

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, December 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 Tuesday, December 14, 2010, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

**Board members present:**

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

**Also present:**

J.T. Coopman	Superintendent
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Jan Bergeson	Director, Secondary Education
Mike Scherer	Director, Extended Services
Tina Peterson	Executive Director, Foundation of M CCS

In addition to the above, 28 citizens signed the visitor list (which is included as a part of the official record of this meeting); Bethany Nolan, reporter for *The Herald-Times*, Ben Skirvin, reporter for WFIU 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. **FACE OF EDUCATION: OFFICER JIM GRAFT**

Our Faces of Education honoree this evening is affectionately known to the school community as “Officer Friendly.” Bloomington Police Department Officer Jim Graft has served as the School Liaison to Monroe County Community School Corporation for 30 years, and he is retiring from BPD on Dec. 31, 2010 after a total of 34 years of service.

3. **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS: VALERIE C. MERRIAM & VICTORIA I. STREIFF**

Valerie Merriam, our current vice president, has been a member of the Monroe County School Corporation School Board of Trustees since 2007. We have never had a better prepared board member. She certainly has helped make the rest of the board better with her research and preparation.

Now serving as secretary, Victoria Streiff stepped into her role as a board member when Susan Daniels moved away from the school district. She has served this community since July 2008. With her service, she brought the valuable perspective of a parent.

4. **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING SUPERINTENDENT: DR. J. T. COOPMAN**

Superintendent Dr. John T. Coopman came to MCCSC officially in July 2009 and hit the ground running, bringing us Professional Learning Communities and Energy Education, which has saved us more than \$600,000 thus far. He also saw the School Corporation through some very challenging budget cuts and on to a successful passage of the November 2nd referendum. Above all, Dr. Coopman's gift to MCCSC, during his short time with us, has been his strength as an instructional leader.

5. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

The public dialogue period is set aside as a time when members of the public may bring questions to the Board and/or the Administration. Two community members made comments regarding a variety of topics.

6. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Dr. Janice Bizzari, Principal; Ms. Michi McClaine, Assistant Principal; and Ms. Colette Eno, Teacher, presented information about the ESL program. University has a total enrollment of 545 students, representing 28 languages and 25 countries of origin.

7. **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: ENERGY EDUCATION - DREW WOOD AND JOHN LAMPAS**

Mr. Drew Wood presented the savings information for the summer months was over \$600,000 and adding the anticipated savings through November 2010, that total is up to \$950,000. Mr. John Lampas, the Data Lead the MCCSC account, and noted that no one has exceeded our savings nationwide.

8. **FOR INFORMATION: FOUNDATION OF MCCS – TINA PETERSON**

Ms. Tina Peterson, Executive Director, reported that there have been several major gifts this month. The biggest was the gift of \$20,000 from the IU Credit Union. The Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone sent a gift of \$10,000 to support literacy education. Beth Piekarsky, teacher at University Elementary School, has agreed to dance in the

9. **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Coopman addressed the question of how we make a decision to delay or cancel school. Our most important consideration is the safety of our students. Sometimes the decision must be made from the weather report to avoid getting the children to school and have the situation worsen. We do not want to send children home during the day.

He thanked the Board for the honor and privilege of serving as Superintendent for the final year of his professional career.

10. **FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS**

Dr. Butler noted that Dr. Sabo-Skelton had received 33 names for the superintendent search advisory committee. That number will need to be reduced to six to ten. Mr. Muehling, Mr. Klein and Ms. Wanzer will contact those selected to arrange a work session before or soon after the holidays. At that time, those members will have to sign confidentiality agreements. At that meeting, the committee will be informed of these charges:

- 1) To seek out possible superintendent candidates from the state or wherever they have contacts,

- 2) Bring the names of those possible candidates to an executive session, hopefully by the middle of January and also have a little biographical information about those people,
- 3) They will sit in on the initial interviews with the candidates and they will submit questions to the Board for the board members to ask. At the end of the interviews, they will offer comments about the candidates and how they answered the questions.

After that, the committee will have basically performed their duties. The Board will then arrive at the finalists and schedule executive session(s) for second interviews which will not involve the advisory committee.

It was discussed at the last work session that we have some public forums and Mr. Klein has suggested that we have three – four ‘coffees’ for the community for the purpose of asking the kinds of things the public is looking for in its’ leadership. In order to have it not be construed to be a meeting, no more than three school board members would be in attendance at each ‘coffee’.

It is the hope of the Board that candidates can be identified by late January to begin interviews and come to a consensus on the finalist by mid-February. Following Dr. Barnes suggestion, it is hoped to have a decision on the superintendent position by mid-March.

#### **FOR ACTION:**

#### **11. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Merriam moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Dr. Coopman recommended approval of the Consent Agenda: (a) Minutes of previous meetings (Executive Session - November 9, 2010, Work Session - November 9, 2010, Board Meeting - November 9, 2010, Executive Session - November 9, 2010, Executive Session - November 23, 2010, Work Session - November 23, 2010, Board Meeting - November 23, 2010, Work Session - November 30, 2010); (b) Donations, ECA Expenditure and Field Trip Request for Bloomington High School South – Boys Swimming and Diving Team, Swim Meet, December 21-22, 2010, Evansville, Indiana; (c) Financial Report (Financial Report and Expenditure Report (10/2010) and (d) Payroll Claims (Register of Claims (12/14/2010); Payroll Register of Payrolls (12/14/2010); and Payroll Claims (11/5/2010, 11/12/2010, 11/19/2010 and 11/23/2010).

There being no 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.

#### **12. CONTRACTS**

Mr. Muehling moved to accept the contracts as listed on the agenda. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of the following contracts: (1) Change Orders – Listing of change orders for the Fairview Elementary School and Service & Transportation building projects; (2) Amy Barnhill – Applied Behavior Analysis services to be provided to students attending MCCSC from January 2011 through December 2011; (3) Lifetouch – Elementary portrait agreement for University Elementary School; (4) InterState Studio - Elementary portrait agreement for Marlin Elementary School; (5) Region 8 Adult Education Grant – Subcontract with the Career Resource center, Nashville, Indiana from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 and (6) Susan Levy – Tutoring services for students attending St. Charles Elementary School from January 12, 2011 – May 27, 2011.

There being no comments from the Board, the vote was taken to accept the contracts as presented. Aye:

Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried

13. **RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFERS TO THE RAINY DAY FUND**

Mr. Muehling moved to approve the resolution transferring unused balances from the Capital Projects Fund and the Bus Replacement Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Following discussion and clarifications, the vote was taken to approve the resolution transferring unused balances from the Capital Projects Fund and the Bus Replacement Fund to the Rainy Day Fund as presented. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried

14. **APPROVE AMENDMENT OF THE VEBA WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN & TRUST ADOPTION AGREEMENT (ALLOCATED ACCOUNTS)**

Ms. Merriam moved to approve the amendment of the VEBA Welfare Benefits Plan & Trust Adoption Agreement (Allocated Accounts). Ms. Streiff seconded the motion.

The VEBA program was implemented in 2004 in anticipation of the MCCSC selling Retirement/Severance Bonds to fund certain existing retirement insurance benefits on a current basis. The bonds were sold in 2006. The provisions of the VEBA Plan replaced benefits previously in effect with respect to retirement medical and dental insurance programs and funded these new benefits on a current basis going forward.

The recommended changes provide the Board more flexibility going forward for making contributions not previously specified in the document. The modifications consist of the insertion of the phrase "Contributions pursuant to School Corporation agreements." in Section III (Other), "or School Corporation agreements" in Section VI (Other) and "7. School Corporation agreements." in Section X-7.

Following discussion and clarifications, the vote was taken to approve the amendment of the VEBA Welfare Benefits Plan & Trust Adoption Agreement as presented. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried

15. **APPOINT INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Muehling moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Tim Hyland as Interim Superintendent. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Following comments from the Board, the vote was taken to approve the appointment of Dr. Tim Hyland as Interim Superintendent. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried

16. **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Ms. Wanzer moved to accept the Personnel Report including the creation of Title I Childcare Assistant, Set Terms and Conditions and Authorize Posting and Filling Position as recommended. Dr. Sabo-Skelton seconded the motion.

Ms. Chambers recommended the Personnel report, including the creation of Title I Childcare Assistant, Set Terms and Conditions and Authorize Posting and Filling Position be approved as presented.

Following congratulations on the retirements of Dr. Coopman and Mr. Shipman and expressions of regret on the passing of Mr. Schenk, the vote was taken on the motion to accept the Personnel Report including the creation of Title I Childcare Assistant, Set Terms and Conditions and Authorize Posting and Filling Position. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer Motion carried

**17. CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSION - ROUTE #142**

Mr. Klein moved to approve the Contract Bus Route Extension - Route #142. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

Mr. Scherer recommended the extension to contract bus route #142.

Following comments from the Board, the vote was taken on the motion to approve the Contract Bus Route Extension - Route #142. Aye: Butler, Klein, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Streiff and Wanzer  
Motion carried

**FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

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

Comments were made by three members of the public.

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

Dr. Sabo-Skelton thanked everyone who comes to the board meetings to speak and thanked Dr. Coopman, Ms. Streiff, Ms. Merriam and Mr. Shipman for their service to MCCSC.

Ms. Wanzer thanked Ms. Streiff for her progressive voice and Ms. Merriam for her persistence.

Ms. Merriam pledged to continue her activism and plans to still attending the board meetings.

Ms. Streiff thanked the members of the board for selecting her to be on the board. She pledged to attend future board meetings and thanked Dr. Coopman for his service.

Mr. Muehling thanked Ms. Merriam and Ms. Streiff for their service.

Mr. Klein thanked Ms. Merriam and Ms. Streiff for their wise counsel with him.

Dr. Butler expressed her appreciation of the service of Ms. Merriam and Ms. Streiff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Butler declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:24 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