

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting, October 16, 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, October 16, 2007, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Jim Muehling	President
Lois Sabo-Skelton	Secretary
Valerie Merriam	Assistant Secretary
Jeannine Butler	Member
Susan Daniels	Member
Sue Wanzer	Member

Board member absent:

Teresa Grossi	Vice President
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Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant
Ed Brown	Director of Hoosier Hills Career Center

In addition to the above, 22 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, Jim Muehling, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He noted that the format of this meeting had been changed slightly in order for the Board to convene a work session at 7:30 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Muehling introduced Chris Freeman, teacher at Fairview Elementary School since 1990, who was nominated by her colleague Nan Plumer. Ms. Freeman was applauded for her dedicated work to help improve student achievement and as one who leads by example. Her principal agreed that she is extremely professional and operates with a collaborative style that encourages staff to work together and make decisions in the best interest of Fairview students. Ms. Freeman was commended by the Board and those present for her exemplary work with children.

3. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts and agreements as presented. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton Wanzer.

Motion carried.

4. **APPLICATION TO OFFER NEW CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Brown explained that the Bloomington City Fire Department approached the school system to ask about offering such a program at the high schools. He said with Board approval this is a program that the career center can offer to juniors and seniors who are interested in rescue, code issues and fire fighting. He recommended approval to offer this program at the Hoosier Hills Career Center. Ms. Wanzer so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

5. **CREATE CONTENT SPECIALIST POSITIONS, SET TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZE POSTING AND FILLING POSITIONS**

Noting that Ms. Chambers was not available to attend this meeting, Mr. Harvey reviewed the recommendation to create three content specialist positions that parallel with textbook adoption cycles so the positions will rotate. He noted that the intern-mentor position would be on-going but one individual would not serve more than three years. He recommended approval of creating these positions as proposed. Ms. Daniels so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Mr. Harvey said the content specialists would be selected by and report to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction. He said the Intern-Mentor specialist would be selected by and be responsible to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel since that program is supervised by Human Resources.

Mr. Harvey said stipends will go through the teachers' union and ultimately the terms and conditions for these positions will be bargained. He said the MCEA knew what the recommendation would be and is in agreement. He added that the stipends are the same model we would use in the fall of 2008 for department chair. He said these positions will not have released time on a daily basis; the individuals will work on an after-school basis. He said they will have access to released time (allocation) on an as-needed basis with each person having ten days.

Board members voted to approve. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

6. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Mr. Harvey recommended approval of the personnel report as presented. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Wanzer seconded the motion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Merriam, Muehling, Sabo-Skelton, Wanzer. Motion carried.

7. **CLAIMS**

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

8. **INFORMATION, PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There was no response to Mr. Muehling's invitation for public comment.

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

Dr. Butler said she would like to have schools report on what is going on in their buildings. Ms. Tupper confirmed that the schedule for the year is not complete; however, the first report will be on November 7.

Ms. Merriam referred to an article about starting school later in the year and noted that fall ISTEP testing was a consideration when the school system moved to starting classes in mid-August. Although she realized that the Board was not establishing a calendar anytime soon, she said she is a proponent of starting later and she would like to hear what families have to say.

Dr. Butler said she received a message and was asked if we had done studies about the cost of going to school during most of August instead of in June.

On that topic, Mr. Harvey noted that changing dates on the calendar also shifts the days when we transport students thereby affecting the cost for transportation. He said if we move back, we will have fewer days for one calendar year and more for the other. He said the problem in 2006 was that days were added to that calendar year and that, along with the increase in fuel costs, caused the transportation fund to go over budget. He said we have adopted a three-year cycle calendar and we are always three years out. He suggested that if Board members have different thoughts about that, they may want to hear from people in schools, particularly about starting after the sports season starts.

Mr. Muehling noted that the new calendar was developed in response to parent complaints.

Ms. Wanzer said in her first year on the Board she questioned why it had to be aligned to I.U.'s calendar but so much goes into it – there are so many components of developing a calendar. She said people are more than willing to talk about calendar.

Mr. Harvey said the Board talked about consideration of a 'Consent Agenda' for some agenda items. He asked if the Board is interested in pursuing that format. Board members were collectively in favor of establishing a 'Consent Agenda' for Board meetings. Mr. Harvey will submit an information report for the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and then address it as an action item at the next meeting.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Muehling declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

#### ABSENT

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Jim Muehling, President

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Teresa Grossi, Vice President

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Lois Sabo-Skelton, Secretary

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Valerie Merriam, Assistant Secretary

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Jeannine Butler, Member

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Susan Daniels, Member

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Susan P. Wanzer, Member