MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, April 14, 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 Wednesday, April 14, 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
Tina Peterson Executive Director of the MCCS Foundation
Linda Richardson President, MCEA
Andy Graham Reporter, The Herald-Times

In addition to the above, 23 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

Randy Tackett, custodian at BHS South and President of the local AFSCME union, presented a petition to the Board with over 1,000 signatures asking the Board to reconsider outsourcing custodial services. He said they want to work together on this issue.

David Warrick, Executive Director of AFSCME said the union includes 1.5 million employees throughout the state and over 300,000 are public school employees. He wants to bring someone in to share a presentation on outsourcing; they have people who will prepare a proposal to serve as a contractor.

Norma Owens, local AFSCME officer, said AFSCME would like to submit an RFP as a bidder. She said they have been trying to get their contract extended.

Jay Wallace, chief negotiator for the local AFSCME union, reiterated that they have been trying to finish the contract which has now expired. He said they are asking for an extension of language and dates. He said they want to help the corporation and they have made concessions throughout the contract. He understands the issue is reallocation of funds but said they are trying to do what they can.
3. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: University Elementary School**

University 6th graders used this opportunity to develop and share a student-produced video entitled: Around the School in 15 Minutes. Maya Wilson and Jie-En Wu, students in Erin Cerwinsk’s class, shared a presentation focused on how language arts are taught at University School and how it is applied to the other academic areas. University 5th and 6th graders provided voiceovers for the video. When asked, one student said her favorite thing about University School is the presence of students from around the world and the experiences they share every day and at school festivals.

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

Executive Director Tina Peterson said the Foundation is in the process of selecting recipients for 30 scholarships and awards. She mentioned one that was established some five years ago when L. Jon Wertheim’s wife called to set up a ‘birthday’ scholarship in his honor for a journalism scholarship to be awarded to a BHS North student. A 1989 BHSN graduate, Mr. Wertheim graduated from Yale and is a writer for Sports Illustrated. He will be here on Friday, April 16 and will present this award personally. She mentioned that the Leadership Development Class at Kelley School of Business donated $8,100 from their pie toss fundraiser.

Ms. Peterson noted that the Elementary Strings Program will be receiving $25,400 from the Joshua Bell benefit concert held on April 13. She said the Foundation has another $10,000 donated to support that program and that a fund has also been established for donations to support the Bradford Woods program. Another fundraiser scheduled for September 3rd is the Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee. She anticipates there will be 15 teams of spellers; the cost for a team is $500 with three spellers and seven cheerleaders. Awards will be given to spellers, cheerleaders and also for best costume. This activity will be a fundraiser for New Tech High School and John and Sue West are sponsors for this event. She added that the Foundation is moving forward with a campaign to raise $3,000,000 for literacy and to keep kids in school. She provided the website link for people to receive more information and/or to donate to the Foundation.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent J.T. Coopman expressed thanks to those who had worked hard to prepare the Board Room to be ready for this meeting, including Weddle Brothers, MCCSC Information Services employees and our custodians. He expressed appreciation to Joshua Bell for his generosity in presenting a benefit concert. He congratulated retirees and thanked them for their years of service to the school system. Regarding work toward a referendum, he said workshops have been held with principals, leadership team, community representatives, and with the Board on April 5. Dr. Coopman said it is a political process and takes a great deal of time and money. He hopes to have this ‘off the ground’ in the near future. He explained that the plan is to invite people to join a school/community committee to assist our schools by looking at and setting program priorities that we can support and what programs could be supported with the referendum.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) minutes of previous meetings on March 9, March 23 and April 5, 2010; (b) donations, ECA expenditures, field trip requests, disposal of obsolete books and conflict of interest disclosure statements; (c) Financial Report; (d) Appropriation Balance Report; (e) Allowance of Claims; and (f) Register of Payrolls. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff,
Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher presented contracts as proposed, including: (a) School Datebooks and Batchelor Middle School; (b) Indiana Cosmetology Academy; (c) Elan Financial Services—Prepaid Debit Card Agreement; (d) Northwest Evaluation Association [NWEA]; (e) Challenge Day and Bloomington High School North; (f) Change Orders; and (g) AVID and BHS South—Implementation Agreement for 2010-2011 School year. Mr. Muehling so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers expressed thanks to three administrators, 36 certified staff members and one custodial supervisor who had submitted notices of retirement. She said the three administrators represented 111 years of service, including 73 with MCCSC and read the names of retirees. Board members congratulated these individuals and noted their many years of service to the school system. Ms. Chambers recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Mr. Muehling so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

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

Keith Chapin, professor with the Indiana University Department of Kinesiology, talked about the importance of and encouraged schools to provide additional physical activity for children.

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

Dr. Sabo-Skelton reported on the National School Boards Association meeting she attended recently and shared information she brought for Board members.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Professor Chapin for his comments about the importance of physical education in schools. She also thanked AFSCME officials for their comments and those who organized the rally on Saturday. She said at a future work session she would like to have Board discussion about programs that can be funded via pass-through donations to the MCCS Foundation.

Ms. Merriam reported on an Insurance Committee meeting and thanked Joshua Bell for a marvelous performance and for his support of our schools by presenting this benefit concert. She expressed appreciation to students at different schools for the various fund raisers they are conducting. She said she did not realize that the Honey Creek program is not funded through ECA; therefore, it is a staffing issue and cannot have a ‘pass-through’—by statute we cannot raise money for that position. She shared comments and information about sessions at the O’Bannon Institute recently held at Ivy Tech.

Ms. Streiff understood that there is a possibility that anyone can respond to the RFP and she hopes that AFSCME will submit a proposal.

Mr. Muehling expressed appreciation to Joshua Bell for his performance and to Dean Gwen Richards for arranging this fund raiser. He expressed thanks to retiring teachers, noting that it is terrible to lose this kind of experience. Mentioning that Janet Tupper has worked with many Superintendents and School Boards, he extended thanks to her and said that she and other retirees will be missed. He thanked Dr. Coopman for seeking input and working with so many to plan for a successful referendum. He said he is counting on success because many people value education. Mr. Muehling agreed with Professor Chapin’s
comments, suggesting that our instructional day should be extended to allow for more physical activity for children.

Mr. Klein expressed appreciation for retiring employees – noting that everyone can name a teacher and remember with fondness what he/she did for them. He said the retiring teachers will be missed. He said many people at the NSBA mentioned how lucky we are to have Dr. Coopman’s expertise to lead us, especially during this difficult budget decline. He said Chancellor Whikehart deserves credit for pulling together experts to participate in the O’Bannon Institute. He echoed other Board member comments regarding the accomplishments of our students because of our dedicated teachers and thanked Joshua Bell and the Jacob School of Music for an incredible evening to benefit schools. He said we are all in this together and working together is the only way to achieve success. Mr. Klein said Dr. Coopman and the Board is moving toward what everyone is talking about – in a very deliberate and measured way.

Dr. Butler reiterated what others had said about retirees and the rally on Saturday. She also thanked Dr. Coopman for his hard work to bring information and people together who have expertise in passing a referendum. She mentioned the importance of planning for a successful referendum the first time because if it does not pass we must wait a year to try again. She also voiced delight with the Joshua Bell performance and his generosity to our schools. She said the Fairview Violins will be performing in May and she encouraged all to attend. She said everyone in the school system values custodians and their work is appreciated no less even though it is important to find a different way to fund custodial services.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:45 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

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Jim Muehling, Member

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member