

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, August 4, 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, August 4, 2009, in the Large Group Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 South Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Jeannine Butler	President
Vicki Streiff	Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board members absent:

Valerie Merriam	Vice President
John Hamilton	Assistant Secretary
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member

Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Ed Brown	Director, Hoosier Hills Career Center
Terry Daugherty	Teacher and MCEA Representative
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, one citizen 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. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** – There was no response to Dr. Butler’s invitation for public dialogue.

3. **SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

Dr. Coopman thanked the Board for the honor and pleasure to serve as Superintendent; he said the first month has been great. He said he had an opportunity to meet with several employee groups. He said Luke Messer, who is running for the U.S. Senate, met with several superintendents, including him as president of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents (IAPSS). He said it was nice to hear him express interest in learning about education and education issues. He said he presided over his first IAPSS council meeting and will be attending the fall conference scheduled for September for IAPSS and ISBA (Indiana School Boards Association).

Dr. Coopman said he has been invited to be a member of *Healthy Bloomington* and attended the meeting sponsored by the YMCA and the Bloomington Hospital. He is continuing to meet with administrators to talk about school initiatives. He has also met with a variety of other community leaders. He said Jean

Schick (MCCSC Coordinator of Science Education) talked to him about her role and he continues to voice his support for her role and her efforts. He said he believes that the science coordinator position is important as we look at biotech industries in Monroe County.

Mentioning other meetings, Dr. Coopman said Tina Peterson provided an overview of the history of the MCCS Foundation and his role as an ex officio member. He said Choonhyun Jeon provided him a great background on the ELL (English Language Learners) program. He has also received a report on the status of Black males in schools and the community and held his first joint meeting of principals and Superintendent's Cabinet members.

Dr. Coopman reported that he had been a guest on WFIU radio, along with Richland-Bean Blossom Community Schools Superintendent Steve Cain, and participated in *The Herald-Times* live on-line chat. He said he met with Wendy Perry, Director of the School Age Care Program. He also met with Sandi Cole, Director of the Indiana University Institute on Community and Disabilities, to learn about partnerships we have for staff development and he hopes to continue this partnership. This morning Dr. Coopman participated in a community chat session at which he met several members of the community. He said he is looking forward to our first all-school staff meeting on August 10.

Board members shared comments and thanked Dr. Coopman for this update on his activities.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Thrasher explained negative cash balances showing on the Financial Report. He said we are near the end of the fiscal year for many of our grants and it is a low point in the year for receipts to the textbook rental fund. Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of previous meetings, including regular meeting of July 7 as well as a work session and regular meeting held on July 21, 2009; (b) donations; (c) Financial Report; (d) Appropriation Balance Report and (e) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Mr. Muehling extended appreciation to donors. Dr. Butler thanked Ms. Tupper for sending out minutes of previous meetings for Board members to review prior to approval.

There were no other comments. Board members voted on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

#### **5. CONTRACTS**

Dr. Butler called for a motion to approve contracts as proposed, including: (a) Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County Grant Agreement; (b) Indiana University Kinesiology Department Agreement with BHS North for Athletic Training; (c) Administrator Assistance, LLC Agreement for Employment of Educational Consultants; and (d) Change Orders with Fox Construction for a Credit Contingency. Ms. Wanzer so moved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muehling.

Mr. Thrasher responded to questions regarding various contracts and agreements presented for approval. Dr. Coopman explained the agreement with Administrator Assistance is to employ two retired principals who will operate in tandem with the principal and staff at Fairview. They will work 120 days and beyond that will have to seek permission. They will work with data and with the staff on assessing the data. Dr. Butler noted that we are required to have administrative support in order to maintain Title I monies.

In response to Ms. Wanzer's question, Barb Horvath reviewed the Community Foundation grant and said it will permit Theresa Malone to spend one day each week on parent engagement. She said this is rollover

money from CAPE and the Lilly Foundation told us to use it well. She said the open grant cycle is in the fall and it would be good to look at other possibilities for having someone more than one day per week.

Ms. Streiff asked about comparison of the Indiana University and Bloomington Hospital contracts for athletic training. Mr. Thrasher said the contract with the hospital had to do with middle school programs. He noted that BHS South has had some athletic trainers on staff. He said he would follow up to see if it most cost effective to go with the hospital. He said contracts for BHS South will be forthcoming.

Following a time for additional discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts and change order. Aye: Butler, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

## 6. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers introduced administrators who were recommended for appointment: Janice Bergeson, Director of Secondary Education; Eric Gilpin, Batchelor Middle School Interim Principal; and Cameron Rains, Director of Elementary Education. She said the school system is receiving 200-300 applications for every opening and 60 applications were received for a secretary position recently posted. She said of the 31 people who received RIF (reduction-in-force) notices, all but two have been recalled.

Ms. Chambers shared a notice of retirement received from Scott Ackerson who began his career with MCCSC as a teacher at Binford in 1972. She said he spent 12 years at Binford, traveled to different schools for four years, then taught at BHS South for 34 years and will retire from that position immediately.

Ms. Wanzer moved approval of the Personnel Report as submitted. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Muehling extended congratulations to new hires and those with new responsibilities. He was pleased that most teachers have been recalled. He expressed congratulations to Mr. Ackerson on his retirement. Dr. Butler noted that many school systems had to RIF huge numbers of teachers. She welcomed Ms. Bergeson and Mr. Rains and extended congratulations to Mr. Gilpin.

There was no further discussion and Board members voted on the motion to approve the Personnel Report as submitted. Aye: Butler, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

## 7. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Stew Cutshall, Vice President of the BHS North Booster Club, noted that purchase of activity buses was voted on and approved last fall but dropped because of budget concerns. He said he understands but said the money that would be saved in overtime and getting teams to where they need to be on time would be a worthwhile investment. He said he appreciated words of disappointment expressed last meeting by Board meetings. He said sometimes emergencies happen and he believes the budget year starts January 1. His request and proposal was that the buses be placed in the budget next year as a priority since much of the prep work has been done. He said it would cost \$35,000 to \$40,000 and give bus drivers a break.

## 8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Muehling said he appreciated Mr. Cutshall's service with the support group at school and agrees with his comments. He said Mr. Cutshall was right regarding savings and giving a break to the bus drivers.

Ms. Wanzer agreed and said it was unfortunate that the activity buses had to be cut. She said a good point has been raised that we want to talk about with the public, about the process as the budget is developed.

She said State Superintendent Tony Bennett has made some proposals for change in teacher certification. She noted that she does not want to discourage innovation but is concerned that he makes proposals without engaging those who should be a part of the discussion. She thinks it is amazing that a superintendent of public instruction would suggest that when certification and ability to teach is so important. She added that a good teacher can teach about anything because of their understanding of methodology where others are experts in their field but cannot teach. Ms. Wanzer said she believes we need more salary for our teachers – that is what is missing.

Ms. Wanzer said she appreciates the expanded Superintendent’s report that includes more information and gives Board members a good feel for what is going on.

Dr. Butler said she has not been there but others have indicated that if you really want to see what is on Dr. Bennett’s mind is to look at his four-year plan posted on his door. She said she took pride in going to college and taking 400 level courses that he denigrated. She said she thinks he went to the wrong school if he thinks it was so easy that everyone received ‘A’ ... She said she believes she could teach a geometry class if she could stay one day ahead because of methodologies and pedagogies. Dr. Butler said when she studied for a principal’s license she had courses in supervision, school law and finance. She said to suggest teachers and administrators do not need an educational background but only a master’s degree and taking a test is ludicrous. She hopes our Legislators stay on top of this.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ABSENT

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Jeannine Butler, President

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Valerie Merriam, Vice President

ABSENT

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Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

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John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member