

Monroe County Community School Corporation
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session – December 15, 2009

MEMORANDA

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in work session at 6:20 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2009, at Bloomington High School South, which is located at 1965 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Jeannine Butler, Keith Klein, Valerie Merriam, Jim Muehling, Lois Sabo-Skelton, Vicki Streiff and Sue Wanzer

Also present: John T. Coopman, Superintendent, and Janet Tupper, Administrative Assistant.

1. **Explore Agenda Items and Configuration and Calendar of Meetings** – Board members discussed options for dates for regular meetings, i.e. first and third Tuesdays as in the past, meeting on Mondays or other nights, etc. Board members also talked about the possibility of holding one regular meeting per month and schedule a second meeting for work sessions and to receive information reports.

Consensus: Board members tentatively agreed to continue two regular meetings per month but to schedule them for the second and fourth Tuesdays. Special meetings, work sessions and executive sessions will be scheduled as needed. Additionally, Board members agreed that insofar as possible they will hold Tuesday evenings open for School Board meetings, trying to avoid meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

Since the first meeting in January 2010 is on January 5, the Board also agreed to meet in executive session on Tuesday, January 12 to receive a report from Dr. Coopman regarding his first six months as Superintendent. This will serve as an interim evaluation for his first year with the school system.

2. **Board Member Attendance at Professional Meetings** – Because of the financial situation, Ms. Merriam asked the Board to consider setting a work session time to talk about Board member attendance at professional meetings, i.e. how do other school corporations budget for Board travel, registration fees and the accounting of money spent for professional development for Board members. There is a line item in the Budget for Board travel (\$6,520); however, Dr. Coopman noted that he believes the usual amount would be about \$1,600 per Board member (\$11,200 total). He added that it is expensive to attend state and national conferences.
3. **Other Comments** – Mr. Klein said that the Governor announced this afternoon a 3% reduction (\$300 million) to fund K-12 schools, commenting that the reduction should not affect classrooms. Dr. Butler noted that he says only 60% of school budgets go for instruction – 91% of the MCCSC general fund is allocated for personnel expenses. The Governor's estimate does not include principal salaries, social workers, media specialists, etc. Mr. Klein added that the Governor said he does not want cuts to reach the classroom and wants to avoid future teacher lay-offs.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

Keith Klein, Member

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member