the Capital Projects Fund Plan and the School Bus Replacement Fund Plan at the meeting held on October 21, 2008. He explained advertising requirements and said the public had been notified that a hearing would be held at this time and that the Board would meet on November 18 to consider adopting the 2009 Budgets and plans. He reviewed in detail various aspects of the Budgets, including items added to the Budget during the year.

Dr. Grossi opened the hearing and invited comments from the public.

William Scott, citizen, said he sees that the school system continues to request more and larger quantities of revenue. He said he is an emeritus profession of organizational behavior at Indiana University and citizen of Bloomington since 1962, although he came here as a freshman at I.U. in 1947. He said he has been trying to hold the school system accountable and raising questions about budget increases. He noted percentage increases for the Budget during the past several years and said there has been a 75% increase in the school system's budget over a ten-year period. He said that is a lot of money and would be okay if our measure of educational achievement (test scores) had reflected significant improvement and had raised acceptable levels of performance – but that is not the case. He reviewed SAT scores since 2005 and compared those to 1965. He said these are not acceptable and he anticipates continuing his objection in a similar way with the Department of Local Government Finance.

Ms. Merriam said she would be remiss if she did not say MCCSC is among the top four in SAT scores in

Indiana this year. She said she knows that teachers are not paid enough and she knows most professors who retire get more retirement benefits. She applauded MCCSC teachers for their dedication.

In response to Mr. Muehling's questions, Mr. Thrasher talked about grant money received and confirmed that we actually had two bond issues retire and there should be a decrease in the Debt Service Fund when the next one is retired.

Dr. Butler explained that in April the Board approved to add a fourth assistant principal at BHS South; however, there had been four assistant principals but because of enrollment we looked at whether to keep the fourth assistant and decided to do so to support small learning communities at the school. She noted that another assistant was also approved for BHS North, predicated on their establishment of small learning communities. She recalled that Aurora will add teachers if they have increased enrollment.

Ms. Wanzer referred to the Department of Education (DOE) website which shows MCCSC SAT scores have risen consistently over the last few years. She said a lot of people feel SAT is not a valid comparison to 1965 scores because only high ability and college-bound students took the test at that time. She pointed out that the DOE website also shows MCCSC ISTEP scores higher than the state average while the amount of money spent is in the bottom 25% of the state.

Dr. Grossi mentioned that the state issued a list of the top seven high schools in the state and BHS North and BHS South ranked among those. She said it is true that we are cutting off summer school but NovaNet will be available throughout the year and during the summer as remediation and extra credit options for students. She said students will still receive services.

Ms. Merriam said it is probably important that we ask the high schools to start sharing that information now with parents. She noted that the reason our Debt Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund levies ebb and flow is because we are on a 20-year plan; this keeps everything in good order.

There were no additional comments and the hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Arlington's "Family Science Night"**

Principal Linda Black reported that the Arlington family experienced a wonderful 'Family Science Night' on Friday, October 10. She said this was a collaborative effort between the Arlington PTO and Tina Gilliland, Director of the Indiana University Science Outreach Program. She said the activities were exemplary with a number of supplies provided by Indiana University. She said families came and it was an opportunity for them to see the scope of the I.U. science department. Dr. Black said because Arlington is a Title I school they work hard to present university and university-related careers for their students. She said every family who signed in received a \$10 gas voucher to go to the Indianapolis museum and a one-year voucher to take families to the museum for \$1 for each visit. She introduced Arlington PTO vice president and treasurer, Jennifer Witzke who had helped organize this event. Board members thanked Dr. Black for sharing this informative report.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on October 7, October 14 and October 21, 2008; (b) donations; (c) Financial Report; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer 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.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as submitted: Matrix Engagement Proposal for the temporary administration building; Becky Wingle and Hoosier Hills Career Center; and General Electric and the Adult Education Program. Dr. Butler so moved. Dr. Grossi seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers proposed one change in ECA Assignments: withdraw the recommendation for September Gibson as basketball coach at Tri-North. With that change, she recommended approval of the Personnel Report. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **SECRETARIAL CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY ADJUSTMENTS, ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE AND UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

Ms. Chambers reviewed proposed changes, which came to the Board following an information report presented on October 21, and recommended approval. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE MCCSC 403(b) PLAN**

Mr. Thrasher reviewed changes and recommended approval of Amendment No. 1 to the MCCSC 403(b) Plan. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **FOR DISCUSSION: First Reading – Proposed Revisions to Policy 5111**

Dr. Hyland said he will be meeting with a NEOLA representative this week to talk about updating the school system's policies. Mr. Shipman explained that funding sources for our schools have changed and this revision would deny transfers into MCCSC from outside the school corporation. He said currently we have ten students here on cash tuition and a grandfather clause has been added to the policy to allow them to continue on that basis. This revised policy will be brought to the Board for action on November 5.

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

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

Dr. Grossi announced that the Board is beginning the Superintendent search and during this process the Board will hold forums for the public to meet the top three candidates, one each on November 19, 20 and 24. She said the forums will convene at 4:00 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at BHS South on November 19, BHS North on November 20 and BHS South on November 24. She said the format for the forums will include an introduction and comments from the candidate and then open mike for questions from the public.

Dr. Grossi commended educators who will be recognized at the Educator of the Year Award dinner hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Franklin Initiative on Wednesday, November 12.

Ms. Merriam extended congratulations to Gwen Upchurch, director, and the *Sounds of South* for a wonderful production of *Carousel*. She also congratulated the cross country teams from BHS North and BHS South for winning seasons. Ms. Merriam thanked MCCSC teachers for working day in and day out and summers and nights for salaries we know are not comparable for what they do. She said they care for our kids and continue working for what we can afford to pay them.

Ms. Wanzer said Dr. Scott's conclusions were erroneous. She noted that the school system provides educational programs to all kids, ages 3 to 18, before-school and after-school care, special needs, high ability and between. She said we educate the homeless, those in foster care, those who exceed in everything and nothing, every age and a number who cannot be educated anywhere else. She said the school system provides an education for the suspended and expelled, adult learners and homebound while providing clothing, food and assistance with medical referral. She said the school system provides safety and hope for kids who have none. Ms. Wanzer said in addition when people come in to criticize our budget they forget that we feed them during the day and need staff for all of these services – and we have to have buildings to educate. She said our society believes that schools can take care of all these needs and until society takes some responsibility, it will be up to schools to meet those needs. She said she is sorry that people do not want to share in that commitment. She said we are doing a tremendous job with the money we are given.

Ms. Wanzer thanked the community for allowing her to serve another term on the School Board. She said she will always remember we are doing this for the kids.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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