

Monroe County Community School Corporation
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 15, 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, September 15, 2009, in the Large Group Room at Bloomington High School South, 1965 South Walnut Street, Bloomington.

Board members present:

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

Board member absent:

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| Jim Muehling | Member |
| Sue Wanzer | Member |

Also present:

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| J.T. Coopman | Superintendent |
| Tim Thrasher | Comptroller |
| Mike Scherer | Director of Extended Services |
| Barbara Buckner | Assistant Comptroller |
| Karen Portle | Director of Information Services |
| Janet Tupper | Administrative Assistant |
| Jean Schick | Science Curriculum Coordinator |
| Deb Prenkert | Grant Coordinator |
| Andy Graham | Reporter for <i>The Herald-Times</i> |

In addition to the above, six (6) citizens signed the visitors list, which is made a part of the official record of this meeting, and 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.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2010 BUDGETS, THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN, AND THE SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

President of the Board, Jeannine Butler, convened a public hearing on the 2010 Budgets, the Capital Projects Fund Plan and the School Bus Replacement Fund Plan.

Mr. Thrasher had shared a brief overview of the 2010 Budgets, the Capital Projects Fund Plan and the School Bus Replacement Fund Plan at the meeting held on September 1, 2009. He explained advertising requirements and said the public had been notified that a hearing would be held at this time and that the Board would meet on October 6 to consider adopting the 2010 Budgets and plans. He reviewed in detail various aspects of the Budgets and responded to questions from Board members. He confirmed that plans to purchase activity buses will be finalized when the budget is approved.

In response to another question, Mr. Thrasher explained that we tend to make adjustments in the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Plan each year based on what we know at that time. He said due to the decline in assessed valuation (AV) in 2009, we were unable to make a significant portion of the expenditures in the Capital Projects Fund and the School Bus Replacement Fund that we had planned to make. Consequently, 2010 budget levels in these two funds have been increased to include those deferred expenditures. In the Bus Replacement Fund those deferred expenditures include purchasing several regular school buses and 2 activity buses that would have been purchased in 2009 had we had the resources. In the Capital Projects Fund those deferred purchases included payments on the Miller Drive property, purchase of a new telephone system for Tri-North Middle School and routine maintenance expenditures at various facilities. He said the 2009 tax rate for the CPF was 16.44 cents per \$100 in AV. He added that the total tax rate for 2009 was 49.09 cents per \$100 AV.

Dr. Butler opened the hearing and invited comments from the public. Hearing none, the hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Barbara Buckner who was honored for her commitment and high quality work. She was nominated for this honor by MCCSC Comptroller Tim Thrasher. Mr. Thrasher noted that during the 15 years that Ms. Buckner has been with the school corporation she has proven to be an outstanding school administrator with a thorough working knowledge of all the business office functions. He said she understands the importance of maintaining well-organized, accurate accounting and payroll systems. She is also very knowledgeable with respect to School Board policies and regulations applicable to the accounting, purchasing and payroll functions as well as applicable state and federal statutes and regulations. He added that her analytical skills have been a tremendous asset to the school corporation. Mr. Thrasher noted that Barb Buckner also understands the importance of interacting with staff members in a positive and supportive manner. He said her sensitivity, sense of humor pleasant demeanor and commitment to excellence make her an exceptional contributor as the MCCSC strives to fulfill its mission of educating students for the world of tomorrow. Board members commended Ms. Buckner for her superior work and dedication.

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

4. **PROGRAM SHOWCASE: Science Curriculum**

Jean Schick, Science Coordinator, shared an interesting and informative report about the school system science curriculum. This is Ms. Schick’s sixth year as science coordinator and she provided the Board with an impressive overview of how science is taught at all grade levels. She specifically commended community support for the school system’s science program.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

Dr. Coopman reviewed ongoing initiatives at Fairview, including a teleconference with the Artful Learning executive director. Fairview is being considered for status as a magnet school for Artful Learning.

Dr. Coopman mentioned that principals are reviewing the advantages of district accreditation with the North Central Association (NCA). They are looking at strengths and weaknesses and where we need professional development. Principals will share feedback from staff.

Noting that our schools have been identified as sites for students to receive H1N1 vaccinations, Dr. Coopman said students only will receive the vaccinations with active permission from parents; first vaccinations will be given in November. He thanked Daniel Rademacher, John Carter, and Jennifer Staab for organizing this opportunity for students to receive the vaccinations free of charge.

Dr. Coopman said Cameron Rains and Jan Bergeson are looking at ISTEP data. He said each building will have a meeting this Friday and spend about four hours talking about test data and how they will use it for staff purposes and to benefit students.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hamilton moved approval of the consent agenda as presented, including: (a) donations, field trip requests and disposal of obsolete 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. Ms. Merriam suggested if we do not already do so, that obsolete books should be offered to students before disposing of them in another way.

Ms. Merriam asked about plans for Batchelor’s Spanish class trip to Costa Rica. Wendi South, teacher responded to questions about the trip; although this is a summer trip and no school funds will be used she assumed that she was advised to submit the field trip for Board approval because students will earn high school Spanish credit for participating. Ms. Merriam suggested that since this is not a corporation trip, she believes it does not need Board approval. Dr. Butler said this question will be considered as the Board looks at policy revisions.

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

7. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher withdrew the school beverage agreement between Pepsi-Cola and BHS South and reviewed other contracts included for consideration. He recommended approval of contracts as amended, including: Project Lead The Way and Hoosier Hills Career Center; Ivy Tech Community College Culinary Arts at HH Career Center; Spencer-Owen CSC for transportation to the School for the Deaf; Learn360 Learning Technologies Grant; Indiana Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (1) and (2); Indiana University 21st Century Service Learning Environment; Change Orders for the Administration Building and HH Career Center projects; ATS Project Success Tutoring Services; Club Z! In Home Tutoring Services; and Summer Advantage USA Tutoring Services. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Ms. Prenkert explained that the Department of Education designates what procedures school systems use for offering tutoring services to low income students who attend schools that are in ‘improvement’ status. She said the first year we had about twelve (12) providers and now there are three and the grade assigned them continues to fall. She confirmed that there is a lot of paperwork required of providers and many chose not to continue offering the service.

Ms. Portle reviewed the provisions of the service agreement with Indiana University for the “Empowering a 21st Century Learning Environment in Monroe and Eastern Greene County Schools”

grant. She said Aurora is participating again this year; other schools participating will include BHS North, BHS South and Eastern High School.

There was no further discussion and Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as amended. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

8. **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Hamilton so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Abstain: Merriam. Motion carried.

9. **DECLARE LISTED ITEMS AS SURPLUS TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

Ms. Merriam moved that the Board declare listed items as surplus to be sold at public auction with the date of auction to be determined. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

10. **BOOK RENTAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES – SECONDARY, 2009-2010**

Ms. Merriam moved approval of secondary book rental and instructional fees for the 2009-2010 school year as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. In response to a question, Ms. Portle explained that book rental and instructional fees for the Hoosier Hills Career Center are charged to BHS North and BHS South students who take those classes. There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Hamilton, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Motion carried.

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

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

Dr. Sabo-Skelton shared information about the most recent accomplishments of B-TV Program teacher Jeff Rudkin and students in this expanding program. She said the program had 32 winning projects in the AECT International Student Media Festival. The program also had four films selected for the prestigious International Student Film Festival Hollywood in early November.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she is incensed about some things coming from the Indiana Department of Education, especially an upcoming committee vote on certification rules and regulations. She said it is wrong and an insult to our teachers and she thinks we should think about communicating with other School Boards in the state. She invited Board members to study this because it will be voted on very soon. She noted that if passed, people will be able to be appointed as superintendents and teachers without certification. She wants people who are trained educators to teach our children and she would like for the Board to put together an e-mail or a letter to send to other Boards throughout the state. It was noted that the Indiana School Boards Association is supportive of her position.

Dr. Butler suggested that perhaps Dr. Coopman and Bev Smith (Director of Community Services) could put together a letter expressing the Board’s concerns and use that as a starting place – perhaps send to School Board presidents and ask them to send it to their Board members. During ensuing discussion, Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Butler discussed protocol for developing the content of the letter.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that if the letter is written on behalf of the Board, the Board should probably approve it. Dr. Butler voiced concern about timing and suggested a draft of the letter could be shared with Board members and their feedback would be used to finalize wording.

Ms. Streiff said it seems it would be appropriate for anyone to write and express their opinions. She suggested the name and address could be included on the school system website and in *The Herald-Times*. Board members discussed the current status of this proposed policy and different ways for voices to be heard.

Ms. Merriam reminded students and parents there is help with math homework at the Monroe County Public Library and at McDonald's West. She said this tutoring covers higher level math skills as well as basic math and review for chemistry, physics and ISTEP. She noted that Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology also has a tutoring program. Ms. Merriam reported on visits she made to three open houses last week: Childs, Fairview and Aurora. She also attended the BHS North-BHS South girls' soccer game, the BHS North-BHS South boys' football game and the BHS North Band fundraiser *Jazz Under the Stars*.

Ms. Streiff thanked Jean Schick for the informative report on our science curriculum. She said it was an information-packed presentation and she is doing a fantastic job. She noted that the incredible outpouring of science is not raising our ISTEP scores. She said our students keep winning the Science Olympiad but she wonders if ISTEP results are useful or are there other things we could rely on.

Mr. Hamilton thanked the administration for responding to concerns about the BHS South soccer field, noting that provisions had been made for another practice field and all that engagement is good.

Dr. Butler thanked Board members for their comments and stated that Dr. Coopman will develop a schedule for Board members to meet with him in small groups. She said perhaps they will be breakfast and/or luncheon meetings and encouraged Board members to sign up for these meetings which will be for general discussion and will be held at least ten (10) days apart.

Referring to the Indiana Department of Education's proposal to change certification requirements, Anna Lynch, parent of children at Templeton and University, suggested that perhaps the Board could share talking points with her and she would share with parents and PTO groups. She will share her e-mail address with the Superintendent. Dr. Butler said it is correct that the school system would not have to hire someone without appropriate certification but there are school systems that would do that and her concern is for all students and for the teaching profession.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

John Hamilton, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

ABSENT

Susan P. Wanzer, Member