

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, April 7, 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, April 7, 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
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Barbara Buckner	Assistant Comptroller
Choonhyun Jeon	Coordinator of ESL Program
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director of the MCCS Foundation
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, seven 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 Terry Ingram who was honored for devoting his career to MCCSC. He was nominated by his supervisor, MCCSC Comptroller Tim Thrasher. While still in high school, Mr. Ingram began working for the school system as a COE (Cooperative Office Education) student in 1975 and was appointed to a bookkeeper position in 1977. His knowledge extends over a wide range of business office functions and he goes the extra mile to share his knowledge with fellow staff members. He always finds the time to assist others who are facing similar close time deadlines in their own positions. Terry's attention to detail results in his work being exceptionally accurate and he is blessed with the ability to work very rapidly and still produce very high quality work. Mr. Thrasher said Terry is a true professional and a gentleman with a very keen wit. He said, "His sense of humor helps keep the Business Office a pleasant place to work. He has a kind heart and a generous nature. His contributions to the Business Office and the MCCSC are very much appreciated." Board members commended Mr. Ingram for his length of service (33 years) and dedication to the school system and the professionalism he

brings to the Business Department.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Eric Knox said he lives in the Rogers/Binford area and was present for a recent meeting when development of the Binford site was discussed. He said he wrote a letter in which he tried to put together some ideas people presented and to focus on the process rather than the particulars of the proposal. He said he is a supporter of MCCSC and Rogers/Binford and he found it to be unfortunate bad publicity for the school system to have proceeded so far with the plan without discussion. He said they all know of the chaos (with traffic) and recognize that not everybody lives close enough to ride a bike or walk to school. Mr. Knox said he believes the design process needs to be revisited to engage people in the area and the city a little better. He said perhaps they could look at other options to create a drop-off zone. He understood there will be another public meeting but he is not sure a big meeting is the best way to make decisions. He said he had identified someone from his neighborhood association and contacted someone from other neighborhood associations; his request was to establish an advisory committee to look at some of the alternatives and to think of some solutions. He said people had objections to ideas presented but some good ideas were put forth. He suggested that it is important for the resolution to be based on what can we do in cooperation with the school system's effort and he thinks it is a good idea to include neighborhoods.

Dr. Butler said six Board members were present at that meeting and our main concern is safety of those children. Dr. Hyland added that we made a commitment to have a subsequent meeting and we are reviewing some other options. He said we are anxious to hear other ideas and there will be additional opportunities for input. He asked for names of key people who could be involved. Ms. Merriam said since school started the principals at Binford and Rogers have addressed this issue at PTO meetings and open houses and they were asked for suggestions. Dr. Butler said one PTO person confirmed this had been in discussion for several months.

Tess Mullin said there are scholarships available for summer programs for students to study abroad. She said Chinese is the fastest growing foreign language and sometimes people do not apply. She provided information about scholarship opportunities.

Thao Nelson said one of the largest English-speaking nations now is China. She wants our students to be prepared for the 21st century and how we can connect with interesting models that are out there. She said there is a sound project based community service approach in Oregon and she wondered how to share this approach with our community. She said she does not know what our community has to offer but was told of a project of a son of a dairy farmer; she would like for her son to have such opportunities and would like to know how she as a parent can make sure our students can have that experience. Dr. Butler noted that New Tech High School is project based and BHS North has senior projects that students may now elect but within two years will be required. Ms. Nelson said in Oregon they now only issue Oregon diplomas, not from individual schools.

At 7:25 p.m., there were no additional comments from the public and the Board continued the agenda.

4. **SPECIAL REPORT: Curriculum Alignment**

Deb Prekert, Title I Specialist, shared information about curriculum alignment efforts in the school system. She said students are at the center of decision making and curriculum mapping creates a bridge from the standards to the classroom. She said it is a process of reviewing and revision and allows horizontal and vertical alignment of curriculum. Ms. Prekert said a corporation-wide team is in place and will be working to add skills to and to look at assessment on the draft maps. She acknowledged work of the Curriculum Alignment Leadership Team and explained timelines for each step of the process.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: Foundation of MCCS**

Executive Director Tina Peterson thanked Baxter Pharmaceuticals for their 5th annual donation for the science initiatives and to Bloomington Hospital and Southern Indiana Pediatrics that support many of our Healthy Schools programs. She also thanked people who continue to support the Foundation during a difficult year. She announced the Personal Achievement Banquet for students who have overcome hardships will be held on April 28 and said the Foundation will also be awarding some 30 scholarships this year. Ms. Peterson announced that Angelo Pizzo will be dancing for the Foundation on May 23 in the Dance with the Celebrities fund raiser to benefit local charities. She said this is 'Thank a Teacher' season, which gives the community an opportunity to acknowledge teachers and/or other MCCSC employees who have made a difference. She invited people to check it out at: www.mccsfoundation.org

6. **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. He said the focus has been on budget and unemployment insurance shortfalls. He added that the State Superintendent has pulled a provision that enabled schools to use 'banked' time for parent-teacher conferences and professional development. As a result, he will be coming to the Board with a revised calendar for 2009-2010 that will take out professional development opportunities. Dr. Butler said it has been no secret that the Governor does not hold public schools in very high regard. In response to a question, Dr. Hyland said currently students are dismissed from school for two (2) one-half days for parent-teacher conferences and three (3) one-half days for professional development. He said the recommendation is that we need to add those at the end of the year. He said the Governor stated that when teachers talk to him they feel professional development days are missed. Ms. Merriam said she heard teachers say how much they appreciate it.

Mr. Hamilton said one question of the Board is the role in policy – increasing school days and time on task. He said he would be comfortable to communicate to the Governor that this is a terrible decision. Ms. Wanzer said teachers were on the Round Table and maybe there is a compromise that could be reached. She said the drawback will be a longer school year. Dr. Hyland will draft a resolution for the next Board meeting. He will continue to keep the Board apprised of issues during this Legislative session.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Butler asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) approval of minutes of meetings held on March 3 and March 24, 2009; (b) donations, ECA expenditures and field trip requests; (c) Financial Report; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Dr. Hyland reviewed donations and Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented escrow agreements and contracts for approval as proposed, including: (a) Project Lead The Way; (b) Professional Service Industries, Inc.; (c) Monroe County Commissioners Easement Agreement; (d) Escrow Agreement—United Commerce Bank and Whaley Construction for HHCC; (e) Chance Bros. Marble & Tile Construction Agreement; and (f) Ana Weill Contract.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved approval of escrow agreements and contracts as recommended. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion

carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers commended two retirees: Chris Oster taught outside Indiana and then joined the faculty at Childs in 1993. She retires with 16 years in MCCSC; Carl Zager taught in Ohio and came to MCCSC in 1972. She read his notice of retirement in which he stated that this has been an amazing 38 years. He has 43 years experience as a teacher, coach and teacher leader. She also reported that our employee Tom Barker passed away this week. She recommended approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **NAMING BHS SOUTH BASKETBALL COURT AND LAKEVIEW NATURE TRAIL**

Dr. Hyland reviewed details of this report and recommended approval of naming the BHS South basketball court in honor of BHS South coach and athletic director J.R. Holmes and naming the Lakeview Nature Trail in honor of former Lakeview principal Normand Horn. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Board members shared comments in support of these well deserved honors and voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **AWARD BID FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENT AT UNIONVILLE ELEMENTARY**

Mr. Scherer recommended that the low bidder, Keusch Glass, be awarded a contract for \$55,000 for window replacement at Unionville Elementary. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. In response to a question, Mr. Scherer said there had been no information forthcoming about construction dollars from stimulus money. He anticipates the impact on energy use will be significant, as window replacement has done at Arlington, Tri-North and Marlin. He responded that the contractor who volunteered his time to install soccer lights is actively seeking money; no corporation dollars are involved.

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

12. **APPROVE CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSION**

Mr. Scherer recommended approval of an extension for contract bus route 177 as proposed. Mr. Hamilton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Proposed Revision to Bylaw 0144.1 - Compensation**

Board Bylaw 0144.1 – Compensation – Participation in MCCSC Medical and Dental Insurance Programs

Mr. Muehling moved that this matter be considered for action rather than for continued discussion. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

Mr. Muehling moved that the Board reject consideration of a proposed revision to Board Bylaw 0144.1- Compensation which would make Board members eligible to participate in the MCCSC medical and

dental insurance programs. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Ms. Wanzer said she understood this is a time of financial uncertainty and that a decision to offer insurance that we have not offered before to Board members may be viewed as inappropriate. She said she believes that we are woefully uninsured in this county and she would like to be part of the corporations that offer insurance to Board members and to expand and enhance insurance now offered to other employees. She said she would vote against the rejection because she is in favor of expanding insurance offerings to all.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she agreed with Ms. Wanzer but will vote to reject this at this time because we do not know how much money we will get and how it will be disbursed. She said she hopes that later we can look to cover everyone, including the Board for those who need it. She said she thinks we need to wait and that is the only reason she is voting to reject.

Ms. Merriam noted that the Board did talk about this and she feels that Board members should be the last to be included in the tier for health insurance. She hopes that at one time it will include all employees. She said we have other financial commitments we have not been able to fulfill as far as salary and she would like to meet those first.

Mr. Hamilton said he thinks it is a shame that anyone in our community and county does not have health insurance; he hopes we will make progress on that in the next few years. He said as a Board we have a responsibility to do the most we can for the most we can and we (Board members) should probably be last. He concluded that there are many people in this corporation that have needed coverage and it would be useful to look at options.

Dr. Butler said she could not agree more with comments made; she wishes we had universal health care but she does not expect to see it in her lifetime. She said she has a great deal of empathy for people who do not have health insurance. As far as the school corporation, she said we need to look out for our lower paid and less than full time employees; therefore, she will support the motion.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said you can look at it from different angles and one area she considers is equity. She sees offering insurance to Board members as leveling the playing field. She said there will be people who will not run for the Board because they cannot afford it. She said often people who sit on boards are affluent people who can pay others to watch their children and have money for gasoline. She said it is important to revisit this at a later time because we need people from all levels on the School Board.

Ms. Wanzer said in order to bring this topic back to the Board, someone on the prevailing side will have to reintroduce it. She said she does not want to wait but if that is the way the motion goes, she hopes someone will bring it back.

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

Board Bylaw 0144.1 – Compensation for Attending Work Sessions

Mr. Muehling moved to continue discussion of Board member compensation for attending work sessions. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Mr. Muehling said when compensation for meetings was included in the Bylaws, there was an inconsistency in that work sessions are not covered under the compensation package. He said it is not often that the Board meets in work session on a separate date; it has happened only twice since he has

been on the Board. Since the Board is revisiting all Bylaws at this time, this falls within that review and compensation for a 'stand alone' work session would be the same as what is given for an executive session.

Dr. Butler said part of the discussion was this becomes consistent with meetings held at times other than when a regular or executive meeting is scheduled.

Mr. Hamilton said he did not think it is a good idea but understands why others differ.

Board members voted on the motion for continued discussion, specifically to bring this matter back to the Board for a first reading at the next Board meeting. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Nay: Hamilton. Motion carried.

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

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

Ms. Merriam shared an update on activities of the sex education and wellness committees; she serves as the Board's representative on both of these committees. She congratulated athletic and academic teams and individuals for their achievements.

Ms. Wanzer announced a program sponsored by the Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department to be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 18 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. She said Bloomingfoods worked with MCCSC on the farm-to-school program.

Mr. Hamilton said he was sorry that he could not attend the Jackson Creek Band concert tonight. He said University School is hosting the 6th annual Girls Chess contest on April 18. He noted that many Board members attended the meeting on Rogers/Binford development, adding that he lives in that area. He thinks it is great to have lots of parents involved and hopes we can reach out to the neighborhood groups who have not felt included in the planning. He said safety is first and there are other factors that we want to include. Noting that Fairview was discussed at the last work session, Mr. Hamilton said he hopes we will be creative in that school – that we look hard at exciting options for that school. He said this is the first time we have a charter school in this school system and he knows our leadership may be sitting down with the Mayor to talk about what that means. He said we need to make it as positive for all of us as we can.

Dr. Butler said the Fairview staff along with her and Dr. Sabo-Skelton will be going to Iowa to look at a Bernstein School. She said she is looking forward to seeing what they have. She said Ms. Tupper has been trying to set up a meeting with the Mayor so that is in the works. She said she and Dr. Hyland have been invited to attend a legislative luncheon with MCEA representatives on April 15 and they will have an opportunity to talk with State Legislators. Dr. Butler said at Mr. Muehling's suggestion, she will be meeting with Ms. (Cathy) Diersing about the Project School. She feels the information Ms. Diersing sent was very helpful and that she is trying to help us get an idea of what impact the school will have on our school system. Noting that some Board members ran for office on a platform of being transparent with the community, she believes that having contracts on the agenda and reading donations is worthwhile. She congratulated Carl Zager for 38 years of service to MCCSC, 43 in education. She said it is quite an accomplishment. She also thanked Ms. Oster for her contributions.

16. **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