

Monroe County Community School Corporation
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, August 18, 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 18, 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
John Hamilton	Assistant Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board member absent:

Valerie Merriam	Vice President
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Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Kathleen Hugo	Director of Special Education
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director of the MCCS Foundation
Deb Prenekert	Grant Coordinator
Kim Williams	High Ability Program Coordinator
Lily Albright	Principal, Grandview Elementary School
Alan Veach	Principal, New Tech High School
Terry Daugherty	Instructional Technology Coordinator
Rick Ayres	Technology Department Supervisor
Jeff Rudkin	Teacher, Batchelor Middle School
Andrea Livingston	Teacher, Summit Elementary School
Amanda Deliman	Teacher, Summit Elementary School
Andy Graham	Reporter for <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, two representatives of Bloomington Community Access TV were present.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Board President, Jeannine Butler, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, introduced Charlie Sinex from Indiana University’s Financial Management Department. Charlie is the Treasurer of the organizing committee for a fundraiser called the ‘Red Eye Relay’ during which 240 people, comprising 39 teams, ran all night for education. She

reported that 80% of the runners came from outside the Bloomington area and represented 5 different states. She said this was the organizers first year directing the race and they intend to continue running for education every year. The Red Eye Relay realized an unexpected profit this first year and presented at check for \$1,800 to the Foundation at the meeting. This gift will be used to support grant programs from MCCSC teachers. She said one of the people instrumental in the Red Eye Relay is Jeff McClaine of the President's Challenge, also husband of MCCSC's Michi McClaine. The President's Challenge has donated over \$100,000 to the Foundation in the last seven years. The money has been used to support fitness, health and wellness through grant programs and the creation of school fitness trails. She expressed thanks to these individuals and to the many people interested in helping education.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Coopman thanked Vi Simpson for meeting with the Board and expressed appreciation to her and other local Legislators for their support of public education.

Dr. Coopman said this is the most exciting time of the year for him. He said the 'kick-off' for the school year started with a celebration meeting with faculty on August 10 at BHS North. He also attended a federal focus luncheon at which Senator (Richard) Lugar talked about what is happening in Washington, D.C. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this luncheon. He thanked Bev Smith for organizing a reception to welcome him to the school district and expressed thanks to all who attended.

Noting the Fairview Family Festival is an annual event, Dr. Coopman said representatives from his office and Board members attended and he is looking forward to participating in the future. He said we had a smooth start of school for children on August 12.

Dr. Coopman said he had an opportunity to meet with people at Bloomington Hospital and talked about their strategic plan. He said it was very interesting and informative, noting that we have many partnerships with the Hospital.

As was mentioned earlier (at a work session held prior to this meeting), Dr. Coopman said he talked with Legislators about certification. He does not feel that current proposals coming from the state superintendent's office are the best move for professionalism of education nor for our students. He said the luncheon meeting held today was to bring our Legislators up-to-speed about those changes. He said we intend to make our voices heard through a variety of venues to (State Superintendent) Dr. (Tony) Bennett. Dr. Coopman said today Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General, held a press conference in relation to new provisions of HEA 1452 that give teachers qualified legal immunity from lawsuits.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Muehling moved approval of the consent agenda as presented, including: (a) donations, ECA expenditures, field trip requests and disposal of outdated library books; and (b) allowance of claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations, field trips and disposal of obsolete library books. In response to a suggestion, Batchelor B-TV teacher Jeff Rudkin talked about plans for his students' field trip to Poland. He said they will do a documentary on concentration camps and would be happy to make a presentation to the Board upon their return from this trip (included for approval on this agenda).

There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

6. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts, including: Bradford Woods; Ivy Tech for Early College High School; Center on Education and Lifelong Learning; Change Orders for Fairview; HHCC Internship Training Agreement; CareerStaff Unlimited, Inc.; Theraplay; IU School of Education-American History Grant; Monroe County Historical Society-American History Grant; Agency for Instructional Technology-American History Grant; Evaluation Solutions-Elizabeth Oyer-American History Grant; U Kinesiology Department-BHSS Athletic Trainer; Resolution to Adopt the Advanced College Project; Bloomington Hospital/Rebound-Middle School Athletic Trainer; and Professional Golfcar Corporation.

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Dr. Butler asked for a motion to approve contracts except the one with the Center on Education and Lifelong Learning, which would be considered separately. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Muehling moved approval of the contract with the Center on Education and Lifelong Learning. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Hamilton, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Abstain: Butler. Motion carried.

7. **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Streiff moved approval of the Personnel Report as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Ms. Chambers introduced Deb Prekert who was recommended for the position of Grant Coordinator. She said 26 new teachers were on the list for approval and all were hired last Monday and Tuesday. She said many are secondary or special education teachers. She added that most elementary positions were filled with teachers who were on the RIF (reduction-in-force) list. Ms. Chambers offered a correction to the report in the 'Certified Staff Change of Status' section: Kevin Wenzel will move to 3rd grade at Arlington instead of kindergarten.

Board members voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Report as submitted with the change noted.

8. **ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGENTS TO ACCEPT PENSION LIABILITY WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND (PERF)**

Ms. Wanzer moved that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing agents to accept pension liability with the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF). Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION – CHINESE LANGUAGE**

Mr. Hamilton moved approval of the textbook adoption for Chinese language as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Muehling applauded the Binford/Rogers traffic pattern improvements. In response to his suggestion, Mike Scherer shared an update on the status of current building projects. Touch-ups remain at Tri-North, Phase I of the Hoosier Hills Career Center renovation is completed; the center of the building is next. They have moved into the Abel Building. Construction of Fairview is moving along and should be under roof by winter. The Administration Center should be ready to occupy by December 1 and the New Tech High School kitchen is completed. He confirmed that the student delivery system is working well at Binford and Rogers.

Mr. Hamilton asked for an update on Fairview. Dr. Coopman said plans for next year’s program are still in the planning stage. The AYP (Average Yearly Progress) satisfaction consultants have been working in the building; we will cut back from two to one person. Plans are moving forward to have Bob Barr come in; he has written four books on high poverty schools and kids left behind. The school is making plans to get through this year and out of the AYP category. He said it is too early to project next year; they are exploring options at this point.

Mr. Hamilton missed the last work session when follow-up to the Board’s Retreat was discussed. Ms. Tupper will send notes from the meeting for his review.

Mr. Hamilton said it seems useful to talk about core issues from a federal perspective; he said Indiana is in the top third of states about to access stimulus money. He asked is there anything we should be doing to position ourselves for that. Dr. Coopman said the amount of information being filtered to us from the state is minimal. He said the school system has received nothing on timelines, grant guidelines, etc. coming from the state. Dr. Butler noted that it is all up to State Superintendent Bennett and whatever he decides.

Ms. Wanzer said maybe we can mobilize and lobby and keep attacking the issue. Dr. Butler said there is nothing wrong with the school system asking but the State Superintendents Association and the Indiana School Boards Association will work toward this goal. Mr. Hamilton said it seems it is not impossible to imagine we can approach the state, saying we are interested in whatever and to push it. He thinks there is serious money that can be used for innovative things and it would be helpful to review possibilities. Dr. Coopman will do that.

Ms. Streiff was excited to see crossing guards helping children at Summit Elementary. She said it is wonderful that the city is providing that service and wonderful that children can walk safely.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said today was a very interesting one for her – the luncheon with Legislators, the Attorney General’s press conference on discipline in schools and the nearly two-hour meeting with Senator Vi Simpson. She said they talked about problems and she thinks we are in agreement that we will need to deal with some of these issues throughout the state. She said Ms. Simpson is a wonderful senator who believes in public schools, as we do. She said we are facing all kinds of problems and legislation we do not understand but she looks at this on the positive side because if not for the public schools she would not be sitting where she is today. She wants to make sure she does everything she can to make sure every child has a good education.

Ms. Wanzer suggested at the next work session the Board talk about how we can mobilize. She agreed with Mr. Hamilton that the Board should review notes from the March retreat and follow-up with a strategic plan. She provided each Board member with a copy of the City of Bloomington strategic plan and noted the implementation section. She said it is important to note it was published and distributed – for future reference and as a reminder. She reiterated her hope that in the next work session the Board could follow-up on the retreat.

In response to Dr. Butler’s question, Mr. Thrasher said to meet budget adoption timelines, he would like to meet with the Board in work session next week to discuss a health care clinic and the 2010 budgets. He said the presentation would take about 45 minutes for the budget and possibly 20 minutes to present the health clinic. He anticipates it would last two hours to permit Board discussion and questions. He said the budget must be published by September 2 and the next Board meeting will be held on September 1, but the ad must be to the newspaper six days prior to September 2.

During ensuing discussion, Board members agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, to discuss the health care clinic and the 2010 Budgets.

Dr. Butler thanked Mr. Scherer, Dr. Coopman and Mr. Childers and Mr. Conrad (Binford and Rogers principals, respectively) for their work on implementing the traffic pattern improvements.

Dr. Butler recalled that the Board sent a letter last year to the Governor about finances. She wondered if it would do any good to send a letter to Superintendent Bennett regarding licensure. Dr. Coopman will follow-up on this suggestion. Mr. Hamilton suggested circulating the letter to other Boards for support.

In addition to thanking Mr. Muehling for arranging the meeting with Senator Simpson, Dr. Butler expressed appreciation to Dr. Coopman for the luncheon meeting with Legislators and to Vi Simpson for coming to the work session. She noted that Senator Simpson is a wealth of information on school funding.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ABSENT

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