

Monroe County Community School Corporation
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session – August 4, 2009

MEMORANDA

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in work session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at Bloomington High School South, which is located at 1965 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Jeannine Butler, Jim Muehling, Vicki Streiff and Sue Wanzer [arrived when indicated in minutes].

Board members absent: John Hamilton, Valerie Merriam and Lois Sabo-Skelton. [NOTE: Valerie Merriam participated in discussion via a telephone conference call.]

Also present: J.T. Coopman, Superintendent; Tim Thrasher, Comptroller; Mike Scherer, Director of Extended Services; John Carter, Director of Planning; Mike Clark, Director of Transportation; Joe Childers, Binford Elementary School Principal; Mark Conrad, Rogers Elementary School Principal; Janet Tupper, Administrative Assistant; Andy Graham, Reporter for *The Herald-Times*; and Bettina Kehoe, Parent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the following topics were discussed.

1. **Rogers/Binford Parking/Traffic Problem and Solutions** – Dr. Coopman had an opportunity to meet on site at Binford/Rogers. He said the solutions to the Rogers/Binford traffic/parking problem must address (1) student safety and (2) keeping bus traffic separate from car/pedestrian traffic. He said additional security will be needed to help maintain traffic flow, but the plan that has evolved as a result of discussion will accomplish these goals.

Messrs. Childers and Conrad shared with the Board a letter and a traffic flow map to be sent to Rogers/Binford parents explaining the plan developed to address the parking/traffic problem [a copy of which is attached to and made a part of the official record of this meeting]. Mr. Scherer reviewed the plan and responded to questions. Mr. Clark explained where security people will be stationed and Mr. Scherer noted that there will be lots of signs to help with traffic flow.

In response to Ms. Kehoe's suggestion, Mr. Conrad said walkers and bikers will be kept on a path so they do not have to cross a driveway or parking area. He said a second bike rack has been placed on the southeast edge of Rogers. Ms. Kehoe said those involved had done a good job. [Ms. Wanzer arrived.]

Board members commented on the plan and discussed procedures for enforcing the no parking rule for bus areas. They agreed that if problems persist, violators will be ticketed. However, Mr. Childers noted that this plan really addresses parent needs who must pick-up their children. Dr. Coopman thanked Mr. Clark, Mr. Carter, Mr. Scherer, Mr. Childers and Mr. Conrad for their efforts in putting this together so quickly. Board members added their thanks and voiced support for the plan.

2. **Follow-up for Board Retreat Held March 10, 2009** – Board members reviewed notes from their Retreat held March 10, 2009 (a copy of which is attached to and made a part of the official record for this meeting). Dr. Coopman said the Board made it clear that communication is important and that will continue to be one of his goals. He said he has held regular meetings with the Board president

and that has been good. He said it is also clear that the Board wants him to be a liaison for the school community to the community at large and he has been attempting to do that. Dr. Coopman added that he is anxious to start development of a strategic plan – he will leave to the Board’s direction how soon that will begin. He suggested that the process begin in January or February or wait to start during the summer retreat but definitely start within his first year as Superintendent. He said ISTEP results have not been received but he will move forward as soon as that information is available. Regarding professional development, Dr. Coopman said we do not have days or money for professional development and that is sad. He said several staff members have been doing professional development this summer but some agencies providing professional development are hearing their funds will be cut. He said we will work on it but there is no grand plan in place at this time.

Mr. Muehling said he is interested to see teacher ideas and concepts for addressing professional development; he said we need cooperation from the teachers and MCEA leadership. Dr. Coopman agreed; he hopes we can bring people together to discuss ideas. He said the MCCS Foundation is of great benefit and they help when they can. In response to Dr. Butler’s question, Dr. Coopman said he has not received clarification but he thinks that stimulus money will go to the state. Dr. Butler thinks it would be interesting to see if individual school systems can apply for money; she believes that we have innovative projects that might qualify if the money is available. Following additional discussion, Dr. Coopman asked Board members to share their ideas and proposals with him.

Other goals mentioned included: (1) Complete high school plan by December 2009 – perhaps wrap up what came out of the High School Task Force; (2) Explore how to get more time on task for schools – could be about lengthening the school day as well as innovative ideas for increasing the school day and/or staff utilization, i.e. amount of instructional time. Dr. Coopman said 85% staff utilization is good. Dr. Butler noted that block time and trimester are more expensive; middle school is the least expensive in terms of staff utilization. Ms. Merriam agreed that the goal is to have more time on task; she said some of that is being addressed at BHS North. She suggested focusing on staff development and letting teachers determine what they can do. She added that next year priorities might change if we have to cut \$1 or \$2 million from the budget and we need to have a couple of scenarios to decide. Ms. Wanzer added that maybe we can only fund the top three priorities.

Dr. Coopman said with the state taking over the General Fund some of our latitude has also been taken away; most of the General Fund is benefits and salaries. He said there may be some latitude in the Capital Projects Fund. He said a couple of school districts will get ‘x’ dollars regardless of declining enrollment and in 2012 we are supposed to go to a fiscal year budget. Board members agreed to meet with the Superintendent in small group sessions (at least seven days apart). They will let him know times they can meet.

3. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

_____ Jeannine Butler, President	_____ ABSENT Valerie Merriam, Vice President
_____ Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary	_____ ABSENT John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary
_____ Jim Muehling, Member	_____ ABSENT Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member
_____ Susan P. Wanzer, Member	