

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, December 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, December 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
Vicki Streiff	Member

Board member absent:

Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
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Also present:

Tim Hyland	Interim Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, Foundation of MCCA
Jennifer Staab	Health Schools Coordinator
Wendy Perry	Director of School Age Care Program
Karen Adams	Principal, Fairview Elementary School
Chuck Holloway	Principal, Aurora Alternative High School
Trudy Litz	Assistant Principal, Fairview Elementary School
Tom Bunger	School Attorney, Bunger & Robertson
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald Times</i>

In addition to the above, 7 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.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Grossi said it was quite an honor to recognize Patrick and Glenda Murray. She explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Patrick and Glenda Murray who are long-time, generous supporters of Fairview Elementary School. They were nominated for the Faces of Education award by Fairview Principal Karen Adams and Assistant Principal Trudy Litz. Patrick and Glenda Murray have been Fairview's guardian angels for many years. The Murrays have provided monthly gifts of support. Each year Fairview has an author visit the school to talk to students about their books and what it means to be an author. The Murrays' gifts help to purchase

a book signed by the author for each student. Whenever support is needed, the Murrays respond – whether it be materials to open a much needed, new preschool room or attendance at a meeting (and there have been many of those) to support Fairview. Ms. Adams and Ms. Litz said they feel fortunate to have them as supporters – their guardian angels. About seven or eight years ago the couple decided to contribute funds regularly since they could not contribute as much time because of their work schedules. However, they were very involved in the meetings about Fairview’s future. Board members commended Glenda and Patrick Murray for their support for Fairview, their community and the school system. The Murrays thanked the Board for this honor and for maintaining a commitment to keep Fairview in their neighborhood.

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: Aurora Alternative High School**

Chuck Holloway, Principal, and Aurora teachers Barbara Curry, Sarah Erb and Becky Rupert shared information about Aurora Alternative High School’s reformation efforts. They reported on current programs, projects and plans to accomplish their vision for a school that will expand its efforts to meet the needs of students and even better prepare them for post-secondary education and/or the changing job market. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Grossi thanked Mr. Holloway and Aurora teachers for this report.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: Foundation of MCCS Update**

Tina Peterson, Executive Director, extended an invitation to the public to join the Foundation for a community conversation to be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, at Bloomington New Tech High School (BNTHS). She said this conversation is a part of a continuing effort to follow up with people who have supported BNTHS.

Ms. Peterson said in addition to awarding 36 grants in the amount of \$60,000, the Foundation awarded \$21,000 to BHS North for their work on establishing small learning communities. Additionally, 69 students received assistance to attend Bradford Woods this fall; a similar number is expected to receive help in the spring. She said the Foundation is piloting a field trip transportation fund; they also help fund GED scholarships and that fund is very low, so they would love to accept donations for that fund. Ms. Peterson is pleased to report that the Foundation received \$306,000.00 in donations this school year.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Update on Grants**

Dr. Hyland announced that the school system has received a 21st Century Learning Community grant from the Indiana Department of Education. He said the grant is \$450,000 for the first year (January 2009 through May 2010), with up to \$1.4 million total available. Dr. Hyland said this grant will fund an extended *To The Bell & Beyond Program* open to all students in Title I schools: Arlington, Fairview, Grandview, Highland Park, Summit and Templeton.

Board members joined Dr. Hyland in commending Jennifer Staab, Healthy Schools Coordinator, who was the lead author for the grant proposal. Thanks also to others who worked on the grant: School Age Care Director Wendy Perry, Past Director of *To The Bell & Beyond Program* Katy Kelly; and principals of Title I schools.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on November 5 and November 18, 2008; (b) donations, a field trip request and approval to dispose of surplus property; (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, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher noted that a question had been posed regarding who from the school system ensures that the school system's portion of the Energy and Defense Development Grant will be upheld. He said compliance will be a three-way effort: an audit by the State Board of Accounts, the Business Office will file financial reports, and Mr. Scherer will oversee the mechanical and construction. He said Cindy Kvale, BHS South teacher will be the day-to-day overseer for grant compliance. He recommended approval of contracts as submitted: Energy and Defense Development Grant and St. Charles Elementary and Amy McGill. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

10. **CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSION**

Mr. Scherer recommended approval of an extension for Mary Blake, Route 143, in the amount of \$239.73. Ms. Streiff so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY THE MCCSC 1996 SCHOOL BUILDING COPORATION AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD AND THE COMPTROLLER TO TAKE THE ADDITIONAL STEPS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND LEASING OF THE PROJECT**

Mr. Thrasher explained that the school system is on schedule to sell bonds on December 16 and Mr. Bunger was present to respond to questions. He said the purpose of the resolution is that it approves the sale of bonds in the amount of \$40,685,000 and provides for assignment of construction contracts. Ms. Merriam so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Muehling understood that this authorizes the sale but not the format or type of the sale, i.e. negotiated or competitive. Mr. Thrasher said our intent has been to have a competitive sale. He said he has been in touch with Lonnie Therber (financial adviser) and Karl Sturbaum (bond counsel) and they agree that a competitive sale is preferred at this time. Mr. Muehling noted that this would limit our underwriting costs. In response to another question, Mr. Thrasher said the public has been notified of the sale and the timelines and who to talk to. During ensuing discussion, Mr. Muehling mentioned that with the issuance of these bonds and the retirement of other bonds, the effect on the tax rate should be negligible. Mr. Thrasher agreed. He said the Debt Service Fund tax rate is slightly higher in 2009 but because we still carry interest expense, he is unsure about cash flow this year. Board members voted on the motion to

approve. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **APPROVE RENEWAL WITH ANTHEM TO SERVE AS THE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MCCSC'S MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS**

Mr. Thrasher said every year at this time we have renewal with our third party administrator and he recommended that the school system continue with Anthem. He said the total expected costs for the medical/drug/dental insurance programs are expected to increase 5.3% in 2009. He explained that new provisions of the insurance plans include: (1) the addition of the Anthem 360 Program – expected to reduce claims expense and improve care for staff members with high risk/high cost conditions over the long term; (2) provision of 24/7 Nurse/Line and help to determine whether an emergency room visit is warranted; (3) Future Moms Program for expectant mothers; and (4) benefits for same sex domestic partners of MCCSC employees.

Mr. Thrasher said in order to continue to build the funding reserve for the medical and dental insurance plans, effective January 1, 2009, total premiums for the medical and dental insurance programs will be increased 7%. Board contributions toward the cost of insurance programs will also increase 7%, effective January 1, 2009, as will the amounts paid by employees through payroll deductions. He recommended approval of the renewal application with Anthem and the changes in benefits as described in the accompanying materials. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Mr. Thrasher, Ms. Chambers, Dr. Hyland and former Superintendent Jim Harvey as well as Board members who have worked to extend benefits to domestic partners. She said she thinks this school system is the only school corporation in the state to do that.

In response to Mr. Muehling's comments, Mr. Thrasher said we are still looking at deductibles and the possibility of dropping plans in an effort to hold costs down, particularly for employees who work five or six hours per day and not year around. He said they hope to come up with a plan with a different structure and lower costs. Ms. Merriam commended Mr. Thrasher and the Insurance Committee for keeping the premium this low.

Board members voted on the motion to approve the renewal with Anthem as proposed. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **FOR INFORMATION: License Agreement with NEOLA, Inc.**

Dr. Hyland shared a proposed agreement with NEOLA, Inc. for development of Board policies and guidelines. He reviewed the fee schedule for each step of the process and said he will come back to the Board on December 16 for approval of the agreement. He suggested that the Board sub-committee work with Mike Shipman to complete the process. Board members agreed that Sue Wanzer and Valerie Merriam will serve as the Board's sub-committee for this purpose.

14. **FOR INFORMATION: Update on Bids for Current Projects**

Mr. Scherer provided information to update the Board on the bidding process for current projects. He said the bids will be combined on December 5. He said there is a lot to think about in terms of alternates and he will try to get specific information to the Board in advance of a special meeting scheduled for December 9.

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

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Butler said she spent time this morning (December 2) at Bloomington New Tech High School watching students present group projects and group reports. She said it was a very interesting morning; she said one of the things she appreciated was that students were asked to give themselves a score from one to ten on their participation on the projects and they were honest.

Referring to the student presentations, Ms. Merriam said she was pleasantly surprised at how poised they were as freshmen. She said she participated in senior internships at BHS North and some of these 9th graders were just as poised in their presentation.

Ms. Merriam said on December 8 the Fairview violins will give their first concert and there are lots of programs going on at different schools. She encouraged people to attend.

Dr. Grossi said as she transitions out as a Board member, she spoke with Sue Wanzer about coordinating a nominating committee for the election of officers in 2009 and she agreed to do so. She expressed appreciation to this Board for going beyond the expected, including putting in 20+ hour weeks for the last several weeks. She announced that the Board continues to deliberate on the Superintendent search and thanked the public who came out for public forums. She said the Board appreciates public feedback and input. She added that the Board is taking this task very seriously.

Dr. Butler said Dr. Grossi is kind when she tells the public how much time Board members spent on the Superintendent selection process. She said Board members would be remiss if they did not say that Dr. Grossi has done a yeoman's job in leading this Board. She said her leadership has been exemplary. She also expressed thanks to Janet Tupper and Dr. Hyland for their assistance in the process.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Teresa Grossi, President

Jeannine Butler, Vice President

Valerie Merriam, Secretary

Susan P. Wanzer, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Vicki Streiff, Member