

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, November 18, 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 18, 2008, in the Large Group Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

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

Board members absent:

Teresa Grossi	President
---------------	-----------

Also present:

Timothy F. Hyland	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Lou Johnson	Director of Food Services
Karen Adams	Principal, Fairview Elementary School
Trudy Litz	Assistant Principal, Fairview Elementary School

In addition to the above, 10 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**

Vice President of the Board, Jeannine Butler, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Randy Tackett, President of AFSCME Local 3995 and a member of the Bloomington High School South custodial staff since 1993. He also serves as manager for the Panthers' basketball and football teams. He is now the grounds keeper for South; he does everything from snow removal to striping the athletic field and caring for the lawn. Mr. Tackett (or R.T. as he is known to his friends) was nominated for this honor by the Human Resources Department for his role as a dedicated employee, his support of high school athletics and his dedication to MCCSC support staff employees he represents as president of AFSCME Local 3995. BHS South Principal Mark Fletcher said "R.T. embodies the spirit and enthusiasm of BHSS. He leads through example by always being positive, energetic and displaying a 'can do' attitude. Above all else, R.T. believes in kids and supports their efforts which is why he is one of the most well known and respected individuals in the entire school." On behalf of the Board, Dr. Butler commended Mr. Tackett for his dedication and leadership said it is the Board's pleasure to recognize him as one of the school system's shining *Faces of Education*. Mr. Tackett expressed appreciation for this honor.

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

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

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

Karen Adams, Fairview Principal, said Fairview’s restructuring plan includes expanded time on map skills and tier reading groups. She said they also recognize the need for students to have time to enjoy, appreciate and expand their skills in art, sports and music. She introduced music teacher Kathy Heise, who developed an afterschool program, funded by a grant that provided an opportunity for 32 Fairview students to take music lessons without charge. Ms. Heise introduced Fairview students Barb Brewster (piano), Mallory Pyke (piano), Jade Passwaiter (vocalist) and Karah Sims (piano) who shared their talents while demonstrating the success of Fairview’s CODA Music Academy program. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Butler thanked the students and Ms. Heise for this delightful presentation.

5. **HEARING ON A NON-EMERGENCY AMENDMENT TO THE 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN**

Dr. Butler convened a hearing on a non-emergency amendment to the 2008 Capital Projects Fund Plan. Hearing no comments, Dr. Butler declared the hearing closed.

Ms. Merriam moved approval of the resolution to amend the 2008 Capital Projects Fund Plan as recommended, to establish appropriations in the amount of \$1,526,750 for the payment of costs associated with the renovation of the Bloomington New Tech High School facility located on Patterson Drive. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

6. **HEARING AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2008 GENERAL FUND, 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, 2008 TRANSPORTATION OPERATING FUND AND 2008 SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT FUND**

Dr. Butler convened a hearing on the proposed additional appropriations for the 2008 General Fund, 2008 Capital Projects Fund, 2008 Transportation Operation Fund and 2008 School Bus Replacement Fund. Hearing no response, Dr. Butler declared the hearing closed.

Mr. Muehling moved that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing additional appropriations in the 2008 General Fund, 2008 Capital Projects Fund, 2008 Transportation Operating Fund and 2008 School Bus Replacement Fund in the amounts indicated: General Fund - \$750,000; Capital Projects Fund - \$1,526,750; Transportation Operating Fund - \$310,000; and School Bus Replacement Fund - \$60,000. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Butler called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations and a field trip request; and (b) Allowance of Claims. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received. Following a time for additional comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACT**

Mr. Muehling moved approval of the contract with ProLiance Energy as recommended. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following a time for questions and comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve the contract as recommended. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULE AND INSURANCE BENEFIT INCREASES FOR NON-UNION SUPPORT STAFF**

Noting that 2009 salary and insurance benefit increases for other employee groups was approved by the Board in 2007, Ms. Chambers recommended approval of a salary schedule increase of 3.0% and a 7.0% increase in MCCSC contributions to medical and dental insurance programs for all non-union support staff groups effective January 1, 2009. Ms. Streiff so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Following a time for questions, Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **MEAL PRICE INCREASES FOR JANUARY 2009 AND AUGUST 2009**

Ms. Johnson reviewed supporting documents and recommended approval of a 10-cent increase in adult meal prices effective January 1, 2009 and the following meal price increases effective August 1, 2009: 10-cent increase in adult breakfast; 10-cent increase in student breakfast; 10-cent increase in elementary lunch; 5-cent increase in middle and high school lunch. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved; Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve meal price increases as recommended. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICY 5111**

Noting that revisions to Policy 5111-Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students were reviewed at the Board meeting on November 5, Dr. Hyland said this is a function of trying to close the door to transfers into our school district since with the change in the funding formula there virtually would be no additional income from accepting students from outside the school district. He recommended approval of revisions as proposed. Ms. Merriam so moved; Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE INDIANA BOND BANK'S 2009 ADVANCE FUNDING PROGRAM**

Mr. Thrasher said because of the change in funding for schools, borrowing for the General Fund will eventually go to zero. He recommended that the Board authorize participation in the Indiana Bond Bank's 2009 Advance Funding Program. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Mr. Thrasher responded to questions and Board members were polled on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

14. **RESOLUTION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2009 BUDGETS; RESOLUTION OF TAX RATES FOR THE 2009 BUDGETS; RESOLUTION TO APPEAL FOR AN EXCESSIVE LEVY**

PURSUANT TO I.C. 20-45-6-5 TO RECOVER A SHORTFALL IN COLLECTIONS OF 2007 PROPERTY TAXES; RESOLUTION TO LOWER 2009 CPF TAX LEVY AND ALLOCATION OF FUTURE PROJECTS AND THE BUS REPLACEMENT FUND ALLOCATION FOR FUTURE BUS PURCHASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH I.C. 20-48-1-2; RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2009 CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN; RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2009 SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mr. Thrasher pointed out that hearings on the 2009 Budgets were conducted at the November 5th meeting of the Board. He reviewed each of the resolutions and recommended that the Board adopt the following: Resolution of Appropriations for the 2009 Budgets; Resolution of Tax Rates for the 2009 Budgets; Resolution to Appeal for an Excessive Levy Pursuant to I.C. 20-45-6-5 to recover a shortfall in collections of 2007 Property Taxes; Resolution to Lower 2009 CPF Tax Levy and Allocation of Future Projects and the Bus Replacement Fund Allocation for future Bus Purchases in accordance with I.C. 20-48-1-2; Resolution to Adopt 2009 Capital Projects Plan; and Resolution to Adopt 2009 School Bus Replacement Plan. Ms. Streiff so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Butler thanked Mr. Thrasher for his work on the Budget.

Dr. William Scott, citizen, objected to the Budget proposal and objected to the data. He said over a 10 to 15 year period of review, he found that the budget has increased and in his opinion educational effectiveness has gone down. He said the last time he objected to the budget he was told that it is unfair to compare SAT scores as a measure of effectiveness because more students now take the SAT. However, he believes that local students do not score as well individually on SAT. He objected to increasing teacher salaries when 'the average teacher earns \$46,700 for 182 days of work.' He said that amount is \$58,375 for senior teachers and if you add 20% for benefits it is about \$67,000.

When reminded of the three-minute limit for comments, Dr. Scott said he continues to object that the public is given three minutes to speak to present a very complicated case but Board members have an unlimited amount of time to refute or respond. He suggested changing this rule. Dr. Scott said Indiana teacher salaries rank 16th in the nation and MCCSC salaries are at a par with Indiana state salaries. He said the fact that MCCSC SAT scores rank fifth in the State is no big deal because SAT scores have consistently fallen in the bottom of the average SAT scores in 47 other states. He said he is appalled that educators in this state have recently said they will go back to the project method with student learning. He said project learning started in 1919 and the new charter school is an abomination.

Ms. Merriam told Dr. Scott that the charter school is not a part of MCCSC. She said if he would like to present something in writing to the Board, she will be glad to read it.

Dr. Hyland explained that these are not public meetings but they are meetings held in public. He said you can imagine the turmoil if there was no time limit set for public comment. He added that citizens may share feedback to the Board in writing. Dr. Butler suggested that Dr. Scott also submit in writing his concern about the three-minute time limit.

Mr. Muehling said he appreciated Dr. Scott highlighting how little our teachers make and how pitiful retirement is for teachers. He said MCCSC is funded in the lowest 20% of the state and student performance is in the highest 20%. He said our SAT scores do exceed the national mean but we want to get better. He said this is a meeting held in public and the Board does not have to entertain comment from the public but Board members want as much input as possible. He said a majority of Boards in this state do not accept comments from the public because it is difficult to conduct the meeting in a compressed timeframe. Mr. Muehling agreed that Board members appreciate receiving anything in writing that Dr. Scott would like to share. Dr. Scott said there will be something in writing at the objection hearing.

Ms. Wanzer said MCCSC student SAT scores are above the state and national average and she was looking at the Department of Education website and our teacher salaries are below state average. She said we could argue forever regarding which position should make more money. She suggested that SAT scores are not a measurement of achievement because since 1965 the results are diluted because more students are taking the test, not just college bound students.

There was a call for the question. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

15. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

In response to Dr. Scott's question, Dr. Butler said forums are scheduled for the public to meet each of the three finalists for the position of Superintendent. She said one is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on November 19 at BHS South; the second will be held at 4:00 p.m. on November 20 at BHS North; and the third is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on November 24 at BHS South. She explained the format will be for the candidate to take 15 minutes to discuss his credentials and the remainder of the time will be reserved for questions. Dr. Scott said he was disappointed in the times of the forums but will try to attend.

Noting this is an unusual process in the selection of a superintendent, Dr. Butler said the Board appreciates receiving public input. Mr. Muehling added that forms will be provided for public written comments; however, the Board will be happy to receive comments provided via e-mail.

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

Ms. Merriam noted that we have many teachers who have long tenure with the school system and that is one of the reasons that our salary average is higher than a lot of corporations. She thanked the corporation for allowing her to attend the Indiana School Boards Association special education work shop last week.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton shared a report about the Youth Summit Forum held last Friday. She said it was an incredible experience meeting with students from BHS North, BHS South, Aurora, Edgewood and Harmony as they talked about alcohol and drug use and the problems they are facing. Mr. Muehling agreed that there was good participation by about 100 kids.

Dr. Butler commended Fairview students for their amazing performances at this meeting. She thanked Mike Scherer for attending the Historic Preservation Committee meeting when they talked about the Aurora renovation project.

Dr. Butler congratulated Sue Wanzer who was named *Woman of Distinction* with the Girl Scouts of America.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

ABSENT

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