

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, December 16, 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 16, 2008, in the Large Group Room 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:

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
Mike Clark	Director of Transportation
Joe Childers	Principal, Binford Elementary 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) 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 Gilbert ‘Gib’ Niswander and Audrey Myers who work as Supervising Foremen in the MCCSC Transportation Department. They were nominated for the Faces of Education award by their supervisor, Mike Clark, Director of Transportation. Mr. Niswander, who is a former police officer, joined the department in 1988 as a school bus driver. Audrey has been with the department since 2005, coming to MCCSC from the fuel industry. Mike Clark said they both know that we are here for kids and because of kids. He said they are the first people to troubleshoot an issue before it becomes a problem and you will find them staying late or picking up a bus route in a pinch until the last student is delivered safely home. He added that they both arrive early and they are always willing to do whatever needs to be done. Mr. Niswander said he really enjoys working for the school system and thanked building principals, assistants and secretaries for their help. He expressed thanks for having an opportunity for ongoing staff development. The Board commended Gib Niswander and Audrey Myers for their work to keep our buses, drivers and students traveling safely to and from school on a daily basis.

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: Binford Elementary School**

Joe Childers, Binford Principal, shared photos and information, including examples, about the dedicated faculty and staff and outstanding students at Binford Elementary School. He introduced Binford faculty who were present: Melinda Hamilton, Nancy Stockwell and Lisa Zorn. New to his position as Principal this year, Mr. Childers previously taught and served as an administrator in secondary schools. He said he is excited to go to work every day and cannot imagine a better match than the one he has with Binford.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: City of Bloomington Plans for Bus Pull-Off Along Henderson Street**

Mr. Scherer said the City has a Safe Route to Schools Grant and they will provide a pull-off near Templeton Elementary. He said contracts will be coming back from the City, asking the school system to approve an easement for the pull-off.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations, an ECA purchase and a field trip request; and (b) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received, noting that the names of all donors are included in the report available on the school system's website. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CONTRACTS**

Dr. Hyland stated that he was asking the Board to approve the contract with NEOLA but wanted authorization to only engage the first part of the contract at this time. Mr. Thrasher presented contracts for approval with the understanding that the Superintendent would be authorized to move forward with the NEOLA agreement in segments. Mr. Muehling moved approval of contracts as recommended, including a Monroe Bank Corporation Authorization Resolution and contracts with Herff Jones; Wireless Generation; NEOLA, Inc.; School Datebooks; and two contracts with Scholastic Book Fairs. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

9. **APPOINT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Grossi called for a motion to approve the appointment of John (J. T.) Coopman as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2009. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Dr. Grossi said it was an honor to present Dr. Coopman to the MCCSC and to the community. She said he was unable to attend this meeting because they had issues to address at a meeting of his Board tonight.

Dr. Butler said the fact that he feels it necessary to be at his School Board meeting because of serious actions speaks well for him.

Mr. Muehling thanked staff, faculty and the public for their input insofar as what we desire in a

superintendent. He expressed appreciation for helping the Board to come to this decision.

Ms. Wanzer also thanked people who participated in the process. She noted that WGCL Radio aired conversations, *The Herald-Times* did a wonderful job with publicizing the process and the community was very much involved.

Dr. Grossi concurred with accolades already expressed and commended Sarah Morin (reporter for *The Herald-Times*) because she made sure to keep online reporting updated.

Ms. Merriam said she had heard nothing but positive comments about the process and forums. She said she considers this a celebration as we go forward.

Dr. Butler said she had also heard only positive comments and the fact that people who could not come had seen the forums on B-CAT; she thanked B-CAT for the coverage.

There were no additional comments or questions. Aye: Butler, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling, Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Pointing out that this was Dr. Grossi's last Board meeting (her term on the Board ends January 2009), on behalf of remaining Board members Mr. Muehling thanked Dr. Grossi for her service as a Board member, as Vice President during his presidency, and her leadership as President of the Board during the past year. He particularly noted Dr. Grossi's service and leadership with the superintendent search. He said it is unbelievable the number of hours she devoted to this assignment. He expressed appreciation most of all for her love of the kids and the fact that her decisions were directed by that love. On behalf of the Board and the MCCSC, Mr. Muehling presented Dr. Grossi with a commemorative clock.

Dr. Grossi said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board for four years and to also serve the district professionally. She said it has been a unique four years and it is a bittersweet end. She said this is a school district that is truly phenomenal. She said she has never been around a group of educators so committed and so visionary. She said this truly is an incredible Board and they want to represent the best interests of our students. She noted that they have asked questions, deliberated for a long time and over numerous issues over the last four years. Dr. Grossi thanked Board members for their dedication to conclude issues with the best possible answer.

Dr. Butler said we will miss you. She told Dr. Grossi that she could not tell her how much this Board appreciates all the time, effort and patience she has contributed. She noted that this has been one of the most challenging years as a Board President and she has handled it with grace and patience and the highest of professionalism. She presented Dr. Grossi with a card and gift from the Board because 'you have made us a strong Board.'

Ms. Merriam also thanked Dr. Grossi. She said she has served on Boards in this community for over 30 years and she (Dr. Grossi) has been the most professional, organized and patient and served with grace.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said that Dr. Grossi's great sense of humor, demeanor and positive attitude got the Board through some serious times. She said that she will be missed but she is leaving the Board stronger by her example. She hopes that Dr. Grossi will be back in different ways.

Ms. Wanzer said about four and one-half years ago Dr. Grossi talked about whether to run for a School Board seat and she knew it was something that Dr. Grossi thought long and hard about. She said she is pleased that Dr. Grossi made that decision and won that election. She told her that she was a great support to her when she was president and she has been a wonderful colleague. Ms. Wanzer told her, 'I appreciate your advice and counsel.'

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:55 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