

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, March 24, 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 24, 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
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
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Deb Prenkert	Coordinator of Title I Program
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Ed Brown	Director, Hoosier Hills Career Center

In addition to the above, 6 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 7:05 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 Royce Deckard who was honored for his contributions to the sport of wrestling and his support of student athletes. He was nominated by the Department of Human Resources. In the nomination, it was noted that he has devoted 35 years to the sport of wrestling and led teams to two state championships and individuals to 14 state championships. In honor of his commitment he recently received the Distinguished Hoosier Award – one of the highest given in the State of Indiana and presented to those who have made exemplary contributions to their communities. City of Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan supported the award when he declared December 9, 2008 as *Royce Deckard Day*. BHS South principal Mark Fletcher said Royce is the “Real McCoy” – a genuine talent and an outstanding individual. He said Royce is the consummate professional – his dedication and commitment to excellence is second to none and a great example for all those with whom he comes into contact. He added, “We are most fortunate to have him represent our wrestling program and school. He is the real deal!” Board members commended Mr. Deckard for his dedicated service to MCCSC athletes.

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

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Hoosier Hills Career Center**

Ed Brown, Director, shared about exciting opportunities for students who attend classes at the Hoosier Hills Career Center. He explained that they address federal directives each year and integrate academic content in technical programs, develop dual credit programs, assure aspects of industry within the career area are taught, etc. He said they also address local issues, some of which came out of the high school work group a few years ago and new courses have been added to serve younger students in grades 9 and 10. Mr. Brown noted that their 35-year-old facility is current receiving much needed renovation and they are excited about serving more students in an improved facility.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: College Mentors for Kids**

Indiana University students Sarah Carver, Katie Gear and Katie Jamieson shared information about the College Mentors for Kids Program. The program was started by two I.U. students in 1995 and there are now 21 chapters serving more than 1,000 children – 80 from Arlington and Fairview Elementary Schools. They explained that most of the ‘little buddies’ have low college exposure. They partner with the children and meet with them for two hours each week, bringing them to campus and then back to their homes. The program is funded by donations and a 5K fund-raising event is scheduled for April 18. They extended an invitation for others to participate in the event.

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

Superintendent Tim Hyland 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.

7. **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. Hamilton so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations received. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented escrow agreements and contracts for approval as proposed: (a) Premier School Agendas and Batchelor; (b) KJS Enterprise – two contracts with Lakeview; (c) Kirkwood Photo Lab; (d) QSP Inc. and Tri-North; (e) five contracts with Pinnacle School and individual tutors; (f) Monica Guthrie for professional development; (g) Insurance Audit & Inspection Company; (h) Escrow agreement with Greenfield Banking for Fairview; (i) two escrow agreements for the service building: Old National Bank and Monroe Bank; and (j) thirty-two construction agreements – three for the Administration Center, eleven for Fairview, eight for the Career Center, and ten for the Service-Transportation facility. Mr. Muehling moved approval of contracts as recommended. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Mr. Thrasher said the construction contracts were based on bids awarded in December and January and the dates on the contracts are probably when they were approved. Mr. Hamilton said it might be helpful to have dollar amounts listed more prominently. Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers called attention to notices of retirement received from Judy Pfeifer, special education teacher who is completing 29 years with the school system, and Virginia Cox, cook at Templeton for 12 years who began her service with MCCSC at University School in 1964 and returned in 1996. Board members extended appreciation to Ms. Pfeifer and Ms. Cox, both of whom will retire at the end of this school year. Ms. Chambers also noted the appointment of Kim Sechler as half-time principal at Arlington and Jessica Willis as interim assistant principal at Grandview. She recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

In response to questions regarding the administrative intern appointments and filling those permanent positions, Ms. Chambers explained that the jobs have been posted and committees will interview candidates. She said Board policy dictates how the committees will be organized and the MCEA as well as support staff and parents will have members on the committees. She said the committees will meet in April and May and they will decide which candidates to interview and then send two to five names to Superintendent Coopman. She confirmed that if interim principals/assistant principals are not appointed to the positions, they return to their former positions. In the meantime, their positions are covered by substitutes. She said each of the interim appointees have administrative licenses.

Board members voted on the motion to approve the Personnel Report as submitted. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. CREATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERN, SET TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved approval of the recommendation to create a school psychologist intern and to set terms and conditions. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland explained that this position would be for one year. He said the district has been cited by the Indiana Department of Education about our initial evaluation timelines and this is an opportunity to move forward quickly by hiring a qualified individual to comply. He said the \$10,000 payment will be a part of stimulus money coming to the school system.

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

11. AWARD QUOTE FOR BHS SOUTH AUDITORIUM SOUND SYSTEM

Mr. Scherer recommended the award of a quote for the Auditorium sound system for Bloomington High School South to the low bidder, Fairchild Communication Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$61,753. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Following a time for comments and questions, Board members voted on the motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. AWARD QUOTE FOR TEMPLETON ELEMENTARY FLOORING

Mr. Scherer said the flooring proposed is not carpet but is an organic product. He recommended the award of a quote for flooring for the lower level of Templeton to the lowest and best bidder, Bounds & McPike in the amount of \$26,785. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following a time for comments and questions, Board members voted on the motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF ALLOWANCE FUNDS FOR THE REMODEL OF THE NEW

INFORMATION SERVICES BUILDING

Mr. Scherer explained that the current building (Abel) housing the Information Services Department will be demolished to make space for the new service/transportation building and Information Services will need to be moved to a permanent building. He recommended approval to spend \$300,000 of funds allocated in the bids for the Service and Transportation Project for the remodel of the new Information Services Building. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Hamilton said because of the amount of the bond issue and because he does not feel he is up to speed on the details, he will probably abstain. Following a time for additional comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Abstain: Hamilton. Motion carried.

Rogers-Binford Parking/Traffic Flow - Update – Mr. Scherer said the school system has a design to try to improve parking and traffic flow for Binford-Rogers. He said the design is completed but some eastside neighborhoods have concerns. He announced that the City Planning Department will hold a public meeting at the Binford cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30. He said the Planning Department will notify neighborhoods. He noted that bids for the project are expected to be received in mid-May.

Mr. Hamilton said he had heard from some people who want to protect pedestrian and bike traffic too. Dr. Butler said she also received a letter from a neighborhood association. Mr. Scherer said he has had conversations with representatives of these groups. He said the concerns are along High Street; the plan is to take bus traffic into Rogers from Second Street and loop cars from High Street. The concerns are from people who live along High Street. Mr. Muehling said the overriding concern is safety of children, whether they are walking or riding. Ms. Wanzer agreed, noting that for years people have complained and now we are attempting to do something so it is understandable that people want to be involved.

14. **REVISE CALENDAR FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dr. Hyland said the school system was closed for four days because of snow and/or ice and we must make up those days. Since this is not an election year, he recommended that May 5 be used to make up one of those days. Ms. Streiff so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following a time for comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve a revised calendar as recommended. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

15. **FOR DISCUSSION: First Reading: Proposed Revision to Bylaw 0144.1 – Compensation**

Pointing out that the proposed revision pertained to insurance options for Board members Dr. Butler said some Board members were asking about other compensation provisions. She suggested that a lot of discussion be forestalled and included for discussion at a work session on April 7. During ensuing discussion, Dr. Butler said if wording of the proposed revision(s) changes, the Board may want to include it for information again before taking action. Dr. Hyland agreed to post for a work session on this matter and to discuss the stimulus package at 5:00 p.m. on April 7.

Mr. Hamilton said he thinks it is important to look at changes in Board compensation over the last several years. Noting it is a difficult time to do much, he would like to see a long history of compensation. Dr. Butler said it was the same until January 2008 (\$2,000 per year stipend until that time).

Regarding insurance, Mr. Hamilton said it was helpful to learn the different ratios of system contributions to different employee groups, which in this kind of day hits people hard when they have an \$800 increase in annual insurance and different groups take a different hit. He said that is an important policy to

consider. He said he thinks some of it is contractual but noted that health insurance is a mess and we need a good system and many people are suffering. He said as a large employer we have an obligation to look at how we allocate our resources. Dr. Butler suggested that Board members study the material provided via e-mail today before coming to the work session on April 7.

Ms. Wanzer said she would like to know the total amount the school corporation contributes for health insurance and how much it would add to include Board members. She said it looks like the only compensation change being considered at this time is health insurance. Dr. Butler said she received a request from Board members to consider compensation for meetings not covered in the Bylaw. She suggested that the next Board meeting will be the first reading if the recommendation is different from this proposed revision. Or, she said they could have two different policy changes.

Ms. Merriam said she thinks there are some ethics involved in compensating Board members before employees. Dr. Butler suggested that the Board table this item for now.

Ms. Wanzer said she was suggesting leaving insurance as a first reading. Ms. Streiff agreed, suggesting that compensation be considered separately.

Mr. Hamilton said he was not comfortable at this point with the language that suggests this. He said he thinks it is important to have significant discussion – for the public to hear once and be able to participate in the interim. He suggested that is the point of having a first reading. He said he is not comfortable saying this is what we want to do.

Ms. Merriam noted that the Board had just received a lot of information and she was not ready to vote on this change. Ms. Wanzer said the Board did not have to act on it at this meeting but could at the April 7 meeting. Dr. Sabo-Skelton agreed.

Mr. Hamilton said first readings are meant to highlight what is going on and what the plan is. He said one concern he has is really that nobody who is a part-time employee in the school system gets insurance benefits, unless they work more than half-time, and this is suggesting full coverage for Board members with the highest contribution there is. He said this proposal suggests we are treated very differently from part-time employees and others in the system. He wants to make sure this is clear as they go forward.

Board members agreed to continue this discussion at a work session on April 7.

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

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

Mr. Muehling reported on the Indiana State Police Response workshop he attended at BHS South on March 7. He said several other districts were in attendance and one of the SWAT teams presented information about readiness and where it fits into schools’ response to active threat. He said they described how perpetrators choose to invade and to harm. He said these people are very willing to be involved in training insofar as drills; one team is from Jasper and the other is from Evansville so the first responders will be local police, etc. who will coordinate the response. He said John Carter, Director of Planning and our safety director, will be working with principals in terms of staff development and what is our plan.

Mr. Hamilton said he is looking forward to follow-up from the Board’s retreat on March 10. He hopes to do it relatively quickly to have schools focus on student achievement. Dr. Hyland said that was a topic on

Cabinet meeting today and he will speak to principals about this at the next principals meeting. He said they decided not to do a template because each school is different; it is on the front burner.

Mr. Hamilton acknowledged that there are a lot of competitions coming up this weekend including Science Olympiad this Saturday and these are wonderful examples of our students competing at high levels.

Ms. Merriam noted that our new State Superintendent for Public Instruction has dismissed more than 140 employees and we have people in the State Special Education Department who were formerly secretaries. She is concerned with the lack of support available to school systems from the State Department.

Ms. Merriam wished BHS South well in the boys' basketball state championship. She read an article written by BHS South student Hayley Schilling, encouraging support for academic as well as athletic teams in the schools – noting there is enough school spirit to go around.

Ms. Wanzer reported that Choonhyun Jeon, ESL Coordinator, has been selected by the Commission on Multicultural Understanding to receive an award for exemplifying multicultural understanding. She said the award will be presented to Mr. Jeon on April 6 at 4:30 p.m. in the Federal Room at the Indiana Memorial Union. She extended congratulations to Mr. Jeon for this well deserved recognition.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton thanked Dr. Butler for inviting the College Mentors for Kids to share about their program. She said we have generous people in our community who give and we are indebted to them. She said that is one reason why our school corporation is holding its own.

Mr. Muehling said he proposed to the Indiana School Boards Association Director that perhaps parents should drop off their children at 6:00 a.m. and pick them up at 8 p.m. His comment was made in reference to proposed legislation to make schools responsible for administering a body mass test on students. He referred to recent plans announced by the State Superintendent to take away staff development time for teachers as well as the time used for parent-teacher conferences and questioned the sanity of it all.

Dr. Butler thanked people who are retiring for all their years of service. She said we really appreciate the things that people do for our school corporation, whatever their job – it is a team effort.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:15 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