

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, April 27, 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, April 27, 2010, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Jeannine Butler	President
Valerie Merriam	Vice President
Vicki Streiff	Secretary
Keith Klein	Assistant Secretary
Jim Muehling	Member
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Personnel
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Linda Richardson	President, MCEA
Sandy Steele	UniServ Director
Randy Tackett	AFSCME Officer
Norma Owens	AFSCME Officer
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 120 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 7:00 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Milton Fisk, representing Jobs With Justice, spoke in support of including a referendum on the May ballot.

Duane Busick, representing himself, spoke regarding fundraising to save programs. He said over \$17,000 of the \$40,000 needed to save the Bradford Woods outdoor education program has been raised in eleven days and made a plea to save Honey Creek School and the librarians.

Melissa Hinkle, president of the Summit Elementary PTO, spoke in support of identifying the type of help we will have in the libraries, if not librarians, then aides and what training they will receive.

Hannah Bolte, parent of two children attending University Elementary School, expressed support for librarians and questioned why the meeting wasn't moved to a larger location to accommodate the crowd.

Jack Kahn, citizen, stated he is willing to pay more taxes and is willing to work to help Monroe County children get a qualified education.

Marilyn Kindred, teacher at Highland Park, voiced her support for keeping the media specialists and stated that their loss impacts our children directly.

Joann Hahn, Lunchroom/Playground Supervisor at Summit, questioned why administrator contracts were

renewed even though property tax funding had changed.

3. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Summit Elementary School**

Principal Doug Waltz introduced three of the first year programs he had chosen to showcase: Instructional Consultation teams which is facilitated by Mara-Lea Rosenbarger with additional comments from Carolyn Ambrose, Andrea Livingston, Tammy Klein, and Gretchen Morgan; the ESL program presented by Haley Piper; and presentation of a video of the STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research) program by Melinda Bunger who uses the program in her classroom.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Coopman thanked Mr. Waltz and those from Summit Elementary for their presentation and read the following statement into the record:

Tonight marks a sad night for MCCSC and for the future of our children with the reduction of 73 certified teaching positions. I want to apologize to these professional educators who have committed themselves to serving our children in public schools, and I want to apologize to the children who have benefited from these educators and developed relationships with them. This is not what should be happening in school districts across the state of Indiana and the country, but the reality is that it is happening. The reality is also that it is just beginning due to the financial crisis sweeping across the state and the nation. The future of our children is in jeopardy because states do not have the revenue to properly fund public education and school districts have little if any recourse other than reducing staff to meet financial obligations and balance budgets.

However, MCCSC is looking forward and planning so as to avert future events that could include additional revenue reductions and staff reductions. We are looking forward to what we want by way of educational opportunities in the future for MCCSC. We have no choice! We will recommend approving processes tonight for engaging our professional teaching staff and community in developing program priorities for our future. This group will determine what the schools and community value as educational priorities that the school district revenues will support as well as educational opportunities that they value and would like to see in place but outside available revenue.

Those that are valued but not supported by the state revenue could become the basis for a referendum. We will contract with a firm that will provide guidance to us for a successful referendum campaign. This process is scientific and political, so it must be carefully constructed if we expect our taxpayers to understand it and support it.

We will also conduct a demographic study to determine our future enrollments and location of our student populations, so we can properly plan future budgets based on this scientific projection. Concise enrollment projections allow for more concise budget planning since we are funded with dollars per child enrolled by the state of Indiana. We need to be as accurate as possible due to the reduced revenues appropriated by the state for public schools.

The Board of School Trustees should be commended for the courageous position they have had to take that is contrary to every fiber in their bodies as to why they serve on this Board. They did not agree to serve on this Board to dismantle programs and see everything they have worked so hard to build destroyed in a matter of months. However, they are willing to put avenues and processes in place that will establish a positive direction for the future of the school district with the aforementioned procedures. They are not sitting idly by or sitting on their hands. They are being proactive and forward looking with the planning they are proposing to do in the next few months.

However, they cannot do it alone. They need all members of MCCSC to rally behind their cause and they need the support of all constituents in Monroe County to ensure the future educational opportunities for generations of children presently enrolled and those waiting in the wings. Now is not the time to be divisive or casting aspersions. Now is the time to come together for the benefit of the children we serve now and in the future. It is a critical time in the history of this school district and it should matter to all of us what that history will look like in five and ten years. It is up to this school district and community to decide what it wants for its future.

5. **Motion to move the Cancellation and Non-renewal of Teacher Contracts (RIF) to the Top of the Agenda**

In response to Dr. Butler's question, Mr. Muehling moved to re-order the agenda and consider the cancellation and non-renewal of teacher contracts (RIF) at this time. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

6. **Cancellation and Non-renewal of Teacher Contracts (Reduction-in-Force)**

Ms. Chambers explained the reduction-in-force process and presented the list of contract cancellations and non-renewals and recommended the approval of the request for Cancellation and Non-renewal of Teacher Contracts (Reduction-in-Force) as presented. Dr. Butler called for the motion to approve the request for Cancellation and Non-renewal of Teacher Contracts (Reduction-in-Force) as presented by Ms. Chambers. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Following Board member comments, Dr. Butler thanked Ms. Chambers for all of her time and care in this process.

The following made public comments:

Sandy Steele	UniServ Director
Greg Chaffin	BHSN Counselor
Kris McGlaun	Jackson Creek Media Specialist
Eric Knox	Parent
Kim Sackmann	Parent and PTO President
Jenny Stevens	Parent

Following additional comments from the Board, Aye: Butler, Klein, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Nay: Merriam. Motion carried.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) donations, ECA expenditures, field trip requests and (b) Allowance of Claims. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts: (a) Inter-State Studio and Childs Elementary School; (b) Change Orders for Building Projects; (c) Springsted Incorporated for Referendum Planning Services; (d) Shanahan & Shanahan to Assist in Planning for and Implementing Operating Fund Referendum; (e) Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. for Demographic Analysis; and (f) MGT of America, Inc. for Facilitation Services. Mr. Thrasher indicated our intention is to mount fund-raising efforts to pay for the

four referendum-related contracts. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Following comments from the Board and the Superintendent, the following members of the public spoke:

Kim Sackmann Parent and PTO President
Duane Busick Citizen

Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff. Nay: Wanzer. Motion carried.

In response to Dr. Butler's suggestion, Mr. Thrasher clarified some of the misconceptions that the public has about the dollar amounts that are being discussed.

8. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **AWARD CONTRACT FOR OFFICE RENOVATION AT LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY**

Mr. Muehling moved to accept the award of the contract for office renovation and Ms. Merriam seconded. Mr. Scherer indicated this is more of a formal quote and that a purchase order would be issued to Dillard and Dillard to improve security and visibility at Lakeview Elementary School. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **AWARD CONTRACT TO FOX CONSTRUCTION FOR PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT AT BHS NORTH**

Mr. Muehling moved to accept the award of the contract to Fox Construction for parking lot improvement at BHS North and Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Mr. Scherer stated these improvements are for the band practice area. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **APPROVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Ms. Streiff moved to approve the request for proposal and Mr. Klein seconded. Mr. Scherer indicated that changes discussed with AFSCME representatives have been made. This is not a contract, but an RFP and there will be a committee to evaluate all responses. After Board discussion, Ms. Wanzer moved to amend the RFP to include language honoring domestic partnership benefits language. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

The following individuals shared comments:

Randy Tackett AFSCME Officer
Norma Owens AFSCME Officer
Eric Knox Parent
Kim Sackmann Parent and PTO President

In response to questions, Mr. Thrasher and Mr. Scherer indicated that those custodians with 8.5 years of PERF service will be kept as MCCSC employees until they are vested with PERF at ten years of service. Ms. Streiff moved to approve the request for proposal and Mr. Klein seconded the motion. Aye: Butler,

Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Daria Smith, BHSN Fine Arts Department Chair, invited everyone to the Evening With The Arts at BHSN on May 11th. Ms. Merriam congratulated Ms. Smith on receiving the Summer Lilly Fellowship Award to study mosaics in Turkey and Italy.

Ross Grimes, University Elementary School PTO Co-President, spoke regarding the amount of misinformation in the community and his desire to educate the community, slow down and get the referendum right.

Elizabeth Weiss-Jeffries, Highland Park Art Teacher and secretary of MCEA, commented that all teachers in MCCSC are excellent teachers, including those on the RIF list and those who are still here. She said because of our due process, teachers who are 'not excellent' are gone. She is proud to be an MCCSC teacher and an MCEA member.

Randy Tackett, AFSCME officer, suggested that we place a large ad to explain why we are asking for a referendum and ask for comments on what people would do to support a referendum.

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

Dr. Sabo-Skelton had planned to share information regarding the recent National School Boards Association meeting, but will hold it for a future meeting.

Ms. Wanzer thanked everyone who attended the meeting tonight for their comments and their civility. It is time for 'Thank-a-Teacher' from the MCCS foundation for \$15.00. It is a wonderful way to show appreciation to any member of the MCCSC.

Ms. Merriam thanked BHSN for including her and others in the Senior Project Night, which was last night. In 2014 all seniors will have to have a portfolio. Ms. Merriam stated she is sorry that due to conflict with the meeting tonight, they had to miss the MCCS Foundation's "Be More Awards" and the awards dinner for Student Achievement night (comeback kids). She congratulated the BHSN Band and Janis Stockhouse for their national award. She was also surprised that none of the teachers in attendance tonight commented on the problems with the ISTEP computerized testing.

Ms. Streiff was thrilled that her children's elementary was the showcase school tonight. She also thanked Peggy Chambers and Tim Thrasher and commented on how much they are appreciated by the Board.

Mr. Klein praised Jeff Henderson, Marcus Debro, Jessica Willis and Brian Muehlhaus for the great presentation at the BHSN Senior Project Night. He counted over 144 volunteers from the community and mentioned that David Pillar, who is now at Jackson Creek, was instrumental in getting the project started. He told those who were still in the audience that this is the time for us all to work together. We know what the job is and how difficult it is going to be.

Dr. Butler said her intention for moving the RIF report up on the agenda was out of consideration for those people who were here for that reason, so that they would not have to stay until 10:30 pm.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Jeannine Butler, President

Valerie Merriam, Vice President

Victoria I. Streiff, Secretary

Keith Klein, Assistant Secretary

Jim Muehling, Member

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member