

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, January 6, 2009**

**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, January 6, 2009, in the Large Group Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Jeannine Butler	President
Valerie Merriam	Vice President
Vicki Streiff	Secretary
John Hamilton	Assistant Secretary
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board members absent:

Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Jim Muehling	Member

Also present:

Timothy Hyland	Superintendent of Schools
Timothy Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of School Operations
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, MCCA Foundation
Tom Bunger	School Attorney

In addition to the above, 25 citizens signed the visitors' list, which is included with and made a part of the official record of this meeting, and two representatives of Bloomington Community Access TV were present.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The 2008 Vice President of the Board, Jeannine Butler, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Tom Bunger, Attorney, administered the oath of office to newly elected member: John Hamilton and re-elected member Sue Wanzer. Copies of the signed oaths are included as a part of the official record for this meeting. The oath of office will be administered to Lois Sabo-Skelton and Jim Muehling at the next meeting. Dr. Sabo-Skelton was ill and Board members expressed condolences to Jim Muehling who was out of state to attend his brother's funeral.

3. **ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

**Election of Officers:** Ms. Wanzer presented the following slate of officers to serve for 2009:  
Jeannine Butler – President; Valerie Merriam – Vice President; Vicki Streiff – Secretary; John Hamilton

– Assistant Secretary; Timothy Thrasher, Treasurer; Barbara Buckner, Assistant Treasurer; and Bond for Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to be established at \$200,000. Mr. Hamilton moved approval of the slate of officers and establishment of bond as proposed. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Committee Appointments** – Dr. Butler proposed the following appointments to committees:

ISBA Legislative Liaison: Lois Sabo-Skelton

ISBA Policy Advisor: Jim Muehling

MCCS Foundation Board – non-voting member: Sue Wanzer

Committee to Study Policies – study committee: Sue Wanzer, Valerie Merriam and Jim Muehling

Special Education Advisory Board – non-voting member: Vicki Streiff

High Ability Task Force-Broad Based Planning Committee – non-voting member: John Hamilton

MCCSC Comprehensive Health Issues Committee (CHICs) – meets quarterly – non-voting member:  
Valerie Merriam

Middle School Task Force – non-voting members: Valerie Merriam, Lois Sabo-Skelton

Friends of Fairview Committee – as per Restructuring Plan: one voting member and one non-voting  
member: Jeannine Butler (voting), Sue Wanzer (non-voting)

Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### 4. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2009 and JANUARY 2010**

Ms. Wanzer moved approval of the calendar of meetings for 2009 and January 2010 as presented. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Ms. Wanzer noted that since 2009 is not an election year, the Board will meet on May 5 even though school is not in session on that day.

#### 5. **ORGANIZATION OF BOARD OF FINANCE**

Dr. Hyland recommended that the Board establish this portion of the agenda as the organizational meeting of the Board of Finance as called for in IC 5-13-7-6. Ms. Merriam so moved. She further moved that the officers of the Board of School Trustees be declared the officers of the Board of Finance. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### 6. **INVESTING OFFICER'S REPORT**

As required by IC 5-13-7-6, Mr. Thrasher presented and reviewed the Investing Officer's Report for 2008 [a copy of this report is included in the agenda]. This report was accepted by Board acclamation. Mr. Hamilton suggested an editorial correction to Policy 6144.

#### 7. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Teresa Grossi and noted that she was being honored for her service on the Board from 2005-2009. She was nominated for the Faces of Education award by members of the Board for her leadership and support of education. Dr. Grossi is the Director of the Center on Community Living and Careers for the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University. Several years ago, she and another colleague led our school corporation through a strategic plan for the Special Education Department. Board members noted that she has given of her time (without compensation) for many years as a consultant in the arena of transition in Special Education. Dr. Butler said, "As President, she led the school corporation through many difficult times...Her leadership for the Board has been excellent and she has the respect of all of the Board members....She came on the Board to serve her

community, and she has done that with the highest degree of dedication.” In the letter of nomination, Mr. Muehling said, “Dr. Grossi has been the ‘poster child’ for effective school board presidency! ...During her term, the district has undergone major transitions which she has handled with grace, class and professionalism.” Superintendent Tim Hyland also praised Dr. Grossi’s leadership, noting that she has consistently demonstrated keen insight into the myriad of issues that confront today’s modern school system. He said she has been both a Board facilitator as well as a Board president. Dr. Grossi wanted to share this recognition with her fellow Board members who reminded her by their actions of their own dedication, commitment and passion for MCCSC. She said she looks forward to continuing her service to MCCSC in other ways.

8. **DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION**

Jeff Cox presented the Board and the school system with a picture and plaque to thank everyone who helped make the Drum Corps International competition successful this past summer. He extended special thanks to principals and staff of the schools they used: Binford, Batchelor, Jackson Creek and Tri-North, and to Debbie Moore and Mike Scherer for coordinating the group’s use of MCCSC facilities.

9. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** – There was no response to an invitation for comments from the public.

10. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Bloomington New Tech High School – Update** – Alan Veach, principal, shared an update on Bloomington New Tech High School. He reported that this has been a great year for the 88 9<sup>th</sup> graders who chose to enroll at New Tech HS. He talked about plans for the future, goals and how they plan to accomplish those goals.

11. **FOUNDATION OF MCCS - Update**

Tina Peterson, Executive Director, reported that two new memorial funds have been established for Frank Otto (Mary Sudbury’s father) and David Rowland, former teacher/principal and member of the Foundation Board of Directors. She announced that the next grant deadline is February 2nd and any employee or parent may apply for grants in the amount of \$250 to \$2500. March 11 is the annual reception to honor everyone who received grants this year.

12. **FOR INFORMATION: Middle School/High School Math Articulation Proposal**

Dr. Lovejoy discussed with the Board a proposed middle school/high school math articulation plan to award high school credit to middle school students who successfully complete high school mathematics courses taken while in middle school. She said currently 7<sup>th</sup> graders are placed according to ability level and they may take algebra I or geometry but the course does not count for high school credit. She reviewed specifics of the proposal.

Board members indicated they were in favor of moving in the direction to give credit for high school courses taken in middle school. In response to questions, Dr. Lovejoy said students have been transported to high schools for math classes in the past but it is not easy. She said the biggest challenge is time when courses are taught at the high school and matching the middle school schedule. She confirmed that we have a few students taking algebra in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and they take it at the host school.

In response to a question posed regarding if there is a reason that students have to decide if they will earn credit for the course before their grade is given, Dr. Lovejoy said they felt the students needed to make a commitment going into the course. Mr. Hamilton noted that most of these students are doing well but they typically would not want to take a course over if they got a ‘B’. Dr. Lovejoy said the students who will be taking this type of course are quite attuned to their GPA. She said we do not necessarily want them to take

it over but they may do that. Ms. Streiff asked if we are encouraging students to retake a course they have mastered because they want an 'A'. Dr. Lovejoy said they can do that now and the transcript notes that. She said she will take these concerns back to the group.

Mr. Hamilton said he likes the idea of giving high school credit and moving ahead in math and not gamble whether it will be put on the high school transcript. Dr. Butler noted that if they can get credit for two or three math courses in middle school it will fulfill their requirement and that opens some other possibilities for them. Dr. Lovejoy said the initial premise was for students who are talented in math to move forward but some may want to take other possibilities. Ms. Wanzer pointed out that one complaint has been from parents whose children took algebra and geometry in middle school and did not get credit for it. She said if they are taking rigors of high school math in middle school they should get credit.

### 13. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Hyland recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of regular meetings held on December 2, December 9, December 16, December 19 and December 30, 2008; (b) donations and a field trip request; (c) Financial and Appropriation Balance Reports; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Dr. Hyland acknowledged donations and Mr. Thrasher reviewed the Appropriation Balance and Financial Reports. He pointed out that if the claims list was approved, checks would not be sent out until we know the cash balances because money is needed to meet Friday's payroll. He confirmed that the school system was supposed to receive money on December 31<sup>st</sup> but it has not yet arrived. He said we are borrowing a month earlier than under ideal conditions and he expects to borrow \$2.5 million to avoid cash flow problems.

Ms. Wanzer explained that the school system must pay back borrowed money plus interest because someone else did not pay money that is past due. She thinks they should pay the interest. In response to additional questions, Mr. Thrasher said it used to be a delay in payments at the state level but this time it is the issue of getting local property tax on time. He said it probably relates to reassessment but he was told that the delay was caused by a software problem.

Ms. Merriam asked about the Title I account showing balances for 2002 and 2003. Mr. Thrasher said we should not have money going back that far. He will review that information.

Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

### 14. CONTRACTS

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as submitted, including: (a) Safe Routes to School; (b) Herff Jones and Jackson Creek; (c) Bloomington Area Arts Council Subcontract; (d) Bloomington Playwrights Project Subcontract; (e) I.U. Technology Subcontract; (f) Parks & Recreation Community Partner Subcontract; (g) WonderLab Subcontract; (h) Monroe County YMCA Subcontract; (i) Big Brothers/Big Sisters-Mentoring Subcontract; (j) Parks & Recreation-Coordination Subcontract; (k) I.U. Center for Evaluation & Education Policy (CEEP) Subcontract; (l) Spencer-Owen Community School-Transportation Agreement. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following a time for Board members to receive additional information and to ask questions about each of the contracts, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as submitted. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

15. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

16. **CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSION**

Mr. Scherer recommended approval of an extension for Rogenia Cobb, bus #174, for a new daily rate of \$257.83, effective January 6, 2009. Mr. Hamilton so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

17. **DEVELOP SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR VARIOUS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Thrasher recommended that the Board authorize the Assistant Comptroller, working with appropriate administrative staff, to develop specifications and advertise for bids for the items mentioned in this report. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion.

Ms. Merriam noted one item on the list is a telephone system for Arlington, University and Tri-North. She admitted that we are moving toward automation but she likes to hear a human voice when she calls a school. Dr. Hyland said he thinks they do not require auto attendant. He said this is a topic for the next principals meeting. He said principals will be talking about recommendations received from CAPE regarding how are schools can become more 'parent friendly' and we are trying to make improvements in that area. He noted that it is difficult to have an individual answer the phone at the high schools because they receive so many calls.

Dr. Butler said she agrees with Ms. Merriam and said it takes an extreme amount of patience to get to anybody through the new telephone system. She believes we need to respond with a personal voice. Dr. Hyland said sometimes our employees are customers too and we need to work on that attitude – that people have been heard and their requests honored.

Mr. Hamilton asked if we have any preferences to local sources. Mr. Thrasher said not if they are not the lowest or best bidder but we encourage local companies to submit bids. Mr. Hamilton said keeping the Board informed as to how we develop specifications will be useful.

There were no additional comments. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

18. **APPROVE SALE OF 2.32 ACRES ON THE LAKVIEW SITE TO THE PERRY/CLEAR CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Hyland said several months ago individuals from the Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department approached the school system about the possibility of purchasing a small tract of land to expand their facilities. Mr. Scherer noted that the survey and appraisals have been completed. He said there are 67 acres on the Lakeview site and several years ago those acres were subdivided. He recommended that the Board authorize the sale of this 2.32 acre tract, which is adjacent to the existing water tower, to the Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department for \$30,000. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Mr. Hamilton said he did not know the policy about when we sell land; however, he believes it is a pretty substantial decision and since he does not have a history with this discussion, he will abstain from voting.

John Moore, Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department Board member, said because of growth in the southwest part of the county, the number of runs they make has increased substantially and their station is undersized. He said the station is now staffed around the clock and the problem is they are landlocked. He said in reviewing building plans with the architect it made sense to try to expand. He said they currently have an accessory building on school corporation property but they want to own the land under the building.

Board members voted on the motion to approve the sale of 2.32 acres. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Streiff, Wanzer. Abstain: Hamilton. Motion carried.

19. **AWARD BIDS FOR RENOVATION, ADDITION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY, HOOSIER HILLS CAREER CENTER, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND SERVICE/TRANSPORTATION BUILDINGS**

Mr. Scherer introduced Kelly Abel and Matt Ashe, construction managers for these projects, and recommended the award of bids as recommended. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Noting that this is a very substantial step on these new facilities, Mr. Hamilton said we are headed into tough economic times. He said as a new Board member he is trying to understand the options to achieve savings on the capital side to reduce our operating expenses in the coming years. It was obvious to him that a huge amount of work and planning has already taken place. He said with any building project there are always change orders and it seems to him this is a big investment and we are going into hard financial times. He asked if there are any options to achieve operating savings, i.e. any way to spend more money on 'x' different energy sources that will save operating expenses. Dr. Butler said she thinks we have done that. Mr. Scherer said with the exception of Fairview which is a new building, the work on other buildings is scheduled to improve energy efficiency. For example, the Career Center renovation includes lighting upgrades and energy saving windows. With regard to Fairview, Mr. Scherer said plans include geo thermal characteristics and it will be a smaller footprint than the existing building so it will be more energy efficient. He further explained that we are retiring one set of bonds before payments on bonds for these projects are due.

Mr. Hamilton said because we substantially reduced the investment at Binford it gives us a big cushion but spending more on Fairview removes that cushion. Mr. Thrasher referred to the construction budget and said the overall bids came in about \$747,000 less than anticipated. He said Mr. Hamilton is correct that a big portion is because of scaling back of plans for renovation at Binford. Dr. Butler said the original amount approved by DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) included the possibility of changing Binford to a middle school. She recalled that Mr. Thrasher checked with them when they realized Fairview would cost more than expected and was told that it is okay to use the money for another part of the project, i.e. Fairview. Mr. Hamilton said if program changes had not been done at Binford we would have had to reduce the amount spent on Fairview. He said we reduced the program at Binford and it made it easy not to look hard at the other parts of the project. Dr. Butler said they went through a lot of discussion as a Board and it has been a long process to this point.

There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Streiff, Wanzer. Abstain: Hamilton Motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Merriam commended a number of MCCSC graduates who have gone on to other things and continue to be successful. She mentioned two former basketball players, Whitney Thomas and Lydia Serfling, and encouraged the community to go and see these young women play with the I.U. Women's Team.

Ms. Wanzer welcomed Mr. Hamilton to the Board. She also mentioned that the Board needs to find a date for a retreat for training, orientation, etc. Dr. Hyland said he plans to have small group meetings and would like for current Board members to share with him what sorts of orientation they found most valuable.

Dr. Butler said she appreciated the Board's confidence in voting her in as president. She said she appreciates that Dr. Hyland shared information with the Board regarding pending legislation. She also noted that Governor Daniels has decided not to fund full day kindergarten. She wished Mr. Thrasher good luck in balancing the budget.

22. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Jeannine Butler, President

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Valerie Merriam, Vice President

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Vicki Streiff, Secretary

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John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member