

Monroe County Community School Corporation
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, July 21, 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, July 21, 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:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Lou Johnson	Director of Food Services
Tina Peterson	Executive Director of the MCCS Foundation
Mike Shipman	Principal, Templeton Elementary School
Krista Nelson	Assistant Principal Designee for Templeton Elementary
Sandra Benson	Director of Human Resources Designee
Donna Zink	Secretary to Superintendent
Deb Woodward	Senior Applications Technician, IS Department
Andy Graham	Reporter for <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, an Information Services Technician 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 7:03 p.m.

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

3. **FOR INFORMATION: FOUNDATION OF MCCS**

Tina Peterson, Executive Director, reported that the Foundation used survey monkey for feedback for funding as they are looking at redesigning some programs. They will broaden some of their grant programs, loosen some of the guidelines, and include funding for some things that they haven’t allowed in the past. At the same time they will eliminate some items.

Ms. Peterson said the Foundation will be implementing online submission of grant applications through ‘eFoundations’ that does this for small not-for-profits. She mentioned some recent donations,

noting that summer is typically a slow time. She mentioned some upcoming activities, including: Red Eye Relay road running race, an overnight race, starting in the evening, 4-6 p.m. this Saturday. It will include 108 miles and finish sometime between 5-7 a.m. She said some Foundation Board members convinced the Board that donations should go to public schools and the Foundation will be supporting the playground project at Templeton. Ms. Peterson reported that 24 Foundation Board members have given in excess of \$17,000 personally, over \$100,000 corporately. The Board recently established a fund for Greg Mongold, a math scholarship fund, and generous donations are being received. The first scholarship awarded will be spring of 2010.

Ms. Peterson said through a matching grant program with Indiana University and the United Way, the Foundation will be supporting efforts to improve the school system's drop out rate.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Coopman thanked Ms. Peterson for the early intervention with conversation about what the Foundation can do. He said we could not have a better representative.

Sharing information from the last few days, Dr. Coopman said nearly 100% of our bus inspections passed the first time; there will be another round on July 22. He said the State Police Officer was very complimentary of Mike Clark (Director of Transportation), mechanics and bus drivers – noting that MCCSC is one of the best in the state. The Information Services Department moved to their new building last weekend. There have been a few problems with the HVAC unit and a compressor went out. The school system has an opportunity to participate with the YMCA and receive a grant about creating a healthier Bloomington. Dr. Coopman expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing him to attend the National Association of School Administrators in Seattle. He said it included a Leadership Conference, a trip to Microsoft Office and Boeing and a chance to hear internationally known speakers.

Dr. Coopman said H1N1 is back in the news again and all school districts have a pandemic plan; we have a plan in place for reporting confirmed cases. He said we will take our direction via the county and state health officials. He added that the Federal government has plans to make vaccine available this fall; it is still in developmental stages.

Dr. Coopman read the following letter received from State Senator Vi Simpson: *Thank you for the passage of the Resolution supporting your endeavors to maintain quality parental contact and improve and increase staff development. Unfortunately, the budget that was passed did not reflect the state's commitment to this important part of student performance. Hopefully, in the future, Governor Daniels, Superintendent Bennett and the Indiana General Assembly will invest in the development of our professional teaching staff. Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. Please continue to keep me informed on matters of interest to you.*

At Dr. Coopman's request, Mr. Scherer shared an update on current projects. He said we have thirteen major projects going on this summer: Binford - library, window replacement, new roof; Fairview's new school is moving along on schedule; Rogers – partial window replacement and west wing renovation; Templeton – corridor flooring and hallway painting has been completed; Unionville – hallway painting is done; Tri-North – classroom finishes, hallway and rest of roof replacement are on schedule; New Tech HS – completing three classrooms and the kitchen; Aurora – the additions and remodel are not moving along as hoped; Information Services has moved and we will have a redundant system in case the HVAC would go down; Abel building demolition begins Monday, July 27; Administration Center remodel is moving along and expected to be completed by December 1; Transportation and Service buildings will be completed next summer; HH Career Center renovation

will be finished in December 2009. Mr. Scherer said school will be convened in all facilities. He said we have not dipped into any more contingency dollars after that first time and we have not gone past contract cost except at HHCC. There were no change orders to present at this meeting.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and ECA expenditures and recommended approval of the consent agenda. Ms. Merriam moved approval of the consent agenda as presented, including: (a) donations and ECA expenditures and (b) allowance of claims. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts, including: SCCAP Head Start and MCCSC Food Service Department, Food Works for Middle Way House for HHCC Day Care Program, Slam Dunk Sports Marketing and BHS South, Escrow Agreement – Strauser Construction for New Tech HS Phase II, and Safe Hiring Solutions LLC Service Agreement. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **BOOK RENTAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES, 2009-2010 ELEMENTARY**

Mr. Thrasher noted there is a slight decrease in the fees. He explained that the formula is prescribed by the State – the cost is divided by four and then we collect that amount for the six-year adoption. He said rental materials and workbooks are charged at full cost because they are consumables. Ms. Merriam moved approval of elementary book rental and instructional fees for 2009-2010 as proposed. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **PERSONNEL**

Peggy Chambers introduced Sandra Brinson, new administrator who will serve as the Human Resources Director starting July 27, and Krista Nelson, new assistant principal at Templeton. She noted a recommendation was also included to name John Hudson as the new assistant principal at Grandview. She said both principals – Mike Shipman (Templeton) and Lily Albright (Grandview) – chose to use a committee to help choose the assistant principal. Templeton used the committee that had been formed to choose a principal.

Ms. Chambers called attention to a resignation received from Paul White, principal at Batchelor Middle School. She said Mr. White accepted a principalship at Washington High School in Washington, Indiana, to be closer to their families. Regarding the teacher recall list, Ms. Chambers said all elementary teachers have been recalled and she is trying to place them in their buildings. She said there are still six teachers on the recall list – special area teachers (art, music, physical education). She said last minute additions to the Personnel report include six new literacy coach positions thus creating six elementary teacher openings. She said they are ready to select and post these positions on July 22.

Board members joined Ms. Chambers in commending Michael Wood who announced his retirement. She said he completed student teaching at University School, taught at University and then moved to North. He retires with 39 years of service to MCCSC.

Mr. Hamilton moved approval of the Personnel Report. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Ms. Chambers confirmed that stimulus money will be used to fund the literacy coach positions. She said if the money is not available after this year, the coaches will go back to teaching or we may be required to continue the positions because of schools not meeting AYP (Average Yearly Progress). She confirmed the teachers recalled held mostly half-time positions last year but we may be able to hire them full time this year.

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

9. **CREATE SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION**

Ms. Chambers explained that this position will serve as a work study experience for a student currently enrolled in the special education program. The assistant will work ten hours per week and his/her duties will include filing, copying, serving as a runner, etc. She recommended creation of this position as proposed. Ms. Streiff so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICY 5200 - ATTENDANCE**

Noting this matter was tabled at the June 16 meeting, Dr. Coopman said discussion has occurred and there were no comments from the teachers' association. He recommended approval of revisions to the Attendance Policy as proposed. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION - IVY 104 (CRITICAL THINKING)**, book "Think"

Dr. Coopman recommended approval of the book "Think" for use in the Critical Thinking course offered as a part of the Early College Program. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **APPROVE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THREE 84-PASSENGER BUSES**

Mr. Scherer said our bus replacement fund was reduced by 12% - \$122,000. He said they would rather maintain the fleet instead of purchasing activity buses at this time. He suggested that purchase of activity buses will be pursued in the next round. He proposed the purchase of three 84-passenger buses as recommended. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

It was noted that we had projected a \$30,000-\$40,000 savings per year at each school with activity buses. Dr. Butler said she understands the priority but was disappointed that we are not able to purchase activity buses and she hopes we can raise the amount of money needed to do this.

Mr. Hamilton asked whether it was typical to receive only two bids for such a contract request. Mr. Scherer said it was not a surprise, given how few bus manufacturers there are remaining.

Board members voted on the motion to approve purchase of buses. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Muehling complimented Mike Scherer and staff with construction, upkeep, remodeling.

Noting that he missed the last meeting, Mr. Hamilton extended a personal welcome to Dr. Coopman. Mr. Hamilton reported that he and his family continue to await clarity on future employment and will keep everyone posted on their situation.

Ms. Streiff said she understands the dilemma but feels bad about not purchasing activity buses.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton extended thanks to the Foundation and the tremendous work they do. She said Foundation Board members are some of the most caring people, from all businesses and academia; there is not another school corporation with such an outstanding foundation.

Ms. Wanzer extended congratulations to Sandra and Krista on their new positions. She thanked Dr. Coopman for his expanded Superintendent’s report.

Ms. Merriam said it will not always be this quiet. She said she is really pleased to see in the Personnel Report that New Tech High School has hired an individual to teach Chinese. She thanked Lou Johnson for finding the money in her budget to complete the kitchen at New Tech. She reminded Board members that she will not be present for the regular meeting on August 4.

Dr. Butler complimented Dr. Coopman for his prompt follow-up; she said policies and guidelines are now on the MCCSC web site under the Board link. She mentioned that he is President of the Indiana Association of School Superintendents this year and she is glad to have him here.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member