

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, September 28, 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, September 28, 2010, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

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

Also present:

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Jan Bergeson	Director, Secondary Education
Cameron Rains	Director, Elementary Education
Mike Scherer	Director, Extended Services
Randy Tackett	Officer, AFSCME
Bethany Nolan	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>
Ben Skirvin	Reporter, WFIU
Drew Wood	Coordinator, Energy Education

In addition to the above, 7 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 HEARING TO ORDER**

2. **HEARING: CLEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND TECHNOLOGY/SECURITY UPDATES IN MULTIPLE SCHOOL BUILDING (THE "PROJECT")**

Mr. Thrasher gave a brief explanation regarding the funding request.

Mr. Scherer commented on how we competed for these funds which are taxable bonds.

There were no comments from the public and following comments from the Board, Dr. Butler called for the motion to adjourn the hearing. Valerie Merriam so moved and Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded.

3. **ADJOURN HEARING**

The hearing was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

4. **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Butler called the Board meeting to order at 7:10 pm and the Board agreed to reorder and combine items on the agenda.

FOR ACTION

5. APPROVAL OF CLEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND TECHNOLOGY/SECURITY UPDATES IN MULTIPLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS (THE "PROJECT"); APPROVAL OF THE DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES; APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION REAPPROVING THE BUILDING CORPORATION AND APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY PLANS, FORM OF THE LEASE AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF LEASE HEARING

Ms. Wanzer moved to approve Action items 5-8 as one. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Mr. Thrasher presented the recommendation and defined the educational purpose (it is already a school); the estimated cost of construction (the building is already there), including the cost of land (we already own the land); and other pertinent information (security systems for Clear Creek and other buildings), including the estimated impact on the tax rate and the proposed sources of the funding.

Following comments from the Board, the vote was taken on the recommendation to approve the resolutions to approve the updates to Clear Creek Elementary School and technology updates in multiple school buildings (the "Project"), the declaration of official intent to reimburse expenditures, the resolution reapproving the building corporation, and the resolution approving preliminary plans, the form of the lease and publication of notice of the lease hearing on October 26th.

Following comments from the Board the vote was taken on the recommendation to approve Action items 8-11. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Dr. Butler clarified that this time is set aside for members of the Public to ask questions.

Susie Jones, MCCSC Teacher and parent of 7th grader, made a plea for a more consistent grading scale in all schools in the MCCSC. Dr. Butler referred her concerns to Dr. Coopman and he will follow up with the curriculum department and will get back to Ms. Jones.

Randy Tackett, President of AFSCME local 3995, reported that he had the opportunity to speak with the Monroe County Prosecutor, Chris Gaal, who said he is willing to write an article for the referendum and thanked Dr. Coopman for the article he wrote for the paper.

7. FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: ENERGY EDUCATION – DREW WOOD

Drew Wood reported on the savings since December 2009 and currently we have reduced our energy use by approximately 41%. The savings from December 2009 through July 2010 is approximately \$628,000.

8. FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Coopman credited Drew Wood for the good work he has done with the Energy Education program. Also, he thanked Mike Scherer for his ongoing work in looking for better ways to save the Corporation dollars.

The unofficial enrollment shows that we are up 28-32 students for this school year.

Dr. Coopman shared the following "Good News":

Arlington Heights Elementary has implemented some student leadership groups. Some of these groups include peer mediators, Jr. Café Supervisors, and Student Bus Leaders. The goal is to create many leadership opportunities for our students.

Clear Creek Elementary Principal Tammy Miller and the Media Specialist, Ms. Larson, are instructing the entire student body on Friday mornings from arrival until 9:30 a.m. The focus is on skills and character education. Poetry and journal writing are being used as a means of expression for the students thus far this year. The time also gives teachers exclusive time to meet in their PLC groups.

Fairview Elementary has set October 14th as the date for its new building dedication. Music will be provided by Fairview violinists and the Fairview choir. There will be a Community Open House from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. that same evening.

The Artful Learning fundraising committee is focusing on four fundraising activities for the school year. The first is selling bricks from the old building and selling new engraved bricks for a learning patio near the new Chimney Swift chimney.

Grandview Elementary trained 40 Grandview staff members (32 certified staff and 8 support staff) in the Boys Town behavior management system.

Highland Park has continued Channel 7 Live, a live student produced broadcast, which is shown daily at 9:01 am in every Highland Park classroom. The show is written, directed, and produced by a team of sixth grade students. This is Highland Park's way of making morning announcements entertaining and relevant to the student population. There are two student anchors plus and teacher that present the café menu, weather, life skills, building activities, a moment of silence and usually a couple of jokes just for fun.

Academically, a new initiative is taking place at Highland Park this school year. It is called Panda Time. This is a thirty-minute, daily block of time used as an intervention/enrichment opportunity for all students. Each grade level has a designated time during the day where teachers and support staff are able to work with students in flexible groups. Essential Skills will be created by teachers for each nine-week-period with a focus on Language Arts and/or Math. Common assessments for each grade level will be developed by our teachers to assess student learning. Panda Time is the result of the school working to become a Professional Learning Community.

Lakeview Elementary has started the year with a guarantee to its parents regarding learning. The following is an excerpt from the guarantee:

Lakeview students and their parents have a right to expect that students will learn grade-level essential learning skills, and Lakeview teachers can communicate specifically about progress toward mastery of these skills...

A guaranteed and viable curriculum at Lakeview means that we have identified a minimum of twelve math and twelve language arts learning skills for each grade-level that we guarantee each student will learn. No matter who teaches a given grade level or classroom, we guarantee that certain content will be addressed adequately. Viable means that the content that is guaranteed can actually be addressed in the time available.

Marlin Elementary School has declared that it is on the verge of greatness this year with strong inroads in its efforts to become the professional learning community that parents and students deserve.

Unionville Elementary announced that four of its students were winners in a coloring contest sponsored

by Indiana University. Each student won two tickets to an IU football game along with free refreshments. The students and their pictures were also displayed on the big screen at halftime.

Jackson Creek Middle School has successfully started the transition to becoming a Professional Learning Community thanks to the diligent work of teachers and the help of staff to engage students while teachers are meeting in their teams.

Academically, 98.8% of JCMS students passed 2009/10 Algebra ECA Test.

Bloomington High School North saw test results move up from 10% passing to 50% passing on the Algebra I Core 40 exams. While this is still below state average, this 40% improvement is a subject of much delight from teachers putting in their hard work last year.

As a support to math instruction, North would like to tout its new after school, math help program that meets every Tuesday-Thursday and on September 9th; Bloomington High School North hosted its first Challenge Day. Eighty students and 18 teachers and staff participated in a full day of activities built around the concept of creating a school atmosphere where all students feel safe, supported, accepted and respected.

In performing arts, the Bloomington North Advanced Jazz Band was invited to perform at the 2010 Indy Jazz Fest. They had the honor of playing in Broad Ripple on Saturday, September 18th from 1 to 2 pm.

Hoosier Hills Career Center Introduction to Health Care student, Mackenzie Harding, won a national HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) award this summer. She was a Top 10 National Finalist in the area of Medical Assisting. Agriculture student, Ross Newton, was elected District 11 FFA President. District 11 encompasses 12 counties and 12 FFA chapters. Director Ed Brown was named 2009-2010 Outstanding Director of a Career and Technical Education Center by IACTED, the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education Directors.

Bloomington High School South continues its innovative pace by developing its own in-house interventions for at-risk students despite limited staff resources and program cuts. The in-house, alternative programs are TLC Credit Recovery and Alternative to Expulsion, Alternative to Suspension (ATS) and Nova Net.

Broadview Learning Center several new classes including a Transition to College Math class for adult learners, who need a little more preparation in order to score well for college entrance exams, such as Ivy Tech's. The first class is already full.

New Tech High School had many of the NT students and faculty participate and/or assist in Bloomington's Inaugural Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee at the Buskirk Chumley Theater on September 3rd. This year's proceeds are to go directly to the school to fund operations and equipment.

Shannon Carroll-Frey, JCMS Assistant Principal is being recognized as Outstanding Administrator of the Year by the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children.

Erin Colone Peabody, MCCSC Speech and Language Pathologist will present the results of a study of Interagency Collaboration in Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) at the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) National Conference in November.

Steve Buckmann, MCCSC Behavior Analyst, recently earned certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, an international certification program for behavior analyst practitioners.

Dr. Coopman reminded the public of the referendum question on the ballot for the upcoming election and reiterated that we are available to answer questions, we are in need of volunteers and contributions and noted the recent endorsements we have received: The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, Bloomington Economic Development Commission and we expect the Bloomington City Council to formally issue it's resolution of it's support.

FOR ACTION

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Muehling moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Ms. Streiff seconded the motion.

Dr. Coopman recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) Donations, ECA Expenditures and Field Trip Requests; (b) Financial Report; and (c) Allowance of Claims (Payroll Register and Payroll Claims for: 08-06-2010, 08-13-2010, 08-20-2010 and 08-27-2010).

Following comments from the Board, the vote was taken on the recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried.

10. CONTRACTS

Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved to accept the contracts as recommended. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of the following contracts: (a) Change Orders – Listing of change orders for the Fairview building project; (b) Scholastic Book Fairs (SBF) – Certificate of Agreement to provide materials for a book fair at Batchelor Middle School from October 22 – 29, 2010; (c) Springsted Incorporated – Agreement with MCCSC to proposes to design, administer and interpret results of a scientific, random-sample tracking survey; (d) Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington – Cooperative agreement with Hoosier Hills Career Center for the offering of Ivy Tech community College Welding Arts class located in the HHCC laboratory facilities; (f) Lifetouch National School Studios – agreement to provide 2010-11 school pictures for Fairview Elementary School; (g) DePauw University – Affiliation Agreement to partner with MCCSC regarding placement of student teachers, practicum students, and participants; (h) Staff Development Workshops – Debbie Miller will provide a two-day workshop on the topic of Reading Comprehension Strategies for teachers of grades K-3 on March 8 & 9, 2011; (i) Staff Development Workshops – Tim Rasinski will provide a two-day workshop on the topic of Phonics for teachers of grades K-3 on January 26 & 27, 2011; (j) Abacus In-Home Tutoring, Inc. – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (k) ASCEND Tutoring Systems – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (l) Brain Hurricane – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (m) J Scott Learning – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (n) SES National – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (o) Summit Learning Services, Inc. – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (p) West Central Educational Service Center – to provide supplemental services to eligible students for the 2010-2011 school year; (q) Solution Tree, Inc. – Mike Mattos will provide professional development and consulting services on the topic of PRTI on January 31, 2011 April 28, 2011 and May 9, 2011; (r) ICE MILLER LLP – Engagement letter for Monroe County Community School Corporation Lease Financing (QSCB) and (s) Infinity Employer Health Solutions – letter of agreement to provide services for the MCCSC Health and Wellness Center from August 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

Ms. Prekert responded to Ms. Merriam's concern regarding the DOE grades for the tutoring providers.

Ms. Wanzer moved to consider the tutoring contracts separately. Ms Streiff seconded the motion and the vote was taken to accept the tutoring contracts (j through p) as listed on the agenda. Aye: Butler, Klein, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Nay: Merriam Motion carried.

Following additional discussion, the vote was taken to accept the remaining contracts (a-i and q-s) as listed on the agenda Aye: Butler, Klein, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Abstained: Merriam Motion carried.

11. PERSONNEL REPORT

Dr. Sabo-Skelton moved to accept the Personnel Report. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the personnel report as listed and gave a brief explanation of intermittent leave and family medical leave (fmla).

Following comments from the Board, the vote was taken on the motion to accept the Personnel Report. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

12. INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Randy Tackett, AFSCME, spoke regarding the referendum.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Klein commented that absentee voting begins on October 4th and registration ends that day at noon.

Mr. Muehling spoke to all of the things we are doing in the Corporation to save money and how we maximize every penny we raise or are awarded. We perform in the top 10%, but are in the bottom 18% for funding. We have to plan for what happens if the referendum fails.

Ms. Streiff encouraged everyone to not just vote, but to vote on paper. She thanked Dr. Coopman for his report about all the good things that we are doing and expressed appreciation to DePauw for the student teacher contract that costs us nothing and gives the supervising teacher a small stipend.

Ms. Merriam gave an update from the Insurance Committee, commented on the cost to the average taxpayer if the referendum is passed and addressed the misinformation in the anonymous letter received by the Board and others.

Ms. Wanzer noted that the funding issues have given her listening opportunities and opportunities to participate in discussions about the MCCSC. Ms. Wanzer requested a Work Session for the Board to enter into discussions regarding a community advisory council and merit pay for all staff. She also requested an Executive Session to discuss policy and personnel issues mentioned in a communiqué to the Board.

Dr. Sabo-Skelton reported on her attendance with Ms. Merriam at the recent IAPSS/ISBA fall conference. She also commented on the need for public support of the referendum and that she has received more positive communications than negative.

Dr. Butler will work with Dr. Coopman to schedule an Executive Session to discuss the personnel matter

that Ms. Wanzer mentioned and a Work Session to explore the possibility of a Community Advisory Council. They will also schedule a Work Session in the future to discuss merit pay.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:10 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