

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, September 18, 2007

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 18, 2007, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Teresa Grossi	Vice President
Valerie Merriam	Assistant Secretary
Jeannine Butler	Member
Susan Daniels	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board members absent:

Jim Muehling	President
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Secretary

Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Karen Portle	Director of Information Services
Nicole Kauffman	Reporter, <i>The Herald-Times</i>

In addition to the above, two 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**

Vice President of the Board, Teresa Grossi, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Grossi mentioned a new feature of every meeting is to recognize MCCSC employees who are making a difference every day. She introduced Lisa Mullis, health aide at Grandview Elementary School, who was nominated by her principal, Jennifer Baker. Ms. Mullis was applauded for her organized, caring, calm and patient demeanor. On September 7th she quickly assisted a 6th grade student who had been stung by a bee. The student had an allergy and Ms. Mullis provided thorough and life-saving first-aid.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

Dr. Grossi explained the procedure to be followed for public dialogue with the Board. There was no response to her invitation for public comment.

At 7:05 p.m., Dr. Grossi moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Use of Southern Indiana Pediatrics Donation – Mr. Harvey noted that one of the EpiPens donated to the school system by Southern Indiana Pediatrics was used by Ms. Mullis on September 7.

Vision Screening – Mr. Harvey mentioned that a student's vision problem was identified by the annual vision screening program.

Ivy Tech Community College and MCCSC Partnership – Mr. Harvey shared information regarding a partnership agreement between Ivy Tech Community College and MCCSC that creates a program for placement of Ivy Tech Elementary Education students in MCCSC classrooms.'

BHS North Library Hours – As a follow-up from the September 4th Board meeting, Mr. Harvey reported that he had talked with the BHS North principal about the possibility of changing the way we staff the library to extend library hours. The principal is working with staff and students on this issue.

International Walk to School Day – Mr. Harvey said four schools – Childs, Highland Park, Summit and Templeton – will participate in International Walk to School Day on October 3. He said Board members and parents are invited to join students who will walk to school on that day.

5. **DONATIONS AND FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

Mr. Harvey recommended acceptance of donations and approval of field trips as included in his report to the Board. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts and agreements as presented. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Ms. Daniels seconded the motion. During ensuing discussion regarding various contracts, Board members questioned the contract with KJS for the Arlington fund raiser, i.e. it did not include pertinent information needed to understand cost. Ms. Wanzer amended her motion to exclude this contract from those recommended for approval until additional information is available. Ms. Daniels seconded the motion as amended. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **APPROVE CONTRACT BUS ROUTE EXTENSIONS**

Mr. Scherer recommended extensions for contract bus routes 138 and 152 for Connie Freeman and Jason Clark, respectively, for the increases as noted. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion carried.

8. **APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION AND THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Thrasher said an attempt was made to create a benefit and salary structure for administrators that

would be in writing. He explained the salary formula and noted that employees would receive a minimum of 1% increase and a maximum of 5% for people when the formula generated a higher figure. He said the total cost of the proposal for the two-year period is within the new money expected to be provided to the General Fund through the school funding formula. He recommended approval of the agreement as proposed. Dr. Butler so moved. Dr. Grossi seconded the motion.

During ensuing discussion, William Scott, citizen, asked if this organization is a union and noted that he did not see merit in determining professional salaries. Mr. Harvey confirmed that this association is not a union and that merit is not included in the formula. Board members voted to approve. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Ms. Chambers said the last teaching positions have been filled. She recommended approval of the personnel report as presented. Ms. Daniels so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion carried.

10. **ADOPTION OF 2008 BUDGETS, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND PLAN AND SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN**

Noting that the Board previously reviewed the Budget and held a hearing on the 2008 Budgets, Capital Projects Fund Plan and School Bus Replacement Plan at the September 4 meeting, Mr. Thrasher recommended that the Board adopt the following resolutions: Resolution of Appropriations for the 2008 Budgets; Resolution of Tax Rates for the 2008 Budgets; Resolution to Appeal for an Excessive Levy Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-19-4.7 to Recover a Shortfall in Collections of 2006 Property Taxes; Resolution to Lower 2008 CPF Tax Levy and Allocation for Future Projects in Accordance with IC 20-5-4-1.7; Resolution to Adopt 2008 Capital Projects Plan; and Resolution to Adopt 2008 School Bus Replacement Plan as included in the budget document. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion.

Ms. Merriam said she is impressed that our budget proportionately is so much smaller than Richland-Bean Blossom Schools noting that their General Fund is one-half of ours and they have 2853 students compared to our 11,000. Mr. Thrasher said one thing that comes up when construction projects are considered is the idea of using Capital Projects Fund (CPF) money for salaries. He said the CPF is very limited insofar as salary and benefits can be paid only for skilled maintenance and computer technicians from this account. He also explained that we do not have the ability to transfer money from the CPF or the Debt Service Fund to the General Fund, i.e. we cannot move money from one budget to another.

William Scott, citizen, said he missed the September 4th hearing on the budget and only heard about this meeting today. He calculated that this budget is a 7.3% increase over the 2007 budget while noting that there has been no change in the inflationary rate and no changes in the scores and another decline in SAT scores. He opposed this budget and stated that he would be present at the next session of the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to protest its approval. Ms. Merriam noted that we had even more students take the SAT this year than last year and the average score was only down a couple of points. There were no additional comments.

Board members voted on the motion to adopt the Resolution of Appropriations; the Resolution of Tax Rates for the 2008 Budgets; the Resolutions adopting the 2008 Capital Projects Plan and the 2008 School Bus Replacement Plan; as well as the Resolutions which (1) appeal for an excess levy

for the 2008 General Fund to recover a \$180,000 shortfall in 2006 property tax collections; (2) appeal for an excess levy for the 2008 Transportation Operating Fund to recover a \$24,200 shortfall in 2006 property tax collections; and (3) lower the 2008 CPF tax levy and allocation for future projects in accordance with the provisions of IC 20-5-4-1.7. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Wanzer. Motion carried.

11. **CLAIMS**

Mr. Thrasher presented the Register of Claims and recommended their allowance as submitted. Dr. Grossi so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. **FOR INFORMATION: CLASS SIZE REVIEW**

Dr. Butler thanked Ms. Chambers for sharing information on class size review. Ms. Chambers commented briefly on the class size review process and noted that larger awards were made this year. Mr. Harvey said there were not as many appeals this year as in the past and some of that credit should go to Mike Shipman because his enrollment/staffing projections were pretty accurate. He also thanked the MCEA for being willing to consider increasing the amount of money allocated for class size review. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Chambers and the Class Size Review Committee for their work and to the MCEA for helping to create a more cooperative environment.

13. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There was no response to Dr. Grossi's invitation for public comment.

14. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Daniels noted that there are lots of ways that an additional adult in the classroom can make a difference. She encouraged members of the community to volunteer in schools.

Dr. Butler complimented Ms. Chambers on how quickly she has become a 'seasoned pro' in her position.

Ms. Merriam noted that the Board has a policy about not responding to people who come to speak and that policy was broken tonight, her included. She explained that other people want the Board to respond and we don't and we need to think about that.

Ms. Merriam extended happy holidays to our Jewish and Muslim students.

Dr. Grossi mentioned that the last meeting for Fairview conversations is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on September 25 at Fairview School. She thanked all those who have participated. She said the Board really did go into these discussions with a clean slate and will use input for decision-making.

Dr. Grossi thanked Nicole Kauffman, reporter for *The Herald-Times* for including tonight's agenda in the newspaper today and for the good article.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Grossi declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ABSENT

Jim Muehling, President

Teresa Grossi, Vice President

ABSENT

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Secretary

Valerie Merriam, Assistant Secretary

Jeannine Butler, Member

Susan Daniels, Member

Susan P. Wanzer, Member