

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting, June 2, 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, June 2, 2009, in the Large Group Instruction Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN 47401.

Board members present:

Jeannine Butler	President
Valerie Merriam	Vice President
Vicki Streiff	Secretary
John Hamilton	Assistant Secretary
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board members absent:

Jim Muehling	Member
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Also present:

Timothy F. Hyland	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director, Extended Services
Shelley Vitols	Assistant Principal, Templeton Elementary School
Lily Albright	Interim Principal, Grandview Elementary School
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>
Wendy Perry	Director, School Age Care Program
Derek Marshall	Bledsoe, Riggert & Guerrettaz, Inc.
Karen Bennett	Teacher, Arlington Elementary School
Jessica Willis	Interim Assistant Principal, Grandview Elementary School
Deborah Wessel	Teacher, Grandview Elementary School
Jan McCollough	Assistant Director, Special Education
Ed Brown	Director, Hoosier Hills Career Center
Carol Bodnar	Teacher, Fairview Elementary School
Libby Torphy	Teacher, Grandview Elementary
Becky Boyle	Teacher, Batchelor Middle School
Abby Seifers	Teacher, Grandview Elementary School
Beth Crowe	Teacher, Fairview Elementary School
Twillia Abram	Teacher, Grandview Elementary School
Jennifer Fox	Teacher, Arlington Elementary School
Bev Elkins	Secretary, Social Services Department
Deb Woodward	Senior Applications Technician, Department of Information Services

In addition to the above, 7 citizens signed the visitor list (which is included as 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

No recipient was presented this meeting.

## 3. PUBLIC DIALOG

Kim Stanley, a parent of an elementary school student requested information regarding the process for responding to threatening notes. Her 6<sup>th</sup> grader received a threatening post-it note. The note was given to the teacher and moved up to the assistant principal to address. The parent met with the principal who had investigated. Parent questioned if the occurrences such as this are passed up the administrative chain.

Dr. Hyland commented that normally the principal of the building takes care of these occurrences.

Dr. Butler indicated the MCCSC has written policies regarding matters of harassment and threats.

Ms. Merriam indicated the harassment policy is available on the MCCSC website for the public to view.

## 4. PROGRAM SHOWCASE

School Age Care Director Wendy Perry gave a history and update on the School Age Care Program.

In April 1982 Neighborhoods, Inc, a not for profit group operated a School Age Program in 6 elementary schools. This particular program ran until 1985-86; during this time Indiana University conducted a study of child care needs and uncovered the need for a School Age child care program. The study covered the 1985-87 time period. Following the study, Dr. Harmon Baldwin, then Superintendent, met with the Neighborhoods, Inc. It was decided that MCCSC should pursue a child care program. The policies were written including the plan for the program to be self-sustaining. The School Board at that time approved and Veda Stanfield was hired in 1987.

The program began with 120 students and 20 staff in 6 buildings. Ms. Stanfield remained as director until the spring of 1990. After Ms. Stanfield left the program, Wendy Perry was hired to begin as director in the fall of 1990. The Fall of 1990 saw 425 children with 100 staff at 12 of the 14 elementary schools.

In 1992 the program added a summer component entitled "Adventure Camp". Unionville was added to the list of available programs during the 1992-93 school year. The program again blazed a trail by piloting the first K-club program at Templeton Elementary in 1994-1995. K-Club expanded into any school that had room and interest during 1995-1997.

In 2000, Extended Day Program became School Age Care. The program had successfully moved from a before/after school day program to a program that operated in some capacity all day long and through the summer. The K-Club program was then incorporated into K-Plus (an expanded Kindergarten program) by the school district in 2006-2008. Lakeview Elementary added a preschool component between 2007-2009 followed by University Elementary during the school year 2008-2009 which also included a special needs focus. 2009-2010 will find a pilot preschool at Clear Creek Elementary.

During the 2008-2009 school year, School Age Care began a Middle School Project funded by a grant from the Bloomington Community Foundation in conjunction with MCCSC and Richland Bean-Blossom District. The Middle School Project is a data driven program focusing on academic performance, behavior and attendance. 2008-2009 also saw School Age Care take over the reins for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grant.

This past school year (2008-2009) saw School Age Care serve the following:  
Extended Day Program – 787 families; 998 children; with 175 staff members  
Ready Set Grow Preschool Program – 175 families; 179 children  
Adventure Camp – 121 families; 166 children; with 34 staff  
Mini Camp – 28 children; with 6 staff

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Ms. Merriam asked if the programs were limited to only students who qualify for the free and reduced program. Ms. Perry indicated the programs were open to all families.

Mr. Hamilton asked what percentage does the fees cover the School Age Care budget. Ms. Perry said the fees from parents cover 90% of her budget, that she cannot depend on soft (grant) money.

Mr. Hamilton asked how they handle parents who cannot pay but want to take advantage of the program. Ms. Perry indicated they refer families to the Child Development Fund. This is a State funded program. Ms. Perry informed the Board that we are the only school corporation that is qualified to receive funding from this particular source. We currently have 85 children who qualified for this particular fund which is the equivalent of just under \$100,000.

Ms. Wanzer asked if any families were ever turned away. Ms. Perry indicated that not usually, the staff attempts to help families find funding.

Ms. Merriam indicated that her daughter begged to be a part of the program. Her daughter's friend was so excited and enjoyed the program so much that she wanted to be involved. Ms. Merriam indicated that she thinks very highly of the Adventure Camp program and would recommend it.

#### 5. FOR INFORMATION – ARTFUL LEARNING

Dr. Butler and Dr. Sabo-Skelton travelled to Des Moines, Iowa with teachers and administrators from Fairview Elementary School to investigate the unique curriculum used at the West Des Moines Community School District.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton indicated they visited Hillside Elementary School. Hillside has embraced the Artful Learning model. The model was inspired by Leonard Bernstein. Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she found a learning place with a spirit in it, the school was a center for the community. The Artful Learning Model embraces all the senses. When she walked around the school she found it a happy and welcoming environment, all of the students wanted to talk and share about their school. They were very proud of their school and of themselves.

Dr. Butler added the Artful Learning model is a three year implementation plan. The teachers involved underwent training during the summers of 2003, 2004 and 2005. Each year they developed a unit which encompasses a master work. Staff also used the philosophy they developed while creating the master units in their teaching of other subjects. Students worked mainly in groups of 2-6. In order to be successful you must have a 90-95% buy in by the faculty. It is not a program where you can sit behind your desk and have students come to you.

Ms. Karen Adams, Principal, Fairview Elementary School also spoke about the program and how the teachers learn a different way to teach, they call it “Bernsteining” the lesson. They “Bernstein” the lesson by applying the same techniques and skills they use for the Artful Learning lesson to lessons of more traditional subjects. Ms. Adams indicated that the Fairview faculty is very interested in this program. They feel this type of program would interest and motivate the students of Fairview.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Dr. Butler, Dr. Sabo-Skelton, Ms. Adams and her staff for travelling to Iowa and bringing back important information. Ms. Wanzer suggested that we not limit our seeking of programs to this one so that Fairview can make an informed recommendation.

Mr. Hamilton also thanked everyone for taking the time to go on the trip and to bring back information. He was sorry he had joined the Board too late to be an integral part of this experience. He also indicated he thought we should look at other programs as well before pushing forward.

Dr. Hyland indicated that a large group of people have been working on exploring all these options. Everyone wants Fairview to be a success.

Dr. Butler suggested this discussion should be continued during a work session after Dr. Coopman’s arrival in July, possibly late summer or early fall.

6. FOR INFORMATION – ROGERS/BINFORD PARKING UPDATE

Mike Scherer and Derek Marshall presented the information gathered during the Work Session held at Jackson Creek Middle School on May 14, 2009. Mr. Scherer indicated we have no budget available at this time. A short range plan will be formulated with the hope that we may receive stimulus money to fund. A long range plan will also be developed to be implemented within the next few years. Mr. Scherer indicated that he and Mr. Marshall would meet with both principals by the end of the week.

7. FOR ACTION – CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Butler called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda: (a) Minutes of Previous Meeting: 5-19-09; (b) donations and Out of State Field Trip by the Bloomington High School North Business Professionals of America; (c) Financial Report; and (d) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. Ms. Merriam stated her name was misspelled on page 3 and the word “pools” should be struck from the facility use discussion. Dr. Hyland reviewed the donations received. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. FOR ACTION – CONTRACTS

Mr. Thrasher presented the contracts for approval as proposed: (a) Escrow Agreement – The Bank of New York Mellon; (b) Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA); (c) Hyland Contract Addendum; (d) Hoosier Hills Career Center and Richland Bean-Blossom School Corporation Renewal of Operating Agreement; (e) Hoosier Hills Career Center and Eastern Greene School Corporation Renewal of Operating Agreement; (f) Hoosier Hills Career Center and MSD of Martinsville Renewal of Operating Agreement; (g) Contract to continue to offer Student Accident insurance; and (h) Herff Jones Photos and Highland Park Elementary for school photographs.

Ms. Merriam moved to approve the contracts as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Contracts. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF CONTRACT BUS ROUTE #133

Ms. Streiff made the motion to approve the extension of Bus route #133. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Chambers presented the Personnel Report to the Board. Discussion pertained to the Special Education teachers and classrooms being moved from specific buildings to other buildings. Ms. McCollough explained the process of examining the case loads and determining the locations, size, and teachers assigned. Ms. Streiff discussed the letters received from schools that were unhappy regarding some of the decisions. Dr. Hyland explained he had received a petition from one school and had spoken with the principal about the situation. Dr. Sabo-Skelton made the motion to accept the Personnel Report. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. APPOINT PRINCIPALS FOR ARLINGTON AND GRANDVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Mrs. Chambers presented Ms. Shelley Vitols, currently assistant principal at Templeton Elementary School, as the recommended principal for Arlington Elementary School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The motion was made by Ms. Wanzer to approve the appointment and Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to accept the recommendation of Ms. Vitols as principal of Arlington Heights Elementary School. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

A parent from Templeton expressed her sadness at losing Ms. Vitols from the staff at Templeton and inquired as to the process for appointing her replacement.

Mrs. Chambers indicated she had already contacted Mr. Shipman, incoming Principal at Templeton, as well as the MCEA and the teachers at Templeton. Ms. Vitols current position will be posted tomorrow.

Ms. Vitols thanked the Board and the staff at Arlington for choosing her. She is humbled and honored. She looks forward to working with the staff, families and students at Arlington. She also thanked the Templeton faculty, staff, students, and parents for their support during her past 10 years as a teacher and assistant principal.

Mrs. Chambers then presented Ms. Lily Albright, currently the interim principal at Grandview as the recommended principal for Grandview Elementary School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The motion was made to approve the appointment of Ms. Albright by Ms. Merriam and seconded by Ms. Wanzer. Board members voted on the motion to accept the recommendation of Ms. Albright to be appointed as principal of Grandview Elementary. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

Ms. Wessel represented the Grandview teachers by telling the Board that it was unanimous with the Grandview staff and there was dancing and singing at Grandview when the recommendation was formalized.

Ms. Albright expressed her appreciation for the support from the Board, Superintendent, faculty and staff of Grandview. She stated she is excited about leading Grandview for the next several years. She is humbled and honored by this appointment.

12. PROPOSED REVISION TO BYLAW 0144.1 – COMPENSATION

Dr. Sabo-Skelton explained this proposed revision was a corrective measure that was omitted during the resolution that was passed previously.

Ms. Wanzer expressed dismay that several months ago the Board looked at medical benefits and turned it down. She was disappointed that we are willing to increase the compensation for payment, but not look at health insurance coverage for Board members.

Mr. Hamilton expressed his opposition because of the current fiscal situation, understanding that it would not be used very much since most work sessions are scheduled on the same day as a Board meeting. However, in the context of our Board's budget, this is a bad decision and a bad time to do this.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton made the motion to approve the revision. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion: Aye: Butler, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff; Nay: Hamilton, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion Failed.

13. SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOK ADOPTION [MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS]

Ms. Boyle presented the findings of the Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee to the Board. Ms. Wanzer made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Textbook Adoption Committee. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to approve: Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion approved.

14. TEXTBOOK ADOPTION – GREEK (NORTH)

Mr. Hamilton made the motion to approve the recommendation. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Board members voted on the motion to approve: Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion approved.

15. TEXBOOK ADOPTION – SAT CLASS (SOUTH)

Struck from the agenda.

16. FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION – UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Dr. Hyland presented the job descriptions for the Director of Elementary Education; Director of Secondary Education; and Director of School & Community Services for the Board's information. Dr. Hyland explained Dr. Coopman redesigned our organizational chart which required the creation of some positions. They will not be additional administrative posts but similar to a chess board, positions being moved into different places. We would like to post positions immediately so we can have a complete cadre of administrators in place for Dr. Coopman when he arrives July 1. Dr. Hyland requested the Board to approve and waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading because the hiring season is coming to a close. Mrs. Chambers drafted the descriptions following the formatting of other job descriptions.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the job descriptions are too long and assessment seems to be missing as a high priority item in the descriptions.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Dr. Hyland for asking to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. She also commented that when she first came to the Board we had directors of elementary and secondary education. She stated the organizational chart that Dr. Coopman created is great. She appreciates the fact that having the directors puts more emphasis where we need it.

Dr. Butler pointed out that assessment is listed under qualifications indicating its importance.

#### 17. INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Anna Lynch, a parent of students at University and Templeton spoke.

#### 18. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Merriam stated the sex education committee finished their work with new curriculum in the high schools. She mentioned the availability of Mandarin Chinese Institutes this summer for middle school/high school students.

Ms. Merriam also thanked those in attendance who visited the Artful Learning Model. Was impressed the students having a 7 hour day. Ms. Merriam also pointed out the mowing contracts total \$16,714 and in Los Angeles they have experimented using goats to eat the grass thereby cutting the cost of mowing.

Ms. Merriam also mentioned she attended the Teen Learning Center luncheon and honors program. Leslie Skooglund and Ms. Merriam discussed the lack of a good transition system to return students to their home school. Ms. Merriam also commented on the wonderful jazz concert presented by BHS-North students. She made note of the story in the *Herald-Times* about Weddle Brothers visiting Fairview Elementary and talking with the students about the construction project.

Ms. Merriam also expressed her gratitude to Mr. Thrasher for his willingness to show negative balances.

Mr. Hamilton expressed the uncertainty in his family's life at this time. He will miss the next two meetings. Dependent upon the outcome of the hearing in Washington, D.C. he may need to step off of the Board. He expressed his appreciation to the Board and administration for their indulgence with his family's situation.

Dr. Butler requested Board Members to send her an e-mail regarding their availability this summer. There must be a minimum of 4 members present for a meeting. It is important that the Board continue to meet over the summer. She will work with Bev Smith to plan a community reception for Dr. Coopman once he comes on board in July. We will have a work session to discuss the budget but don't know when that will be at this time.

Dr. Butler and others will be attending the installation of Dr. Coopman as president of Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents on Friday, June 5, 2009. Dr. Butler also congratulated the new principals. She also congratulated the families and students at the three high schools who graduated last Saturday.

Dr. Butler told a story of North students who volunteered to help a fellow student across the stage and how this exemplifies the fact that our students are caring of each other and willing to do what it takes to include everyone.

#### 19. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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Jeannine Butler, President

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Valerie Merriam, Vice President

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Vicki Streiff, Secretary

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John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member