

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session, April 5, 2010

MEMORANDA

The Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation met in work session, for which proper notice had been given, at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2010, at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, 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; Tim Thrasher, Comptroller; Tina Peterson, Executive Director of MCCC Foundation; Sandy Steele, UniServ Director; Linda Richardson, MCEA President; Norma Owens, AFSCME Officer; Paul Farmer, Teacher and Parent; Rita Knox, Teacher and Parent; and Andy Graham, Reporter for *The Herald-Times*. Also in attendance were presenters: Don Lifto of Springsted Incorporated; Brad Senden of the Center for Community Opinion; and Jim Shanahan and James Shanahan representing Shanahan & Shanahan.

Planning for a Referendum

In preparation for planning for a referendum, the Board reviewed a power point presentations regarding “School Finance Elections: A Comprehensive Planning Model for Success” and “Operating a Referendum”. Following the presentations Board members discussed procedures as well as how and when to proceed with a referendum to help offset budget shortfalls the school system is experiencing. A copy of each presentation is included with the record of this meeting and is available via a link from the home page of the school system website: www.mccsc.edu

In response to a request and in conjunction with community efforts to “Save Our Schools” Board members discussed their availability to attend a rally planned for April 10. Although most Board members cannot attend, they agreed to provide a statement for Ms. Merriam to share at the rally. A copy of that statement is included with and made a part of the notes from this meeting.

The work session adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Vicki Streiff, Secretary

Keith Klein, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Sue Wanzer, Member

SOS Rally – April 10, 2010 [Reference: April 5, 2010 Work Session]

The Mccsc Board of School Trustees and administration would like to thank all of you for your participation in today's Rally to Support our Schools. We would to recognize the efforts of Eric Knox and Duane Busick specifically for the organization of today's events.

It is indeed unfortunate that MCCSC and most other public schools in Indiana and throughout the country are finding themselves in dire financial circumstances through no fault of their own that will require the efforts of local communities to step in and mitigate the circumstances of a sour economy that has left states unable to meet their financial obligations to fund the public schools in their respective states. However, we are so fortunate to have a community that values their public schools and they are willing to take the courageous steps forward to see that our schools are properly funded through grass roots efforts such as today's rally.

As a school board and administration, we are charged with providing quality educational programs to meet the unique needs for all our students and we are willing to join hands with our community to see that we are meeting our responsibilities today and in the future. We must make sure everyone understands that the students of today are our future.

With that said, we must plan carefully and communicate our message clearly so everyone understands that our future is at a cross roads and if we don't plan effectively and have a vision of what we intend for our students and our future, public education will be doomed as will the future for many. We are assembling a group of individuals from the school corporation and community to work with a facilitator who will assist us carefully crafting an educational road map to the future in MCCSC. What are the programs we as a community value and what can we afford to provide? What are the programs we see and value, but cannot afford? These programs will be prioritized and the outliers and the programs we see as valuable but cannot afford will become the baseline for how we can support and communicate an operational referendum in our community. How much will it cost? How long will we plan for referendum to support it? There are several questions that will require time and effort to answer.

We can wring our hands and lament what has happened, or we can see this as an opportunity to look back at what we had, as well as a great opportunity to look into the future and craft something we never had that could be even better. We are opting to look forward and see great promise for the future in MCCSC.

It takes time and a very deliberate effort to effectively craft a long-term plan for the future, but, if done well, it is worth the wait. It also takes time and a great deal of planning for a successful referendum campaign; however, the long range plan must come first so we can communicate with our public that we have done our due diligence and we are not satisfied with the status quo. The public will not support more of the same and you should not either. If we are to move forward, we must be forward looking.

As a board of school trustees and administration, we are fully supportive of a public referendum, but much work must be done before we can put it on the ballot and expect community support with their tax dollars. Could it be in November? Possibly. Could it be in May 2011? Possibly. Could we host a special election? Possibly. At this point in time, there are still some unknowns. We will hope you will join us in this journey of exploration help find the right answers that in turn will direct us and move MCCSC into the future.

Thanks for a great rally today and thanks for supporting MCCSC today and in the future.