

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session, May 14, 2009

NOTES

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in work session, for which proper notice had been given, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2009, at Jackson Creek Middle School Cafeteria, 3980 South Sare Road, Bloomington, Indiana.

Since the purpose of this work session was to provide a public forum for discussion of parking and traffic flow at Binford/Rogers, attendance was not recorded. As an unofficial record of this meeting, a copy of *The Herald-Times* report [copyright noted] follows.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MCCSC schools

Binford-Rogers traffic solutions brainstormed

Variety of interests represented; some consensus reached

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Out of potential chaos came a bit of order Thursday evening as several constituencies seemed to shift toward a degree of consensus during what was billed as The Binford-Rogers Campus Circulation Design Workshop.

Around 35 invited participants representing the MCCSC administration, teachers, Rogers and Binford parents, city planners and contiguous neighborhood groups convened for a meeting that lasted a full three hours at the Jackson Creek Middle School cafeteria.

Five members of the Monroe County Community School Corp. board attended to listen and observe.

Derek Marshall, from the engineering firm Bledsoe Riggert and Guerrettaz, chaired the meeting. It was geared toward generating ideas for improving the safety and overall structure of drop-off and pick-up periods at the neighboring elementary schools along East Second Street.

It had a “charrette” format, with participants dividing into groups of four or five to brainstorm — having been provided maps of the campus and a list of specific goals to consider — and then present shared ideas. Short-term, inexpensive adjustments and long-term, extensive fixes were solicited from each group.

Marshall said some ideas, such as extending the Binford drive, seemed to have common currency. Just a few of the other notions floated with some degree of support included restricting or eliminating left turns in the area, having a pedestrian-bicycle corridor, reserving the current middle lot for faculty and staff only, widening the Rogers drive, making Second Street one-way for key time periods, staggering dismissal times and installing a stoplight at Second Street and Woodcrest Drive.

An original \$750,000-\$1 million plan proposed in March by the MCCSC is defunct. MCCSC extended services director Mike Scherer said the federal stimulus money the corporation had counted on to help fund that plan has not materialized. And the original plan also prompted some criticism and concern when unveiled to the public, including complaints regarding lack of public input.

Laurel Adams, a parent of two sons at Rogers, felt Thursday's process helped redress that. "This is good," Adams said as the meeting neared its conclusion. "I feel they're listening and open to suggestions. And we got to hear different perspectives when we broke off into our groups.

"We had a longtime second-grade teacher in our group, Linda Mongold, who also monitors kids in the parking lot, so her perspective was really key. And having (city planning director) Tom Micuda there obviously was beneficial. The biggest issue I feel is that now the city and MCCSC really have to work together to solve this while keeping kids' safety the paramount concern."

MCCSC board president Jeannine Butler hopes some temporary improvements could be implemented over the summer. After thanking the participants for attending, Butler said, "We fully expect something to come from this tonight. We just don't yet know exactly what."

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