

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, December 1, 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, December 1, 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
Keith Klein	Member
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Staab	Healthy Schools Coordinator
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, MCCA Foundation
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, six (6) 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 7:00 p.m.

2. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Tom Bunger, Attorney, administered the oath of office to Keith Klein who was appointed by the Board at a special meeting on November 24 to complete the term of office vacated when John Hamilton submitted his resignation. A copy of the signed oath is included as a part of the official record for this meeting.

3. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Butler explained that at every Board meeting an employee or volunteer is recognized for outstanding accomplishments. She introduced Dawn Myers, Jennifer Henderson, Janna Castillo and Adrienne Jones were honored for their dedication as the secretarial staff that greet the public and take care of the business functions for the School Age Care (SAC) Program. They were nominated for this honor by Wendy Perry, Director of SAC. Dawn and Jennifer are the senior members of the team, who joined the staff in 2003 and 2005 respectively. Their responsibilities include grants, student records, staff intake, and budget functions. Adrienne and Janna joined the staff in February 2009. Janna serves as the receptionist and works with student enrollment. Adrienne supports all the functions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Ms. Perry notes that flexibility and patience are characteristics that must be exhibited by these young women every

day as they multi-task to meet the varying needs of staff and parents, telephone calls, e-mails, looming deadlines and grant requirements. She said, "One thing I learned long ago was that a good secretary is worth his/her weight in gold. And in today's gold market that says a lot!" She added that the secretaries in SAC demonstrate daily dedication to their responsibilities. Board members commended Ms. Myers, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Castillo and Ms. Jones for reminding us what teamwork can truly accomplish.

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

5. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Arlington Elementary School**

Shelley Vitols, Principal, and teachers/case managers Terri Whiteman, Betsie Thickston and Lillian Waicukauski for sharing an informative report about Arlington's Instructional Consultation Teams (ICT). They explained and demonstrated how that in conjunction with Response to Intervention (RTI) the case managers collaborate with teachers to develop specific plans for students who are not responding to small group intervention. They plan to move forward with small group as well as one-on-one instruction (when needed) for the entire student body. The goal is to increase, enhance and improve student and staff performance.

6. **FOR INFORMATION: Gold Star Counseling Award – BHSN and BHSS Counselors**

Janet Stake and Gregory Chaffin, Counseling Department Chairs at BHS South and BHS North, respectively, explained that for Indiana school counseling programs to achieve the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award from the Department of Education they must show that they are meeting all of Indiana's counseling program standards. They commended their counselor colleagues, teachers, parents, administrators, students and community representatives for their work on an advisory committee that helped work through this 9-step self-study process. This resulted in an action plan for both high schools. Having received the Indiana Gold Star Award, both schools are now applying for the RAMP (Recognized American School Counseling Model Program) Award, a national recognition of outstanding counseling departments.

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

Executive Director Tina Peterson announced that the Foundation awarded \$30,000 in high impact grants this fall. One for a student leadership program at Clear Creek, one for the third installment of training in the AVID program at BHS South (includes collaboration with Batchelor), and the third to send middle school teachers and administrators to the National Conference in November. She said some 1200 requests for donor support have been sent to loyal contributors in the last few weeks and invitations have been mailed for the Foundation's big New Year's Eve Fundraiser: Reading, Writing and Rhythm. This is an optional black tie event that will include a silent auction and a raffle for a \$1,000 gift certificate donated by Gold Castors. Ms. Peterson shared contact information for more information or to request an invitation and said the Foundation hopes to raise \$40,000 this New Year's Eve. Proceeds from the event will be used to support grant projects in all MCCSC schools.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Coopman congratulated BHS North and BHS South counselors for receiving the Gold Star Counselor Award. He noted that not many schools would go through the rigorous process to earn this award in that it allows those individuals to expose themselves and look at their weaknesses and fill the gaps. He commended counselors for taking that step and for now working toward national recognition.

Dr. Coopman said Indiana superintendents recently received information from the Indiana Department of

Education (IDOE) that refers to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the *Race to the Top* grant that the State of Indiana will be applying for through the federal Department of Education. He said he forwarded the 'Model Participating LEA MOU' to principals and Board members for feedback. He said the MOU has to be signed by both the superintendent and the teachers' union president and a member of IDOE.

Dr. Coopman said this is a vague document and broad interpretations could be made; however, if the school system does not agree to these tenets the state and/or federal DOE can stop funding or come back and ask for reimbursement. He referred to some of the specific tenets school system's would agree to and said that although we must give assurance that we are familiar with and committed to working on the state's *Race to the Top* plan, at this time we do not know what the plan will look like. He said many questions are unanswered at this time but he wanted to bring it to the public's attention.

Board members agreed with Dr. Coopman's assessment of this model Memorandum of Understanding. Obviously, more information must be made available for school systems to be able to sign this agreement.

As a part of the budget and negotiations process, Dr. Coopman stated that we find ourselves with less money than in 2009. He mentioned that the state now controls General Fund (GF) budgets and if they cannot afford to pay, they will not pay. Personnel and benefits comprise 91% of the GF budget. He advised that with less money and a substantial increase in insurance premiums, we will have to reduce staff in the spring. He said we will do the best we can to eliminate as few people and programs as possible.

#### 9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of previous meetings on November 3, November 17, November 19 and November 24, 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. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

#### 10. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as proposed, including: (a) Educational Services Company; (b) AdTec Administrative & Technical Consulting, Inc.; (c) Solution Tree for Intervention Workshop; (d) Solution Tree contract for speaker on August 16, 2010; (e) Ice Miller LLP Engagement Letter for Bond Counsel; and (f) Change Orders. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Mr. Muehling thanked Solution Tree for their support of education nationwide and especially here in Bloomington. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve contracts as proposed. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

#### 11. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve personnel matters as proposed. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

#### 12. **CREATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERN, SET TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND**

**AUTHORIZE FILLING THE POSITION**

Mr. Thrasher recommended that the Board create the position of School Psychologist Intern and set terms and conditions of employment as proposed. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

**13. APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICY 8540 – FOOD AND BEVERAGE VENDING MACHINES**

Revisions to Policy 8540 were discussed at the Board meeting on November 17. Ms. Staab reviewed those revisions and a change in title as she recommended approval. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

**14. APPROVE CONTRACT TRANSFER FOR BUS ROUTE 125**

Mr. Scherer recommended that the Board approve the transfer of contract bus route 125 from Polly Shields to Edith King. Ms. Merriam so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

**15. AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE INDIANA BOND BANK'S 2010 ADVANCE FUNDING PROGRAM**

Mr. Thrasher recommended that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing participation in the Indiana Bond Bank's Advance Funding Program during 2010. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Mr. Thrasher reviewed the resolution and responded to questions. Board members voted on the motion to adopt the resolution. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

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

Board members welcomed Mr. Klein to the Board.

Ms. Streiff said she asked if we save money in one place could we use it in an area where we were in trouble and the answer was no. She said most difficult for her to understand is how little control we really have over the budget and spending.

Ms. Merriam announced the community meeting on Artful Learning will be held at Fairview at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8. She also noted that the Fairview violinists will be performing at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7.

Commending Ms. Stake and Mr. Chaffin, Ms. Merriam noted that this is a very hard working committee. As a member of the committee, she shared some insight into their incredible efforts. Ms. Wanzer agreed that the Gold Star Award demonstrates the critical work of our counseling staff. She said she is fearful that people in the community will say RIF (reduction-in-force) counselors and social workers when they and what they do are so important.

Ms. Wanzer said she supports the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) but she does think that we play

an important role here and in the state. She thanked Andy Graham and *The Herald-Times* for publishing the article on insurance. She thanked the administration for working to try to find solutions. She said we insure too many people so the costs are higher.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she has never been prouder of our Board and community in support of our schools. She said they really do understand that the State Department is trying to destroy public education. She said we have to stay strong and this will pass; these people will eventually not be in their positions. She suggested that we have to stay creative and talk to people. She added that other states are suffering too in the same way. Dr. Sabo-Skelton said she is proud that the Board sent a letter to other School Boards and she would like for us to continue that line of communication with the Department of Education. She concluded by reiterating that we should continue to talk to people.

Dr. Butler said it was nice to see BHS North and BHS South come together to talk about common needs and goals but at the same time have a separate set of goals. She expressed congratulations to all counselors, noting we are all here to help kids.

Dr. Butler reminded Board members to complete Conflict of Interest statements. She said that she and Dr. Coopman met and came up with a list of work session topics. She said a couple of items may be added regarding ways to save money.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Jeannine Butler, President

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Valerie Merriam, Vice President

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Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

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Keith Klein, Member

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member