

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Work Session, April 15, 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 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2010, at the Abel Building Room 3, 1800 S. Henderson St, 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; Sandy Steele, UniServ Director; Linda Richardson, MCEA President; Randy Tackett, AFSCME Officer; Norma Owens, AFSCME Officer; Rita Knox, Teacher and Parent; Terry Daugherty, Technology Coordinator; and Andy Graham, Reporter for *The Herald-Times*.

Referendum

Dr. Coopman began the discussion with comments on the productive meetings with Dr. Lifto and Dr. Senden and pointed out the need for a demographic study that will help us target certain voting groups and help us determine how we distribute information. He reiterated the need for a carefully crafted message and the need to ascertain what that message is; the need for a school and community wide committee to help make the determinations of what our school wide program priorities are presently; the role Mr. Thrasher will play in indicating the affordability of those programs and what programs that we could look at by way of a referendum. We will develop a PAC and will need to raise \$100,000.00 minimum for PAC expenses.

Board members agreed that it is important that we begin immediately speaking with one voice, encouraging our allies to work together with us and recognizing that there is a lot of work to be done. We are not trying to take back all of the decrease on property taxes that people have received. The plan is to put a property tax calculator on our website to assist the public in determining what the referendum request will be. We need to be clear on the consequences if we do not get the funding we need through the referendum.

Consensus – The Board agreed to move ahead with contracts for the professionals for the demographic study, legal consultants, referendum consultants and the facilitator (RFP deadline 4/21/10) and Dr. Coopman should begin to form a school and community committee and plan to make reports on the progress.

Communication with the public

If a Board member wishes to speak with any employee of the corporation regarding administrative questions, s/he should contact the Superintendent first. The President of the Board of School Trustees speaks publicly for the Board, so that Board members are speaking as one voice.

Board Retreat:

Dr. Coopman will schedule a date for Dr. Ron Barnes, retired Superintendent and recently retired from Indiana University Educational Leadership, to work with the Board during the morning of an all-day retreat. Also, Joyce Fulford, NCA, will be scheduled for the afternoon.

The work session adjourned at 8:00 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