

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, November 3, 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, November 3, 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
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 and Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, MCCS Foundation
Eric Gilpin	Principal, Batchelor Middle School
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, four (15) individuals 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. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Gary Griffith who was honored for his dedication and expertise in printing techniques. He was nominated for this honor by his supervisor, Janet Tupper. Mr. Griffith worked in his high school print shop, operated a business print shop for nine years, worked at Cornelius Printing and then Indiana University's printing operation for 16 years plus two years for a commercial printer before joining the MCCSC staff as Print Shop Supervisor on October 8, 1981. At that time, the MCCSC print shop had no copiers; it was located in the basement of the administration center with no elevator and included a dark room, camera, a plate maker, a letter press and three offset presses, and bindery equipment. In 1987, the offset printers were sold, the dark room was dismantled and Gary moved the school system forward into the age of high volume copiers. Gary's expertise in printing techniques is unsurpassed. Not only can he produce a high quality product, he knows how to do it with the least expense possible. He is always willing to undertake any assignment and bring it to completion with topnotch skill. Board members commended Mr. Griffith for his dedication and skill in the print shop for three decades.

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

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Batchelor Middle School**

Amy Martin, Jackie Macal, Becky Boyle and Juliana Hallows, teachers who serve as Batchelor's School Improvement Team shared an informative report. Ms. Martin talked about how teachers are asking students to become better problem solvers across all curricula. Ms. Macal said they are also looking at how to help teachers to teach critical thinking skills in all departments. Ms. Boyle explained how they are implementing a differentiated instruction goal to assure intellectual engagement of all students. Ms. Hallows gave examples of how they are establishing school-wide expectations for students. Principal Eric Gilpin commended the teachers for their leadership.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: Energy Education Presentation**

Representatives of Energy Education shared information and discussed services their company can provide as well as the costs and estimated savings associated with the program. Energy Education is a company that has partnered with over 900 organizations during the past 23 years to assist them in reducing utility consumption.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Foundation of MCCS**

Executive Director Tina Peterson announced that the Foundation awarded 34 grants this month for worthy projects in the school corporation. This included 14 grants for elementary libraries to grow their collections. She reported that 21 Multi-Classroom, School and System grant applications were reviewed and ten were funded for a total of \$21,000+. She highlighted a grant for BHS South's science classes to study alternative energy sources and another for BHS North's English Department restructuring. Nine mini grants were also funded for a variety of projects and the Foundation is now considering four high impact grants. A fifth high impact grant was already awarded to help send MCCSC middle school teachers to a national conference on November 6. She thanked the Bloomington Community Foundation and the Smithville Charitable Foundation for funding a project called Walk the Watershed at Tri-North and recognized the Smithville Foundation for funding additional AEDs for the school system. Stay tuned for more information on the Foundation's big New Year's Eve Fundraiser: Reading, Writing and Rhythm.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Coopman thanked Board members who attended the hearing on Monday and testified on behalf of the school system about the proposal to change teacher and administrator licensure. He said the letter sent by the Board to other School Boards in the state was well received.

Dr. Coopman reported that H1N1 vaccinations will begin in November in the school system; the second shots will be administered in December.

Noting that November 4 is the 'kick-off' for the technology audit, Dr. Coopman said a variety of constituents throughout the school system will be surveyed. The intention is to try to prepare an adequate vision for the future and have funding allocations to implement that vision. The audit will be quite extensive and the timeline for completion is March.

Negotiations have been started with the teachers association. Dr. Coopman said there is no money but fortunately our teachers association is very aware of the state's underfunding of schools.

Dr. Coopman thanked Tina Peterson and the Foundation for funding middle school teachers to attend the

Middle School Conference on November 6. This is one of many activities supported by the Foundation.

In a note of appreciation to John Hamilton, Dr. Coopman acknowledged his service to the Board and community. He extended best wishes to him and his family for personal and professional success.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of previous meetings on October 6 and October 20, 2009; (b) donations, ECA expenditures and field trips; (c) Financial Report; (d) Appropriation Balance Report and (e) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve consent agenda items as proposed. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as proposed, including: (a) Scholastic Agreement with Grandview; (b) Inter-State Studio with Lakeview; (c) St. Charles and Amy McGill for Tutoring; (d) St. Charles and Laura Olivera for Tutoring; and (e) Bloomington Montessori and Rachel Suekoff for Tutoring. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wanzer. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as proposed. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Dr. Butler shared John Hamilton's resignation letter and asked the Board to accept his resignation as a member of the Board. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Board members expressed thanks and best wishes to Mr. Hamilton and voted unanimously to accept his resignation.

Ms. Chambers noted the proposed appointment of Becky Rose as Director of Student Services. She also pointed out the notice of retirement received from Mary Freeman, custodian at Binford. She said Ms. Freeman had worked for Unionville and Batchelor and retires on December 1 with 32 years of service to the school system. She recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve personnel matters as proposed. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVE EXTENSION OF CURRENT CONTRACT BUS ROUTES FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

Mr. Scherer explained that contract bus drivers will have the option of extending their current contract bus route for an additional year. He recommended approval of the extension of current contract bus routes for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Aye: Butler, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **DRAFT #4 OF PROPOSED REVISION OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Dr. Coopman noted that three calendar drafts were presented for the Board's information at the last meeting and those options were given to principals and to the teachers' association. He said changes in option #4 mostly relate to start date. He explained that this fourth draft evolved from Discussion Council and it reflects the middle start date with a couple of other revisions. He noted that in exchange for two

evenings of parent-teacher conferences, a second day has been added for fall vacation. He said they are also open to having parent-teacher conferences at the elementary level and professional development at the secondary level and that may be what happens. He said an added consideration is a non-school day on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

During ensuing discussion, Ms. Wanzer noted some attempt to match the school system calendar with Indiana University's and pointed out that only the faculty – not support staff – at Indiana University has so many days off. In response to Ms. Streiff's question, Dr. Coopman said consideration was given to start dates for surrounding school systems, especially those that participate in the Hoosier Hills Career Center program.

Ms. Streiff voiced concern for students who will have final exams when they return after winter break. Ms. Merriam mentioned that BHS North and Bloomington New Tech HS have semester schedules. She believes it is important for our teachers to be able to take advantage of the Indiana University summer school classes. Ms. Wanzer noted that Indiana University summer school starts in May and they also have partial sessions. Ms. Merriam stated that MCCSC's end date precluded teachers from taking the first session summer school and that the later school start date would allow them to complete a second summer session at IU.

In response to Dr. Butler's notation that there is primary election in May, Dr. Coopman said he has recommended that school is in session on that date. He understands that schools were closed on election and primary days because of accessibility and parking issues; however, he does not know that those concerns can be eradicated and he proposes alternate entrances if accessibility issues are not resolved.

Anna Lynch, parent, shared some parent feedback regarding adoption of a calendar: (1) parents who teach summer school do not get a vacation when school starts earlier; and (2) when we talk about energy education, it seems that starting school later would be more energy efficient. Dr. Butler said she understands the Legislature is considering a proposal to start school after Labor Day which means the school year would end in mid-June. Mr. Scherer said our peak for electrical use is usually in September.

Noting that some are concerned with matching Indiana University's calendar, Ms. Merriam said a later start date would suggest a later spring break date and that would be problematic for those families.

13. INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Anna Lynch, Templeton and University parent said the Energy Education group presentation was very interesting. She asked if a link could be provided from the school system home page to their website.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Merriam reported on the Hearing on Teacher/Administrator Licensure at Indiana State Library that she, Dr. Butler and Ms. Sabo-Skelton attended in Indianapolis on November 2. She also reported on the Healthy Schools Initiative conference that she recently attended and thanked Jennifer Staab (Healthy Schools Coordinator) for being way ahead of everybody else in developing our health and wellness plan.

Mr. Muehling thanked Batchelor for an outstanding presentation and congratulated Becky Rose for her appointment. He said Ms. Peterson touched on some of the needs we have and he knows that Ms. Rose will oversee the School Assistance Fund; he suggested that it would be nice if she could present information on this program. He said he would also like to receive an update on construction projects.

Dr. Butler said it is extremely heartening to have five people interested in joining the Board. She announced the following dates and topics for upcoming Board meetings:

- (1) CANCEL November 5 Executive Session (previously scheduled)
- (2) November 17 – 5:00 p.m. – Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining
- (3) November 17 – 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
- (4) November 18 – 5:00 p.m. – Executive Session to consider applications to fill vacant Board seat
- (5) November 19 – 6:00 p.m. – Work Session to interview Board member candidates (30 minutes each)
- (6) November 19 – 8:30 p.m. – Executive Session to consider appointment of a public official
- (7) November 24 – 10:00 a.m. – Special Meeting to appoint new Board member
- (8) December 1 – 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting: administer oath of office to new Board member

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member