

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, January 20, 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 20, 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
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board member absent:

John Hamilton	Assistant Secretary
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Also present:

Timothy F. Hyland	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tom Bunger	Board Attorney
Mike Clark	Director of Transportation
Lou Johnson	Director of Food Services
Linda Hobbs	Food Services Associate
Jeff Henderson	Principal, BHS North
Mark Fletcher	Principal, BHS South
Sarah Morin	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 11 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, 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 re-elected members: Jim Muehling and Lois Sabo-Skelton.

3. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Tim Thrasher who was being honored for his valuable contributions to the school system. He was nominated for the Faces of Education award by former Board President Teresa Grossi. In her nomination, Dr. Grossi said, "Tim Thrasher not only keeps students first, but keeps the

district as a whole at the forefront of sound, stable financial decision-making.” She noted that Mr. Thrasher spent countless hours researching new laws, policies, sending e-mails and phone calls to help secure the contract with our new superintendent. She said, “His gentle, trustworthy guidance has aided the Board of Trustees and the district ... Tim is a man of honor, a man of integrity and the rock for this school corporation.” Mr. Thrasher joined the school system in 1972 as Chief Accountant and was promoted to Comptroller in 1990. Mr. Thrasher’s staff members agree with Dr. Grossi’s assessment. Helen Vaught said he is dedicated and a credit to the Monroe County Community School Corporation. Sherry Olson said he has a gift of making staff questions come out to be a mutual discovery and you come away from his office feeling like you helped solve something. Marcia Rush said even when he is so busy, his door is always open. Tim cares about the students as well as fellow employees. Mr. Thrasher expressed appreciation and said this recognition reflects the commitment to excellence of the entire Business Office staff.

4. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Four members of BHS North’s Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Stephen Zervas, Jamie Kamen, Alex Ashkin and Talia Shifron, extended an invitation to all to attend *An Evening for Habitat*, their biggest fundraiser of the year. The event will be held at the Bloomington Country Club this year on February 26, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. It will include a silent auction, dinner and a live auction for \$40. They asked people to contact Pat Wilson, BHS North teacher and sponsor, for tickets.

5. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Bloomington High School North Reformation Efforts**

Jeff Henderson shared an update on Bloomington High School North’s reformation efforts. He reviewed statistical data and revealed a five-year plan that will establish small learning communities in four houses with resource and unscheduled periods of time to assure the success of all students. A copy of his presentation is included as an attachment to the online agenda for this meeting.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Food Services Department**

Lou Johnson, Food Service Director, presented some interesting facts about her department, including nutritional value of meals, percentage of reduced and free meals served and how the program is audited. A copy of her presentation is included as an attachment to the online agenda for this meeting.

7. **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: Legislative Updates**

Dr. Hyland reviewed with the Board and public some bills that have been introduced in the Indiana House and Senate, specifically those that affect education. He will continue to keep the Board apprised of issues during this Legislative session.

8. **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. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented contracts for approval as proposed: (a) ProLiance Energy-Amendment; (b) White River Coop Contract for Fuel; (c) Ivy Tech State College for use of Career Center facilities; (d)

CareerStaff Unlimited-Beth Genday, PT; (e) Allyson Frost-Workshop Presenter; (f) Bloomington Hospital for MS Athletic Trainers for Wrestling; (g) Lindee Witt-Consultation Services; (h) Weddle Bros. for construction management services; (i) City of Bloomington for Henderson Street Right-of-Way; and (j) New Remote Productions, Inc. Location Agreement with BHS South. Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved approval of contracts as recommended. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

In response to Dr. Sabo-Skelton's question, Dr. Lovejoy explained the reason for the amount of money to be paid to Lindee Witt for on-site professional development services. She said she has been trained in the differential studies reading and writing program that we adopted. She explained that a part of the textbook adoption process is to bargain an agreement that includes 'x' number of professional development days to train teachers. If we need additional training, we have to pay and this is the person who came to train in the reading portion of the program in the fall. Dr. Lovejoy said she was so well received that teachers wanted her to come back to work on the writing part of the program. She said this professional development is included in our Title I Amendment.

Dr. Hyland asked if \$10,000 of Title I money would be spent in another way, where would it go? Dr. Lovejoy said it would have to go for professional development and she could not think of a better way to spend it. Dr. Hyland noted that some districts train their own trainers; he assumed training will be required every year. Dr. Lovejoy said she thinks our professional coaches will be able to do that but since it is a new program they are learning about it.

Dr. Butler mentioned that last fall Kim Williams recommended a very expensive consultant to the Board and she asked that teachers come to tell the Board what they learned. She said although that report has been presented, she would also like to hear about this training: what teachers learned and was it valuable. Dr. Lovejoy said a report is scheduled in February and she will schedule a similar report on this training.

Mr. Muehling said it is important to remember these are Title I funds designated for staff development. Dr. Lovejoy confirmed that we are required to spend 10% of Title I money for professional development.

Following a time for additional discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as presented. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers called attention to the pending retirement of Carol Brooker who has been employed in a variety of positions since 1988 and retires in July as secretary at Arlington. She was saddened to report the passing of Arlington instructional aide Cathy Weiss. Board members extended condolences to Ms. Weiss' family. Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL MATH ARTICULATION**

Dr. Butler entertained a motion to approve a proposal for middle school/high school math articulation. Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved approval of the proposal for middle school/high school math articulation. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Dr. Lovejoy noted that when this proposal was presented for information at the January 6th meeting, a question was raised regarding whether students or parents would be allowed to determine if they wanted the course to count for credit after they took the course rather than making that decision before. She said principals feel strongly that the decision needs to be made prior to taking the course. She said in bringing

credit to middle school and to equalize procedures, it would be problematic to allow students to take the course and then decide if they want it to count for credit after they see their grade.

Ms. Merriam said she was pleased to see the changes to allow middle school students to earn credit. Ms. Wanzer said she thinks students and parents will like this change.

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

12. APPROVE SAT PREP COURSE FEE

Dr. Butler called for a motion on the recommendation to approve a SAT Prep Course fee for Bloomington High School South. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Mr. Fletcher said they have supported this program for five or six years and previously students took the class at Indiana University and the cost was much more. He said the course is open to any student in the school system and it is offered at night because most students have a full schedule during the school day. In response to questions, he said in the past they have not accepted students from outside the school district, although he is not opposed to doing that if there is space available. They expect to have two sections of 25 students each.

There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Pete Lenzen, BHSN parent, mentioned that at the September 16, 2008, meeting he expressed support for the School Board purchasing mini buses as a way to reduce cost, provide flexibility for coaches and get students to meets on time. He recalled that one mini bus for each school was to be purchased this year. He said he thinks that is still important even though fuel prices have declined because they will undoubtedly come back up. He said he understands overtime for bus drivers is a sensitive issue, but when there are only a few students going it gives the coaches the advantage of flexibility rather than wait until drivers are back from their regular routes. Mr. Scherer said we are waiting on approval of the 2009 Budget. He said purchase of the two mini buses is in process but we must have Budget approval because they can be purchased only from the School Bus Replacement Fund. Mr. Muehling said the questions raised are valid and the intent is to have smaller buses for the coaches to drive to save money.

Mr. Thrasher explained that the normal budget approval deadline is September 20 and the deadline was extended to December 1. He said the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) indicated they thought they could approve budgets close to the timeline which is at the end of January; he expects to receive approval in February. He said two mini buses are included in the 2009 Budget and two are included in the 2010 Budget.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Merriam reported that CHICS (Comprehensive Health Issues Committee) met last week and they are going over new approaches for sexuality teaching for 8th graders.

Ms. Merriam said she thought Governor Daniels had a good speech this year but she wanted to clarify for our school corporation that no one on this School Board gets health insurance benefits. She noted that he said it is time to stop giving those benefits to Board members and she wanted people to know they do not

have the benefit now. She added that very few corporations offer that benefit to Board members.

Ms. Merriam said that she and her husband spent a couple of hours in Pat Wilson's class on Inauguration Day and it was a joy to watch the students as they participated in the event's activities.

Noting the BHS North Jazz Band is receiving many awards, Ms. Merriam mentioned that our students continue to excel. She thanked the many students in our corporation who helped throughout the year, including different groups at BHS South who participated in helping fellow students during the holiday season, and yesterday (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day) many students assisted her at the Food Bank. She said at the last meeting she encouraged people to watch the I.U. women's basketball game and she saw some there last night. Ms. Merriam added that they had been waiting for January 20 and just learned that their daughter was accepted in the Teach for America Program.

Ms. Streiff thanked students from BHS North for telling the Board about Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Butler announced that Board members are planning a retreat for Board training with Frank Bush who is executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association. She said they will talk about Board member roles and responsibilities, especially for new Board members Vicki Streiff and John Hamilton, but it will be an important discussion for all Board members. She said this training will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17 – prior to the regular meeting that will begin at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Tupper will contact Dr. J.T. Coopman, Superintendent-elect, to see if he is available to join the group.

Dr. Butler said as Board members talked with Dr. Hyland about work session topics, one she would like to work on is recommendations they received from CAPE, i.e. how our schools can be more parent friendly. She said Dr. Hyland has worked with principals and she hopes that recommendations that do not cost money can be implemented as soon as possible. Dr. Butler said as soon as we know what money we will receive, she would like for the Board to meet in work session to talk about Budget issues. She would like for the work session to discuss CAPE recommendations to be held on February 3. Board members agreed.

Dr. Hyland confirmed that two topics were discussed at an administrative meeting a couple of weeks ago: RTI and CAPE recommendations. He said Dr. Lovejoy convened a small group session on CAPE and they consolidated themes into eight and principals brainstormed those. He said principals will be asked to attend the February 3 work session so they can interact with the Board.

In response to Dr. Butler's comment, Mr. Muehling said he contacted Vi Simpson's office to invite her to meet with the Board in a work session. He said they think she may be available in March and her schedule has more leeway on Fridays and Saturdays. They will check her schedule and get back to him.

Ms. Merriam noted that John Hamilton was absent because he was attending the Presidential Inauguration in Washington; his wife, Dawn Johnsen, has been nominated for Assistant Attorney General.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

ABSENT

Vicki Streiff, Secretary

John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member