

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, May 25, 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, May 25, 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
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board member absent:

Jim Muehling	Member
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Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Jan Bergeson	Director, Secondary Education
Mike Scherer	Director, Extended Services
Cameron Rains	Director, Elementary Education
Randy Tackett	Officer, AFSCME
Norma Owens	Officer, AFSCME
Linda Richardson	President, MCEA
William J. Carnes	Project Manager, MGT of America
Andy Graham	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, 32 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, AFSCME, asked for an update on the Referendum.

3. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal Tom Richardson presented some of their sixth grade “jewels”: Ana Olavarrieta-Trejo, Julie Park, Xavier Calloway and Billy Sipes spoke regarding their positive experiences at Lakeview. Mr. Richardson then made a brief presentation about Lakeview as a Professional Learning Community. Kari Rickerby, 2nd grade teacher, commented that the put in time before and after school for planning.

4. **For Information: MGT REPORT - PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Dr. William Carnes, Project Director, MGT of America, Inc. gave an overview of the progress to date and reviewed the public charrette (Community Engagement) protocols scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at BHS South and June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at BHS North.

5. **For Information: "DROP-OUT PREVENTION PROGRAM"**

Jan Bergeson gave a progress update on a "Drop-Out Prevention Program" and commented that at some point the program will be renamed by the students. She said they have been looking at research models; she and Chuck Holloway visited the Clark-Pleasant Academy and came back very excited about their program. The program will be moved to the Broadview Learning Center, some instruction will be computer based and initially 60 students will participate. Child care will be offered at free or reduced rate.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Coopman thanked Ms. Bergeson and Mr. Holloway for their work on the continuation of the "Drop-out Prevention Program" and Mr. Richardson and the Lakeview students and staff for their presentation.

He also indicated that the three media specialists have prepared job descriptions and will be overseeing the media clerks that will be working in the district libraries to provide needed services.

Reporting the bed bug problem is being addressed, Dr. Coopman commended our Social Workers, John Carter, Shelley Vitols, Mark Lamb and many others for the work they are doing to established protocols. This past year, Templeton had a 'fruit and veggies' grant, but they no longer qualify because the number of free/reduced lunches has decreased. However, Fairview Elementary has qualified for it for next year.

Dr. Coopman thanked Mike Shipman for preparing for the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and Congressman Baron Hill. He also congratulated Monica Chapin on her involvement in wellness activities incorporated in the physical education program. He congratulated our recent retirees and thanked Bev Smith and all the others involved in the preparation for the Retirement Reception held last week. Dr. Coopman also thanked the Herald-Times staff for the Shining Stars article which high-lighted many outstanding students in our district and the surrounding districts.

Noting that the District Technology Audit has been completed, Dr. Coopman said the results have been shared with Karen Portle and the Information Services Department. He said we have an opportunity to use the findings of the audit to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to utilize the results to strengthen the technology department, develop a strategic plan, as well as the use of personnel. The Technology Audit report will be shared with the Board in June.

Dr. Coopman thanked the BHS South Administration for the tribute to teacher Dennis Shoup who died following a car accident. He truly touched many lives in many special ways in the short time he had as a teacher.

Ms. Wanzer asked that the public be made aware of the removal of Policy 4150 from the agenda. Dr. Butler stated that she asked Dr. Coopman to remove it from consideration until further notice.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Coopman reviewed donations and recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) Donations, ECA Expenditures and Disposal of Obsolete Library Books and (b) Allowance of Claims. Mr. Klein so

moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher stated that on the request of Dr. Kathleen Hugo, the contract for the Monroe County Asset Building Coalition - Alcohol Prevention Grant was removed and will be presented at a later date. Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of the following contracts: (a) # Change Order for the Administration Center, (b) Inter-State Studio & Publishing Company and University; (c) PowerIT for Website Management; (d) Bloomington Hospital Community Health - Safe Routes to School Grant; (d) Pinnacle School and Alyson Gross – Tutoring; (e) Pinnacle School and Megan Miller – Tutoring; (f) Pinnacle School and Rachel Suekoff – Tutoring; (g) Pinnacle School and William Osmon – Tutoring; (h) Pinnacle School and Sasha Land – Tutoring; and (i) Pinnacle School and Sara Epps - Tutoring. Mr. Klein so moved. Ms Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Chambers noted that five teachers are being recalled to part-time positions and recommended approval of personnel matters as presented. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **CARRY-FORWARD OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

Mr. Thrasher explained that the carry-forward of unobligated balances in the Capital Projects Fund is an annual occurrence so that they can be expended in the next year and recommended the adoption of a resolution to carry-forward those 2009 unobligated balances. Ms. Streiff so moved. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE INDIANA BOND BANK'S 2010 MID-YEAR FUNDING PROGRAM**

Mr. Thrasher explained that we have used the Indiana Bond Bank previously to ensure our debt will be covered and to protect our credit rating. Though we anticipate a timely distribution of tax monies, he recommended the adoption of a resolution to authorize participation in the Indiana Bond Bank's 2010 Mid-Year Funding Program. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

12. **DECLARE OUT-OF-DATE TEXTBOOKS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL**

Mr. Thrasher explained that declaration of out-of-date textbooks as surplus property and authorization of disposal is an annual occurrence. We do not have storage space and we usually sell them to used book dealers. He recommended that the Board declare out-of-date textbooks as surplus property and authorize disposal. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

13. **DECLARE LISTED ITEMS AS SURPLUS TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

Mr. Scherer said recommendation for an auction is early this year due to all the remodeling of several of our buildings. He recommended that the Board declare listed items as surplus and be sold at public

auction. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

14. **APPROVE CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSIONS**

Mr. Scherer explained that six bus routes were altered because a portion of old North 37 was closed for two days in April. He recommended that the Board approve contract bus route extensions as noted. Ms. Merriam so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

15. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: MATH [ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL]**

Jan Bergeson stated that a committee looked at the standards and the books and all teachers were asked to look at the books. Jill Hamersley collected the information completed by each teacher. Ms. Bergeson recommended the Textbook Adoption for Math (Elementary, Middle School and High School). Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

16. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: SOCIAL STUDIES – ELEMENTARY**

Mr. Cameron Rains commended the Elementary Social Studies Adoption Committee for the two years they committed to this project and recommended the Textbook Adoption for Elementary Social Studies. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

17. **TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE--WEB ACCESS**

Jan Bergeson indicated that New Tech has used Rosetta Stone for foreign language previously and we wish to adopt it so that the students can be charged the fee for the individual license each year. She recommended the Textbook Adoption for New Tech High School World Language – Web Access. Dr. Sabo-Skelton so moved. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff, Wanzer. Motion carried.

18. **For Information/First Reading: POLICIES 4180 AND 3180 - LIGHT DUTY ASSIGNMENT**

Peggy Chambers presented for first reading a district-wide light-duty policy along with administrative guidelines. The objective of the light duty assignment program is to return MCCSC employees to safe and productive work as soon as medically possible, following an injury or illness.

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

There were no comments from the Public.

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

Dr. Butler noted that a lot of people have asked for information concerning what is going on, why we are hiring people to help us with forming a referendum, what is the process and so forth. She said the School Board asked her to make the following comments:

“First of all, we would like to inform the Public that we did not go “full-steam ahead” with a May referendum because we felt we needed to move cautiously and wisely and make the best case scenario

possible for a successful referendum. If we had done a referendum in May, the first possible payment of additional tax monies would be in May 2011, the same as for a November referendum. Many people thought we should probably strike ‘while the iron was hot’, but we are determined to have a successful referendum and felt we could not put one together so quickly. There was no advantage to a May referendum in terms of when we would get the money. And also, please remember that a successful referendum means we will gain income for the 2011-2012 school year and not for the coming 2010-2011 school year. We have contracted with a facilitation company, MGT, who you have heard from tonight, to work with our community to determine what the community wants as far as the education of our students. We have no doubt one of the main “wants” is to put back programs and bring back teachers, which the loss in revenue from the State of Indiana caused us to eliminate.

Additionally, our Superintendent wants to have our community discuss what kinds of programs the community might want, in addition to bringing back programs. Evaluations of what programs to bring back will require a lot of thought and consideration and we hope the facilitation process will help us with this. We also contracted with Springsted Corporation, specifically Doctors Lifo and Senden, to help lead us through the referendum process. Only one sitting Board member has been a party to a referendum, and that referendum failed – certainly not because of the School Board member. We believe we need to use the expert advice of people who have successfully helped school corporations pass referenda and they are working with us to develop additional surveys of our constituents to determine how supportive the community is for a referendum.

Thirdly, we have contracted with Shanahan and Shanahan, a legal firm that has specialized in ensuring that school systems did everything that was needed and in time to ensure the placing of the referendum on the ballot is done appropriately and with good legal advice.

Lastly, we have contracted with FanningHowey, a firm that will do a demographic study for us. This study has dual purposes: 1) to try to determine future demographics about student enrollment so that we can better plan our budgets for any future possible losses or gains in enrollment, and 2) to help Springsted Corporation determine how certain segments of our community have voted in past elections on issues. That will help Doctors Lifo and Senden determine where we need to put strong support for the referendum, which areas may be ‘on the bubble’, which ones are likely to support the referendum and so forth.

It should be noted that we are forming a political action committee, I think, and Mr. Thrasher is a part of that, and our hope is that money raised through the political action committee will pay for those contracts.

If the Board has seemed to be non-communicative about our intentions and why we are moving cautiously and wisely, then we apologize. We have always strived to be an open board and one that works to keep our constituents apprised of what is happening. If that is not perceived at this time, then we will work to do a better job of communicating with the public. Perhaps that means more articles in the newspaper, perhaps that means more work sessions that the public can attend and hear what is happening, or other means of communication.

As you heard tonight, the community is invited to participate in one or more of four meetings to be held in June - two at Bloomington High School South and two at Bloomington High School North. I would encourage all to attend. Board members will attend as many as possible but we will be there strictly in an observing role. We will not speak nor will we participate in the small group meetings; we are there to hear.

Finally, if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Board or our

Superintendent. Our e-mail addresses are on the website and our telephone numbers are accessible also. If you cannot find them, call 330-7700 and ask the receptionist for the information.

I thank all in this community who are already working to make a referendum successful. From the SOS group, who are at the Saturday market to get people to sign up to walk neighborhoods, to many others who have e-mailed and offered help as needed, we are all in this together and together we can make the referendum a success. Thank you for listening and always being supportive of the students in the MCCSC.”

Mr. Klein thanked Andy Graham and *The Herald-Times* for the Gold and Silver Star stories. He said he enjoyed every single one of them.

Ms. Streiff said she is very excited to see how eagerly Lakeview has adopted the PLC model and is happy that we have found a home for the students from Aurora.

Ms. Merriam voiced appreciation for Dr. Butler’s comments. She has attended several functions honoring students and teachers and she thanked Andy Graham for sharing the positive stories of our students and students from the surrounding area. She reported that she accompanied the Fairview staff to Florida to visit the Midway Elementary School of the Arts, an artful learning community.

Ms. Wanzer said that she was not on the Board in 1999, but the failed referendum was one of the reasons she ran for the Board. She said she met Dennis and Debbie Shoup during the last redistricting and they were very supportive; he will be missed.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton thanked Dr. Butler for her words and said she hopes this clarified for many what the referendum is about. She said we all want the best for every student and teacher in this school system. She commented on how carefully the MGT facilitators are gathering information.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:44 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