

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, February 2, 2010**

**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, February 2, 2010, 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	Assistant Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board member absent:

Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
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Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, MCCS Foundation
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 25 citizens 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 Angela Osborne who was honored for setting a caring and positive tone for Summit Elementary School. She was nominated by her principal, Doug Waltz. Angie will celebrate 10 years with the MCCSC in May. She started as a front office assistant at Highland Park and accepted the lead secretarial position at Summit when the new school opened in 2005. In his nomination, Mr. Waltz said choosing a secretary that would embrace and genuinely care for students and families was his most important task when opening a new school that combined two different schools with a new staff. He said he never regretted the decision to make Angie Osborne that person in that she has exceeded his expectations and is extremely competent when juggling the demands of an elementary school. He said, "More importantly, she is the 'optimum extension' of how I believe all people should be greeted and served." Mr. Waltz commended Ms. Osborne for her personal and professional skills and said in addition to her efficient manner, she always has a reassuring smile. He said her positive attitude is contagious and permeates all she touches, noting that she "is an exemplary person that serves all of the Summit

Elementary community.” Board members recognized and thanked Ms. Osborne for her dedication and for the positive difference she makes as one of Summit’s Stars.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Daria Smith, teacher and Fine Arts Department Chair at Bloomington High School North, spoke about the value of fine arts across the curriculum for the school system. She said she did not envy those who had to decide what to cut because of the budget shortfall but expressed hope that visual and performing arts will not be severely cut. She said all students benefit from exposure to the arts and she applauded implementation of the learning arts program at Fairview.

Kevin Pilgrim, parent, supported Ms. Smith’s comments. He also noted that more than 400 students participate in the orchestra program in grades 5 through 12 and the program has the equivalent of three instructors. He mentioned that students do not have to try out for orchestra and some have become internationally recognized musicians. He said music and academic achievement go hand in hand.

Francesca Sobrer, Director of the Theatre Program at Bloomington High School North who is on sabbatical this year, said the heart of Bloomington is education and the arts and both are taking a severe blow. She said the arts are traditionally the first to go and she hopes we can think of creative choices; she believes the community can help. She also noted that if computer support is cut and aides are removed from the library, she does not know what she will do. She said she would give up her stipend to keep her program. Ms. Sobrer said if we start to make these hard cuts she would suggest that we create a volunteer coordinator. She said if this is just the beginning then perhaps we need to call together a task force to allow all parties to address emergencies before they come up.

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Grandview Elementary School**

Principal Lily Albright shared an informative report about Grandview’s efforts to ‘leave no stone unturned and no child left behind.’ She said the faculty read the book The Kids Left Behind and began work on eight priority recommendations: (1) ensure effective district and school leadership; (2) engage parents, communities and schools to work as partners; (3) understand and hold high expectations for poor and culturally diverse students; (4) target low-performing students and schools, particularly in reading; (5) align, monitor and manage the curriculum; (6) Create a culture of assessment and data literacy; (7) build and sustain instructional capacity; and (8) reorganize time, space and transitions. Ms. Albright explained how the school community is working together for wonderful results. Grandview faculty members present expressed their excitement and commended Ms. Albright and John Hudson (assistant principal) for their superlative leadership.

5. **FOR INFORMATION: One Book Program**

Kathy Loser, BHS North media specialist, presented each Board member with a copy of Michael Chabon’s The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, this year’s One Book One Bloomington choice. She serves on the steering committee of ‘One Book One Bloomington’ and said the idea is to have discussion of a single book in the community – to share conversation and ideas. Since there is no funding for library books this year, Board members will return the books to Ms. Loser when they have read them. Referring to upcoming mandated budget cuts, she urged the Board to reserve library funding for schools.

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

Executive Director Tina Peterson announced that the Foundation will host a community conversation

about the crisis in school funding. The event will take place on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the BHS North auditorium. Superintendent J.T. Coopman will explain the current financial situation and discuss the impact budget cuts will have on educators and students. *Herald-Times* Editor Bob Zaltsberg will moderate a panel discussion about the role of the community and state in responding to the budget shortfall. Panelists will include Senator Vi Simpson, Representative Peggy Welch, Mayor Mark Kruzan, Patrick Stoffers of the County Commissioners, and Ron Walker from the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Peterson invited everyone to attend and noted that childcare will be provided. In other news, she said 30 grant applications were received this week and the date for the Great Grown Up Spelling Bee has been set for September 3 at the Buskirk Chumley Theatre.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent J.T. Coopman noted that Tina Peterson will be president of the State Directors of School Foundations next year – an honor for her and for MCCSC. He said she has been lobbying for a bill to get donations to be tax deductible and although a cumbersome process, it is now in committee and was open for a hearing. He commended Ms. Peterson for her work and for the Foundation's support. Dr. Coopman applauded Grandview administrators, faculty and staff for their commitment to implementing positive changes. He agreed that Bob Barr's book (*The Kids Left Behind*) is an excellent resource for making changes.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of previous meetings on January 5 and January 19, 2010; (b) donations and ECA expenditures; (c) Financial Report; (d) Appropriation Balance Report and (e) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as proposed, including: (a) Inter-State Studio and Arlington Elementary; (b) KJS Enterprise and Lakeview Elementary; (c) Tracy Hamilton Inc. and BHS South Softball; (d) Change Orders for Fairview and Hoosier Hills Career Center; (e) Change Orders for Binford-Rogers; (f) Quality Inn & Suites for a Seminar; (g) Matrix Integration for Network and VOIP; (h) Gaggle Net, Inc. for Student E-Mail Service; and (i) Indiana Paging Network. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers expressed thanks to Sandra Bauer who will retire at the end of this school year. She said Ms. Bauer began teaching at Grandview in 1997 and is completing her 12<sup>th</sup> year – first as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and currently teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. She recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Ms. Merriam so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **CLASS SIZE RATIOS**

Ms. Chambers noted that Board members had previously received copies of each school's Staffing Needs Study and copies were included with the agenda for this meeting. She said the Board is required to set class size ratios so that staffing decisions can be finalized for the coming school year. She explained that the staffing process is based on enrollment projections, students' registration responses, program needs and funding considerations. She added that legal notification timelines required in the formal due process

procedures begin not later than March 1 and any recommendations concerning notification of certificated personnel for reductions-in-force will be made to the Board at the meeting on April 27. Noting that class size ratios are averages, not caps, the following class size ratios were recommended for approval for the 2010-2011 school year:

<b><u>Elementary</u></b> *	Kindergarten (half & full time)	= 1:22
	Grade 1	= 1:24
	Grades 2 & 3	= 1:25
	Grades 4, 5 & 6	= 1:30
<b><u>Secondary</u></b>	Grades 7 & 8	=1:30
	Grades 9-12: BHSN	=1:32
	Grades 9-12: BHSS	=1:32
	Grades 9-12: Aurora	=1:15
	Grades 9-12: New Tech	=1:28

\*Fairview is an exception with kindergarten and grade 1 at a 1:19 ratio and grades 2-6 at a 1:22 ratio. The ratio will be considered a part of the Fairview restructuring plan.

Mr. Klein moved approval of class size ratios for 2010-2011 as recommended. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Although not happy to increase class size ratios, as a result of state funding shortfalls in the General Fund Board members recognized the need for making cuts in all areas of the budget.

Dr. Coopman said the 1:32 ratio at the high schools did not get high schools to the number needed in light of the budget situation. He said principals wanted him to give a number so programs would not be eliminated; they agreed it gives them flexibility they need for programs. Mr. Muehling said if there are 96 students, they would receive three teachers but some class may have 46 students while another has 20 or so. Dr. Coopman said in some cases we are still under the state average and we try to keep class size ratios low but also meet some of our financial obligation. He said we have no idea where we will be in 2011 and 2012 but he expects to have these conversations again.

Board members voted on the motion to approve class size ratios as recommended. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **FOR INFORMATION: Evaluation of Support Staff – Policy 4220**

Ms. Chambers explained that only the guidelines and form were changed for evaluation of support staff and were shared with the Board for information.

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

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

Ms. Wanzer thanked principals, faculty, staff, parents and students who attended the meeting. She said in light of the financial crisis, it is nice to be reminded of how great our schools are. She said although it is difficult to talk about budget decisions, it is encouraging to have students express an interest.

Ms. Merriam reported that the Insurance Committee met and received initial bids for a clinic; three will be interviewed. She said she appreciated the comments received and noted that additional information will be added to the home page of our website. She said comments received on the website have included

very thoughtful ideas including some the Board is not legally allowed to pursue. She recommended that people contact the Governor. She said she does not know what it will take to use 'rainy day' funds but perhaps numerous contacts will help.

Ms. Streiff expressed thanks for the positive comments the Board received at this meeting. She said as we talk about budget cuts it makes her sad; she said we can contact those we vote into office and she urged community involvement by contacting Governor Mitch Daniels and State Superintendent for Instruction Tony Bennett.

Mr. Muehling said he was encouraged to see the efforts of the staff at Grandview and at other schools. He said it is also frustrating to deal with budget cuts but we have to play the hand we are dealt. He hopes we can get things done. He also thanked Tina Peterson and the MCCS Foundation because it is critical that we get private support for public education.

Mr. Klein said he moderated the Third House meeting last week and each Legislator made a point to say they received an inordinate number of contacts after Dr. Coopman spoke to the faculty and staff of this school system. He said he is afraid that the dye has been cast but he noted there is an election coming up and he urged everyone to come to the meeting on February 17 and participate in conversation. He said there are a lot of 'ducks' in this administration and they are trying to mitigate what we will be facing. He said it is about to hit here in real terms and it is important that taxpayers speak up and be heard about what they want. Mr. Klein added that it is important to insist on local control of our schools.

Dr. Butler echoed Mr. Muehling's comments. She said this financial problem is not new; in the late 1970s many lost jobs, including her, and the school system bounced back. She said this is another time but she knows the professional staff we have will dig in and do the best they can for our kids and that is all we can ask. Dr. Butler said she read every comment that was submitted to our website and tried to contact people who asked to be contacted. She said she will answer the others – although she may not be able to give answers she will acknowledge comments and explain suggestions have been taken into consideration. She expressed appreciation for everyone's comments and patience.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:35 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, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member