

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, February 17, 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 17, 2009, in the Library 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
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	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
Gale Hill	Principal, Tri-North Middle School
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 5 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 Jenny Noble-Kuchera who was honored for her energy and spirit as well as her appreciation for the diversity and uniqueness of our students. She is the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Binford and Rogers and was nominated for the Faces of Education award by the Human Resources Department. In the nomination, it was noted that in addition to her daily workload, Jenny sits on several committees. She is the Binford representative for the Foundation of MCCA as well as the Human Understanding & Diversity coach for her building. She also works with the CHICS (healthy schools) committee. Jenny founded and oversees the Partners Family Program for both Binford and Rogers. Binford Principal Joe Childers describes Jenny as the "Binfordizer Bunny" because she just keeps going and going. He said she transitions quickly between one group of students and the next and is enthusiastic and passionate about providing the best possible learning opportunities for her students. He added that she is the first person to volunteer to help a colleague and her sense of humor adds fun to everyone's day. Ms. Noble-Kuchera shared her success with her colleagues at Binford and Rogers. She said their professionalism and dedication to students and families help make her job even more enjoyable. She said the faculty and staff at Binford and Rogers are the most generous, committed, and professional people anywhere.

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

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Tri-North Middle School**

Gale Hill shared information about academic achievements at Tri-North Middle School. She mentioned that Tri-North is the school system’s only secondary school to make AYP (Average Yearly Progress) this year, adding that it is a ‘fleeting’ title. She also talked about ways the faculty provides opportunities for students to focus on academics, including *Tri-North 20*, which is a program of sustained silent reading for 20 minutes each day. Dr. Hill said before taking ISTEP, teachers go over last year’s test and talk with every student about where they need to improve. She said they feel it is important enough to make time to have one-on-one-conversation with each student. She commended the Tri-North faculty and staff members for their commitment and said their focus on the importance of academics is making a difference.

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

Superintendent Tim Hyland reviewed with the Board and public the school system’s performance report, which was published on January 27. He also commented on certain 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.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Butler called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) donations, ECA expenditures and field trip requests; and (b) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented escrow agreements and contracts for approval as proposed: (a) First Financial Bank and C.H. Garmong & Son; (b) Monroe Bank and Fox Construction; (c) Old National Bank and Heflin Industries; (d) The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company and Repp & Mundt, Inc.; (e) Young Audiences of Indiana and Arlington Heights Elementary School. Mr. Hamilton moved approval of contracts as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers called attention to notices of retirement received from Linda Plaford, speech-language pathologist who is completing 35 years with the school system, and Sharon Welch, BHS South math teacher who is completing 24 years with MCCSC. Board members extended appreciation to Ms. Plaford and Ms. Welch, both of whom will retire at the end of this school year. Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Mr. Muehling mentioned that Ms. Plaford and Ms. Welch will be honored with other retirees from the school system at a dessert reception at the end of the school year. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **CLASS SIZE RATIOS**

As a follow-up to an information report shared with the Board on February 10, Ms. Chambers explained

that ideally each class would be staffed at the same ratio; however, some classes may have 25 students and others 28 or a class may have 24 at the beginning of the year and drop to 20 by the end of the year. She added that sometimes special dispensations are necessary to maintain a program. She commended the Board for supporting the addition of instructional aides to address class size issues.

As a first step in making staffing decisions for the coming school year, Ms. Chambers recommended approval of class size ratios for 2009-2010, which are currently in effect: Kindergarten (half-day) - 1:18; Kindergarten (full day) and Grade 1 - 1:20; Grade 2 - 1:22; Grade 3 - 1:24; Grades 4-6 - 1:28 (*Fairview is an exception with kindergarten and grade 1 at a 1:15 ratio and grades 2-6 at a 1:20 ratio, which is a part of Fairview's restructuring plan*) Grades 7-8 - 1:28; Grades 9-12 – BHSN & BHSS - 1:28; Grades 9-12 – Aurora - 1:15; Grades 9-12 – New Tech HS - 1:25. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

During ensuing discussion regarding a desire to lower class sizes, Ms. Wanzer mentioned that it is important to realize that adding 30 teachers would cost over \$1,000,000 and that is money we do not have because we are funded in the lower 20-25% of school systems in Indiana. In response to Dr. Sabo-Skelton's comment, Ms. Chambers agreed that we do not really know how many students will come in on the first few days of school and we have to staff based on numbers that we have now. She noted that we can add teachers but cannot reduce staff after March 15.

Ms. Merriam explained that when we entered into contracts for Bloomington New Tech High School, we agreed to a teacher-pupil ratio of one to 25 and Aurora's ratio is lower because it is an alternative school. Ms. Chambers confirmed Dr. Butler's assertion that schools are staffed according to the ratios and principals must decide where they will use staff allocated to their buildings.

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

10. **FOR INFORMATION: Proposal to Create Director of Human Resources Position**

Dr. Hyland presented for information a proposal to create a Director of Human Resources position. He said this position would replace the Benefits Coordinator position, upgraded to a professional position for which we have high expectations. He noted that the Board expects him to try to prepare the district for Dr. Coopman. He said it is always a balancing act regarding what to prepare and this is a need apparent to him when he first arrived and he decided this was a project to take off his 'to do' list. He said Dr. Coopman has some ideas how he wants to organize his staff and that will be brought to the Board for subsequent action as well. He said the creation of this position was presented for information but will be brought back to the Board for action on March 3.

Ms. Streiff was glad that Dr. Hyland mentioned the Benefits Coordinator position is vacant, confirming that no one will be dismissed in order to fill this position. Mr. Hamilton voiced appreciation for Dr. Hyland's comments and said given a new person is coming in he would like to see the reorganization plan. Dr. Butler said in conversations with Dr. Coopman during the interview process, he noted that we were short in the benefits position, so she believes that he is in full agreement with creating this position.

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

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

Ms. Wanzer thanked Dr. Hill for her report. She noted that a few years ago when redistricting the school

attendance areas meant moving a number of children to Tri-North, the Board heard a lot of complaints. She said a lot of people chose to believe the worst about the school. She congratulated the faculty, staff and students at Tri-North for being the only MCCSC secondary school to make AYP.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton agreed with Ms. Wanzer's comments and said that Gale Hill's leadership needs to be recognized. She said that she is 'first rate' and really cares about these students.

Mr. Hamilton said as we talk about the stimulus package we need to pay attention to an article in the New York Times which confirms that there will be money coming to schools through the state for Title I and special education as well as money for rewarding school districts demonstrating success in raising student achievement. He said it includes programs that tie teacher pay to classroom performance as well as training efforts, after-school and weekend tutoring programs. Mr. Hamilton said as we look at what we want to accomplish, it is important to note there is additional funding for 14,000 school districts in the country. He said it includes an extraordinary amount of money for education and it is important for us to look at how our goals may line up. He encouraged staff to keep the Board informed about opportunities.

Ms. Merriam congratulated BHS North cheerleaders who placed 3rd in National competition in Florida. She expressed thanks to Anthony Pizzo who will be dancing to raise money for the Foundation of MCCS.

Ms. Merriam proposed that the Board consider changing the Bylaw regarding filling vacancies and how long they have lived in the district to run for office. She agreed that the candidate should be a qualified voter and a resident of the school district for two years; however, she believes that since all candidates are voted on by all voters in the school system, it would be sufficient for the candidate to reside in the residential district for one year instead of two. Ms. Wanzer recalled that in the past the Board discussed changing Bylaws with the Board attorney. She said maybe we want to look at districts and decide if there should be some 'at-large' members on the Board. Ms. Merriam agreed this is a good time to consider changes.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Vicki Streiff, Secretary

John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member