

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, February 3, 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, February 3, 2009, in the Board Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 South Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

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

Board member absent:

Sue Wanzer	Member
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Also present:

Tim Hyland	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Ed Brown	Director of Hoosier Hills Career Center
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 22 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. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Valerie Osborn was honored for the manner in which she manages the Hoosier Hills Daycare Center. She was nominated for the Faces of Education award by the Human Resources Department. In the nomination, it was noted that each day she manages planning the curriculum, supervising her staff of six people, scheduling, budgeting, monitoring the infant room, working with students, and balancing state compliance issues. Valerie agreed that the Daycare Center is a 'sleeper' hit, quietly making a growing name for itself in the community and with parents. She sees the center as a diamond in the rough, offering low priced, high quality full and part-time day care for MCCSC staff members and the general public. Hoosier Hills Career Center Director Ed Brown said he became acquainted with Val as a student in the Early Childhood Education program in the early 1990s,

attending from Edgewood High School. She later earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and has been a perfect choice for the job of managing the daycare center. Mr. Brown said she is a very dedicated employee who assures that the children and parents are happy with the care provided. The Board congratulated Ms. Osborn and thanked her for the difference she makes in the lives of our families and community.

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

At 7:10 p.m., there were no additional comments from the public and the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

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

Mark Conrad and Cindy Creek shared about exciting things happening at Rogers Elementary School. Mr. Conrad talked about upcoming renovation of the building but focused on the school's supportive parents and staff members. Rogers has undertaken an endeavor with Marlin and Fairview to develop 'thinking maps' to help students analyze and organize their thinking. Board members and visitors also enjoyed the delightful poem written and recited by Rogers 2nd grader, Alexa Minton.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)**

Kathleen Hugo, Jan McCollough, Mary Lovejoy and Mike Shipman explained that RTI provides a framework to make sure we are meeting the needs of all students by first looking at whether the curriculum is reaching 80% of our students; if not, we look at the curriculum and change the intervention. If that change is not successful, we continue to change it again. The premise of RTI is to not wait until a student fails to begin intervention. Intervention may be just additional reading time or other interventions and those are designed by the Problem Solving Team in the building. Many of the processes of RTI are in place in our schools and all of the RTI components should fall into place more easily as we systematically implement PBS (Positive Behavioral Supports) in our schools.

6. **FOR INFORMATION : FOUNDATION OF MCCS**

Tina Peterson, Executive Director, confirmed that the Foundation's mission is to improve and enhance educational development and they are constantly looking at ways to support schools. She reported that the Foundation has been asked to fund a new program – System 44, which came out of the Curriculum Department, probably a tier 3 reading intervention program. She noted that the Foundation has supported the Read 180 Program and some 220 students participated this semester. Students who need something before they get to Read 180 will benefit from System 44. This year's grant recipients will be honored at a reception on March 11.

Ms. Peterson said one of the Foundation's biggest supporters is the President's Challenge Program (PCP), which was started in 1956 by President Eisenhower and gained popularity under President Kennedy's administration. The focus of the program is to test students' physical fitness levels. She said the national program has been housed at Indiana University since 1988 with a focus on working with children but they also work with people of all ages. The program is famous for recognizing success by giving awards and badges. Ms. Peterson said the PCP has helped to build three fitness trails at schools and have underwritten fitness grants for seven years. She said they are a great friend to education, have supported many initiatives and given over \$97,000, not including in-kind gifts.

7. **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

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

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Butler asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on January 6 and January 20, 2009; (b) donations and field trip requests; (c) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Ms. Merriam said the Board had discussed before about summer field trips and the fact that not everyone can go because of costs. She said that she had concerns about voting on it instead of endorsing it. Dr. Hyland pointed out that it has been billed as a school corporation trip and if we want to divest ourselves, we should get in front of it. Mr. Muehling said since it was organized through our school by a school employee, it implies that we have some control over it but if we divested ourselves we could have some trips outside the boundaries. He suggested that this gives us some control over the organization and conduct of the trip to make sure there is appropriate adult supervision, etc. Ms. Merriam noted that it is a private profit-making organization. Dr. Sabo-Skelton recalled that the Board approved a trip similar to this and she would pass on it until and if we change policy. Mr. Muehling noted that it is a wonderful opportunity for students. Ms. Merriam agreed but was not sure it should be coming before the Board.

Mr. Thrasher commented on the adjusted cash balance as of December 31, 2008; nearly all are negative balances because property tax payments were received late. He said our property tax collections for 2008 are 3.6% more than our levy; unfortunately, we do not reap the benefit in our cash balances. In response to questions, he said if there is an under-collection on excise tax he is worried that the excise tax could have been distributed as property tax. He said if that is the case, we lose money on the property tax side in our cash balance. He said the Auditor's office does not think it is possible for that to happen, but he has not seen a shortfall of that magnitude before. He relayed the content of additional discussions with the Auditor and said if only eight months worth of collections were distributed and there is a 'catch-up' in 2009, we could receive 18 months of collections. He said other taxing units in the county are having the same experience and the State Auditor's office is reviewing it. He will keep the Board informed.

Mr. Hamilton offered a correction to the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, p. 6, referring to program changes at Binford, the word 'not' was omitted: "...program changes had **not** been done at Binford ..."

Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

9. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented escrow agreements and contracts for approval as proposed: (a) CDI, Inc. for Aurora; (b) CDI, Inc. for Binford; (c) CDI, Inc. for Tri-North; (d) Inter-State Studio; (e) One Communications; (f) Smithville Telecom, LLC; (g) Cellular Telephone Services; (h) Centrex Telephone Services; and (i) Gaggle.Net. Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved approval of contracts as recommended. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers noted that her recommendation included hiring two new teachers and fifteen new support staff employees. She called attention to a resignation received from Jim Rose, principal at Grandview. She said he wanted the Board to know that it has been an honor and great pleasure to be back in the school system. He said it was a very difficult decision but he believes it is in the best interest of his family to accept another position and move back into the home that remained on the market and could not sell. Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Personnel Report. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

11. **CLOSING BUDGET FUNCTIONS FOR 2008**

Mr. Thrasher recommended that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing the budget adjustments necessary to avoid having expenditures and encumbrances exceed appropriations in major functional accounts. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

12. **FOR INFORMATION: CLASS SIZE REPORTS**

Ms. Chambers shared staffing needs reports received from each school. She explained that the Board will be asked to approve Class Size Ratios at the February 17 meeting and staffing at each school for 2009-2010 will be determined by those ratios. Board members agreed to meet in Work Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10 to discuss the reports and class size ratios.

13. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There was no response to Dr. Butler’s invitation for public comments.

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

Mr. Hamilton said he would like to have some kind of presentation about all of the data included in the newspaper. He reported that he and Dr. Butler attended the Indiana School Boards Academy and found it to be interesting. He said as we have presentations from each school, it would be nice for them to tell us something about student achievement, however we define that.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Vicki Streiff, Secretary

John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

ABSENT
Susan P. Wanzer, Member