

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, November 20, 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, November 20, 2007, in the Board Room at the Administration Center, 315 E. North Drive, Bloomington.

Board members present:

Jim Muehling	President
Teresa Grossi	Vice President
Valerie Merriam	Assistant Secretary
Jeannine Butler	Member
Susan Daniels	Member

Board members absent:

Lois Sabo-Skelton	Secretary
Sue Wanzer	Member

Also present:

James Harvey	Superintendent of Schools
Tim Thrasher	Comptroller
Peggy Chambers	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Personnel
Mary Lovejoy	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mike Shipman	Director of Assessment and School Operations
Mike Scherer	Director of Extended Services
John Carter	Director of Planning
Janet Tupper	Administrative Assistant

In addition to the above, 20 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 7:00 p.m.

2. **FACES OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Muehling introduced Hermann Serfling, culinary arts instructor at the Hoosier Hills Career Center, who was nominated as an honored 'Face of Education' by Brenda Dorsett, instructional aide in the culinary arts program. She noted that the students have the highest regard for Mr. Serfling. She said he came to MCCSC in 2003 with an excellent and diverse background and his ability to make a difference is encouraging. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Muehling commended Mr. Serfling for his work with students and thanked him for all he does for the school district. Others present applauded him for his dedicated and exemplary work and for helping to improve student achievement and goals. Mr. Serfling expressed gratitude for this recognition and for the honor and opportunity to work with students.

3. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE** – There was no response to an invitation for comments from the public.

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Muehling moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. **SCHOOL SHOWCASE: Summit Elementary School**

On behalf of students, staff and their school community, Principal Doug Waltz introduced Summit's presentation. He said Summit has 575 students and includes families and students from a variety of cultures. He noted that the focus of their presentation was on commitment of their staff and students. He thanked Summit teachers Carolyn Ambrose and Erika Peek for fitting the pieces together of a large blended family of adults and students to prepare the presentation. Following the video, Mr. Waltz noted that Summit has established its own identity in this the fastest growing school in the school system. Board members thanked Summit faculty and staff for sharing this informative presentation.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Harvey shared follow-up information from the November 7th meeting at which a BHS North student asked about recycling Styrofoam trays at the schools. He said Food Service Director Lou Johnson reported that there was a period of time when reusable trays and bowls were used and students were throwing them away. She said although the Styrofoam trays are recyclable, there is no place locally to dispose of them except in bulk and there is a health issue because the school or school system would have to store them with bits of food, etc. Mr. Harvey said Ms. Johnson is willing to work with the high schools to restore use of useable trays. The student will follow-up with his principal and Student Council.

6. **DONATIONS AND ECA EXPENDITURES**

Mr. Harvey recommended acceptance of donations and authorization for ECA expenditures as included in his report to the Board. Dr. Grossi so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **CONTRACTS**

Mr. Carter explained the Disaster Plan agreements submitted on behalf of Belle Trace Health and Living Center. Mr. Thrasher recommended approval of contracts as presented. Dr. Butler so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion. Following a time for questions and comments, Board members voted on the motion to approve. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling. Motion carried.

8. **AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETINGS**

Mr. Harvey noted that the idea of including a 'Consent Agenda' for Board action was discussed earlier in a Board retreat as a way to streamline Board meetings. He explained that basically the Board would have a motion to adopt recommendations included in all these reports there would be a second to the motion and a time for Board and public discussion/comments. He recommended that the Board revise the agenda format for regular meetings to include a "consent agenda" that will include items noted. Dr. Butler so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion.

Board members agreed with Mr. Muehling's suggestion that any questions about items on the 'consent agenda' would be accepted in order of the items within the agenda. It was confirmed that by consensus an item can be removed from the 'consent agenda' and that this format will start in December. There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling.

Motion carried.

9. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Ms. Chambers recommended approval of the Personnel Report as presented. Ms. Daniels so moved. Dr. Butler seconded the motion. Noting that she appreciates receiving information about people who are retiring, Dr. Grossi said she hopes that information will be shared even when this report is included with the 'consent agenda'. Ms. Chambers assured her that it would. Following a time for questions, Board members unanimously approved the motion to approve the Personnel Report.

10. **APPROVE RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING THE DATE OF THE HEARINGS ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN PHASE I OF THE NEW LONG TERM FACILITY PLAN**

Mr. Thrasher explained that authorizing a '1028 hearing' is one of the first legal steps in forming a building corporation and selling bonds. He said a requirement includes investigating the possibility of implementing a year-round school to avoid adding classrooms. He pointed out that the hearings would be held on December 18 and the resolution also ratifies the employment of Bose McKinney & Evans to serve as Bond Counsel for the Project and Therber & Brock to serve as Financial Advisor to the school corporation. He recommended approval of the resolution announcing the hearings on Phase I of the new long term facility plan as presented. Dr. Butler so moved. Mr. Muehling seconded the motion.

In response to questions, Mr. Harvey stated that the hearings on December 18 would start at 7:00 p.m. and the regular agenda would follow. There was no further discussion. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling. Motion carried.

11. **AUTHORIZE EMPLOYMENT OF THE LAW FIRM OF BOSE MCKINNEY & EVANS TO SERVE AS BOND COUNSEL FOR PHASE I OF THE LONG TERM FACILITY PLAN**

Mr. Thrasher said two firms were invited to submit proposals and both are major firms that have worked with the Board in the past. He said the quote from Bose was lower in cost and did not have a provision for billing if the process is stopped in the remonstrance stage. He noted that the school system has worked with Bose McKinney & Evans, particularly with Karl Sturbaum, and they have provided excellent service. He recommended the employment of Bose McKinney & Evans to serve as Bond Counsel for the anticipated 2008 bond issue. On behalf of the administration, he further recommended approval of the attached agreement with Bose McKinney & Evans. Dr. Grossi so moved. Ms. Merriam seconded the motion. Following a time for discussion, Board members voted on the motion to approve as recommended. Aye: Butler, Daniels, Grossi, Merriam, Muehling. Motion carried.

12. **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.

13. **Lilly Endowment's CAPE (Community Alliances to Promote Education) Initiative - Update**

Barbara Horvath introduced Karen Serfling, CAPE family resource center coordinator at the Banneker Center and at Summit, and Theresa Malone who is CAPE family resource center coordinator at Summit. Ms. Horvath had provided a written report to the Board; she noted that this is

the 6th year of this program and there are one and one-half years left on this sustainability grant. She said MCCSC has provided space, in-kind donations and printing as well as support from building administrators. She said unfortunately there had been some disconnect between CAPE and the school system, due in part because of the multiple transitions over the time the grant has been in place. She reviewed some of the outcomes they hope to accomplish and noted that they are building community and strengthening families.

Ms. Serfling explained that CAPE works with families and children from birth to age 5 in order for them to enter school ready to learn. She said learning begins at birth and the best learning comes when children have strong relationships with caring adults. She said the goal is to train and support practitioners and she believes that MCCSC will benefit by involving parents in children's learning before they enter school.

Ms. Malone talked to the Board about the school-age component of the CAPE program. She noted how she and other moms became involved although they were not fund raisers or good at selling cookies. She said they learned they could be there for teachers as someone who was interested in her children's education and who would advocate for them. She said many parents want to be involved and there is 30 years of research about how parental involvement in schools improves student achievement and is linked to student learning. She said she has been with the CAPE program from the beginning and she also learned that students need advocates and advocates need to be trained and to have information on how to ask the right questions and how to gain more opportunities to talk with each other to build confidence. She suggested that the school system needs a vision for parent involvement and to think and talk about how we want parents involved and how to offer opportunities for parent leadership training. She said the CAPE family resource directors can help MCCSC students by involving parents in children's learning.

Ms. Horvath invited Board members and others to contact or stop by the CAPE family resource centers. She said a lot of national research shows that every parent wants their child to be successful in school. She said the role of the school district in CAPE has never been very clear. She would like to work on developing a plan and strategy to work with the school system.

In response to questions, Ms. Horvath said CEEP (Center for Evaluation and Education Policy) has just begun evaluating the CAPE project and that evaluation will continue over the next one and one-half years. Since they will be looking at the data along the way, she would be happy to share information with the Board. Board members thanked Ms. Horvath, Ms. Serfling and Ms. Malone for sharing this report.

14. EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (ECHS) PLANNING COMMITTEE - Update

Dr. Lovejoy shared an update on the work of the ECHS (Early College High School) Planning Committee. Mr. Harvey noted advertisements in place in an effort to get the word out to students who would benefit from participating in this program. He said ECHS will be on both the BHSN and BHSS campuses and students will also have an opportunity to attend classes at Indiana University and Ivy Tech. He said this program is for students who are ready to have a jump start into college; they will be ready to go to college when they graduate and are expected to have a greater degree of success in college.

In response to a question, Dr. Lovejoy explained the application process. She said students can apply through their middle school counselors and applications will be available at the community conversations scheduled for November 28 and December 10. She noted that the goal is to have 100 students enrolled at BHS South and 100 students enrolled at BHS North in the fall of 2008.

In response to another question, Mr. Harvey said the goal is to reduce the number of teachers these students will encounter. He said some of the requirements to earn dual credit will require additional course work. He noted that ACP (Advance College Project) teachers must have acceptable training and the same is true for teachers in this program. Dr. Lovejoy said we are looking for a special cohort of teachers with training in differentiated instruction and those who understand kids learn in different ways.

Dr. Lovejoy responded that students who are 21st century scholars will not pay university tuition; however, others enrolled in ECHS will have to pay tuition. She explained that 21st century scholars will not pay tuition when they enroll full time in college and some will even receive funds for room and board. She said students who receive free and reduced price lunch do not pay for high school classes but if they have not signed up for the 21st century scholars program, they will pay college credit costs when they go to college. Mr. Harvey further explained that 21st century scholars is a state program and only applicable to state schools or branches. He said these students sign a pledge and waiver of college tuition is contingent upon their fulfilling that pledge.

At a Board member's suggestion, Dr. Lovejoy explained that New Tech High School (NTHS) is project based oriented and there is some differentiated instruction but the focus is having students work with real world problems and create a plan of action to help solve the problem. She said ECHS provides a large safety net for students who want to go to college but need support, i.e. mentors, tutoring, study tables, etc. to be successful. She said conversations with the community will be on-going.

Dr. Lovejoy confirmed that they are still working on an ECHS budget. She said part of it is completed and there is a cost factor, noting we now have a high school assistant principal and counselor in both buildings designated to oversee the program but the question is do we need someone to be dedicated. Mr. Harvey added that some of the courses will come at the junior and senior level and some of the cost may eventually be for tutoring. He reiterated that the first forum will be at 7:00 p.m. on November 28 at Tri-North. The second forum is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on December 12 and will be held at Batchelor.

15. **“COPS IN SCHOOLS”**

Mr. Carter said in about 2000 the district began discussions with the Police Department and other groups about bomb procedures and the Fire and Police Departments said they would like to have someone assigned to schools. He said it took until this year for staffing at the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) to allow that to happen. They selected four officers to be in our high schools – before school, during lunch and after school – to build trusting relationships with students. He said they engage in informal conversation with students as a way for students to connect with another set of eyes and ears. He said the goal is also to strengthen relationships with security teams.

In response to questions, Mr. Carter said the police officers are in uniform and they are on duty so they may be called away. He said there are certain police officers in specific areas but they are not there all the time and they are not in the school for security; they are there for social communication – to provide a different view. To inform and to avoid community concern when police cars are parked at the schools, Mr. Carter said one article has been written in the local newspaper and additional articles are planned. He noted that this is also a possible career choice for some students and ‘Cops in Schools’ give students a chance to learn about law enforcement careers.

16. **SCHOOL VISITORS (Guidelines 9150)**

Mr. Harvey said guidelines on school visitors were inconsistent from school to school and a sub-committee of principals worked on this revision. He said the topic was discussed in administrator meetings, in Discussion Council and with the MCEA. He noted that the final guidelines give authority for principals to tailor for individual buildings.

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

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

Noting the \$25,000 cash Milkin Award recently received by Batchelor teacher Jeff Rudkin, Dr. Butler asked if the school system does a proclamation for teachers and staff who receive awards, such as a resolution or just mention the fact that it has happened. Mr. Harvey said over time we have done both. He said the question has always been where to start and where to stop and who do you forget. He said sometimes you have to wait for someone to share the information. Dr. Butler said perhaps a resolution of commendation could be presented for national or state awards as opposed to local organizations.

Mr. Carter announced recent notification of the award of three ‘Safe Route to School’ grants from the Indiana Department of Transportation: one to Richland-Bean Blossom Schools and MCCSC, one to Richland-Bean Blossom Schools in the amount of \$250,000 for sidewalks, and one to the City of Bloomington in the amount of \$250,000 for sidewalks around Templeton. Mr. Muehling noted that the Board had heard parent concerns about students walking to school in the Templeton area.

Ms. Merriam said she enjoyed being part of the ceremony at Batchelor when Jeff Rudkin was so surprised to receive his award. She also congratulated BHS North graduate Lydia Serfling who is a sophomore walk-on with the Indiana University women’s basketball team.

Ms. Merriam said she went to the Statehouse on November 19 to hear discussion about reducing dropouts. She said it was interesting to listen to Legislators who spoke and where their focus lies. She shared a few comments made by Legislators. Mr. Harvey said the school system continues to get Prime Time money but the amount has not been increased. He said it only covers primary grades but does not cover the cost of support or administrative or special area teachers.

Mr. Muehling wished a Happy Thanksgiving to teachers, staff and students. He asked that we all remember the young men and women who cannot be with their families and suggested that they be kept in our prayers while they are overseas.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Muehling declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jim Muehling, President

Teresa Grossi, Vice President

ABSENT

Lois Sabo-Skelton, Secretary

Valerie Merriam, Assistant Secretary

Jeannine Butler, Member

Susan Daniels, Member

ABSENT

Susan P. Wanzer, Member