

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, March 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, March 3, 2009, in the Large Group 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
Sue Wanzer	Member

Also present:

Tim Hyland	Superintendent
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Barbara Buckner	Assistant Comptroller
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Kim Williams	Coordinator of High Ability Program
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 33 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 Norma Owens who was honored for her commitment to excellent work in whatever job she does. Ms. Owens is the custodial supervisor at Unionville Elementary and was nominated for the Faces of Education award by the Human Resources Department. In the nomination, it was noted that Ms. Owens began working as a lunchroom/playground supervisor for the school system 20 years ago. She also worked as a cook for five years before transferring to a custodial position. She said she enjoys the kids and the great staff and small community at Unionville. Principal Dave Marshall said in addition to ensuring their school is always clean and well maintained, "Norma demonstrates a genuine interest in the welfare of our students ... she is the consummate custodian, a true pillar of the school." Unionville secretary Sidney Ludwig said they always receive compliments on the appearance of their school and many visitors think their building is new. She said Norma is a great member of the Unionville team. In addition to her daily workload, Norma serves as secretary of AFSCME Local 3995. Board members commended Ms. Owens for her dedicated service to the school system.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

John Shean and Jason Shute spoke on behalf of the Indiana Cutters Football Team. Mr. Shean said this is a semi-professional football team and Jason is one of the players. He noted that they approached the School Board some time ago with a request to rent the football fields so they could play their home games in Bloomington. He said they are a not-for-profit corporation and they are all volunteers. He asked for a time on the agenda of an upcoming meeting so they can bring their request more formally to the Board. He said the Board's facilities usage policy would need to be modified to allow rental of the football field.

Dr. Hyland suggested that they approach the administration since a committee is in the process of revising the Use of School Facilities policy. Mr. Shipman, who has been heading that committee, said they are still working through issues. He said there will be changes if the Board Policy Committee recommends that football fields are available to rent. However, the principal will still have the final decision regarding whether the facilities are available.

Mr. Shean said their first game is June 27. He asked what they need to be doing. Mr. Shipman said they should submit a use of school facilities request to the high school.

Representatives of Alpha Phi Omega asked for permission to distribute flyers for a fundraiser. They will contact the Superintendent's office.

Ms. Merriam said the State Board of Education would be meeting on March 4 and State Superintendent Tony Bennett will begin to present his vision of teacher licensing. She read an e-mail message sent to a colleague and noted that Dr. Bennett feels each school system should be able to decide who to hire and teachers will not necessarily have to complete a teacher preparation program. Dr. Butler suggested that those who have concerns should contact State Superintendent Bennett.

At 7:15 p.m., there were no additional comments from the public and the Board moved to the next item on the agenda.

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

Summit Principal Doug Waltz and teachers Melinda Bunger, Katie Jantaraweragul, Bess Bohon Lee, Gretchen Morgan, Erika Peek, Heather Rhodes, Jason Shute and Amy Smith shared an entertaining and informative presentation about what is going on at Summit Elementary School. The presentation included photos of teachers and children at work and at play. Students talked about what they like about Summit, including the Read 180 Program, Book Buddies, Chess Club, Intramurals, Literacy Groups, Reading Recovery, Accelerated Reader, Student Council, Family Share, Spelling Bee and Morning Announcements prepared and read by students.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Lovejoy introduced MCCSC teachers Lana Cummings (Binford), Donna Kinkead (University), Kari Rickerby (Lakeview), Becky Boyle (Batchelor) and Rachel Hardy Prince (BHS South). Each teacher shared information about Professional Development activities that have taken place over the last year. Ms. Cummings and Ms. Kinkead talked about the Junior Great Books training held in August. Ms. Rickerby and Ms. Boyle reviewed differentiated instruction and professional development meetings with Carolyn Coil. Ms. Prince had attended Carolyn Coil and Carolann Thomlinson professional development sessions and she talked about three ways to student readiness and a proactive approach to teaching.

6. **FOR INFORMATION : High Ability Update**

Kim Williams, High Ability Program Coordinator, shared information regarding new legislation in 2007 and the work of the High Ability Task Force. She said the task force includes teachers, administrators, students, parents and community representatives. She explained ways the school system is meeting legislative mandates, noting that change takes time. She responded to questions from Board members.

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 February 3, February 10 and February 17, 2009; (b) donations, ECA expenditures and field trip requests; (c) Financial Report; and (f) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Muehling's question, Aurora Principal Chuck Holloway said Aurora students would be pleased to share a report with the Board when they return from their field trip to help rebuild 'Katrina' houses in New Orleans. There were no other comments. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Scherer presented escrow agreements and contracts for approval as proposed, including: (a) Pen & Publish for University School; (b) Jeanette Moody for staff development; (c) one escrow agreement for Administration Center renovation; (d) eight escrow agreements for Fairview construction; (e) five escrow agreements for Hoosier Hills Career Center renovation; (f) five escrow agreements for the service/transportation building construction; (g) two construction agreements for Fairview; and (h) one construction agreement for the Career Center renovation.

Ms. Streiff moved approval of escrow agreements and contracts as recommended. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. There were no questions. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers noted that her recommendation included a notice of retirement from Linda Black, principal at Arlington Elementary. Board members joined her in expressing thanks to Dr. Black for her leadership as Principal at Arlington during the past 10 years. Ms. Chambers also shared that Title I instructional aide Deb Baker died this past week. She was a retired teacher who returned to help in the reading program at Fairview. Fairview principal Karen Adams said she was an amazing person and she will be missed. Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Ms. Streiff so moved. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVE SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUEST**

Ms. Chambers recommended approval of a sabbatical leave request for the 2009-2010 school year for

Francesca Sobrer with all terms of the current collective bargaining agreement applying in granting the leave. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Ms. Sobrer reviewed her proposal and said she is honored to have her request accepted. She said theatre is the greatest way to teach and she loves how theatre brings education alive and she wants to extend it into the secondary curriculum. There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **CREATE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES POSITION, SET TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZE POSTING AND FILLING POSITION**

Dr. Hyland recommended that the Board create the position of Director of Human Resources, set terms and conditions of employment and authorize posting and filling the position. The effective date of employment would be July 1, 2009 for 238 contractual days. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Mr. Hamilton said he thinks this position should be looked at in terms of the administrative budget as a whole. He noted that we are going into tough fiscal times and he thinks we should look at the budget, including administration. Ms. Merriam expressed appreciation for Mr. Hamilton's comments but understands that we are in need of the requirements of this position. Dr. Hyland said this is the only recommendation he has made in his entire career that has the blessing of the teachers union.

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

13. **APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Dr. Hyland recommended that the Board appoint Kari Isaacson to serve a four-year term on the Board of the Monroe County Public Library, effective February 1, 2009. Mr. Hamilton so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve this appointment. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

14. **CARRY-FORWARD OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

Ms. Buckner recommended that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing the administration to carry forward 2008 unencumbered balances in the Capital Projects Fund projects as listed to be expended in 2009. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. There were no questions. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Merriam congratulated BHS South and BHS North Science Olympiad Teams for winning regional competition and going to state. She also commended Tri-North and Jackson Creek Science Olympiad Teams for their successes. She thanked BHS North for a wonderful Mardi Gras last week and wished the BHS North jazz combo well on their way to competition. She noted that Jeff Rudkin, Batchelor teacher and B-TV sponsor, won another grant. Ms. Merriam also reported on a half-day workshop she and Dr. Butler attended on "RIFing" (Reduction In Force).

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she attended the Fairview Arts presentation – a part of Evening with the Arts – and viewed marvelous artwork. She talked about some of the activities and said there was excellent attendance for the event. She said she attended the Third House on Friday because she wanted to make sure our Legislators received a copy of a letter from State Superintendent Tony Bennett that Dr. Hyland shared with the Board. She read the letter for the public.

As a follow-up to Dr. Sabo-Skelton’s comments, Dr. Hyland said stimulus money can be spent in three areas: construction, special education and Title I. He said Mr. Scherer has prepared ‘shovel-ready’ projects and Kathleen Hugo and Deb Prekert have been assigned the task to look at how to spend money for special education and Title I. He said they will bring drafts to the Cabinet meeting next week. He confirmed that the administration is making preparations for the moment we receive the money.

Dr. Butler noted that the Legislative session is one-half over. She said when it is finished the Board will ask Senator Vi Simpson to talk about what happened and what that means for the school system.

Dr. Butler said at Ms. Merriam’s invitation she attended BHS North’s Habitat for Humanity auction last week and it was an extremely successful evening. She commended Ms. Merriam for her work, mentioning that she spearheads this event every year. She said without volunteers and teachers, this would not happen.

Dr. Butler also congratulated Jeff Rudkin for developing an exceptional program and again this year received a \$5,000 grant for the school system.

In response to Mr. Hamilton’s questions, Dr. Butler confirmed that the Board will meet in executive session from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, with facilitator Ron Barnes, Superintendent-elect J.T. Coopman and Dr. Hyland. She said they will talk about goals and objectives for Dr. Coopman, which will become a part of his evaluation. Dr. Hyland said he will contact Dr. Barnes to make sure an agenda for the meeting is available in advance of the session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:55 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