

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

Regular Board Meeting, February 09, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center

Present: Mr. Dzwonar, Mr. Kite, Mr. Turner, Mrs. Spann Roddy and Ms. Harris

Absent: None

Others: Dr. Mervilde, Mrs. Sutton, Dr. Ewing, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Licata, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Dr. Woodson, Matt Kaiser, Zavion Hunt, Frank Reed, John Stimac, Dan Stillerman, Stephanie Edwards, Nick Wilson, Doug Vinton

Mr. Dzwonar called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Doss led those in attendance with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval Consent Agenda

Dr. Mervilde recommended that the Board approve the Consent Agenda including the following items:

- Approval of the Minutes of the January 26, 2011 Regular Meeting, the January 26, 2011 Memorandum of Executive Session
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$2,160,017.99.
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Retirement (7); and One Maternity Leave (17). - Classified Personnel – Two New Appointments (97), (98); One Resignation (99); and One Termination (4).
- Approval or Acceptance of Non-competitive Grants, Gifts and Donations: There were no non-competitive grants or donations presented for the Board's approval.

Mr. Kite moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Recognitions

The Board recognized Zavion Hutt, Frank Reed and John Stimac, freshmen at North Central High School, for winning the Excellence in Media Award for their live action story they produced and acted in while eighth graders at Eastwood Middle School. This is the third year in a row this group of students from the Eastwood News Crew has been honored by the International Student Media Festival. The students showed a portion of their winning video at the Board Meeting. Student sponsors Dan Stillerman, Nick Wilson Stephanie Edwards and Doug Vinton were also recognized.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Mervilde presented the Board with a certificate they received from the Indiana School Boards Association for their participation in the continuous improvement of public schools in the State of Indiana. The certificate will be displayed in the Board Conference Room.

Congratulations to our three middle schools and Dr. Woodson. All of our middle schools have been chosen as “Schools to Watch.” We are the first district in the country to have all middle schools recognized at the same time as “Schools to Watch.” The principals will be recognized at a later Board Meeting.

Dr. Mervilde attended an IUSA Meeting today and gave the Board a packet of information on Legislative Issues he received at that meeting. After a brief discussion on some of the issues in the packet, Dr. Mervilde noted how critical it is that citizens contact legislators on these issues. He also noted his support of the Board’s previous discussions on the adoption of a Resolution to share with lawmakers our District’s views on these subjects. Dr. Mervilde’s comments can be heard on the District’s website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

Dr. Bennett will present and respond to questions at the February 16, 2011 Parent Council Meeting. Snow Make-up days will occur on February 21, 2011, April 22, 2011 and May 25, 2011. Currently the International Baccalaureate training is scheduled to occur on May 26th and 27th. The Administration is waiting to confirm if the training can be moved in order to make up the fourth day missed because of inclement weather. As soon as Dr. Mervilde has any information he will let the Board know the date of the fourth make up day.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Resolution to Approve Year End Encumbrances – Mr. Licata

The Board received the Resolution listed by fund in advance of the meeting. Mr. Licata reviewed the Resolution.

Mr. Kite moved approval of the Resolution to Approve Year End Encumbrances as presented. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

2. Resolution to Approve Appropriation Transfers – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata reported that the General Fund, Referendum Fund and the Capital Projects Fund had appropriation transfers in 2010 that he was asking the Board to approve by Resolution. One thing to note in the General Fund was a transfer of \$1.4 million. The State of Indiana paid part of the monthly tuition support payment to the District from stimulus funds. Those dollars had to be put in a separate fund, not the General Fund, so in order to compensate for that Mr. Licata had to lower the appropriation in the General Fund by the same amount that we received to put in a separate stimulus fund.

Mrs. Spann Roddy moved approval of the Resolution to Approve Appropriation Transfers as presented. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. Approval of the Resolution of Case No. 1:10-cv-1034-LJM-TAB – Mr. Dzwonar

The Board met in Executive Session with counsel prior to the meeting to discuss this issue.

Ms. Harris moved approval of the Resolution of Case No. 1:10-cv-1034-LJM-TAB as presented. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Information Items/Board Discussion

1. 2010 Year End Financial Report – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata gave the 2010 Year End Financial Report reviewing all of the major funds. The General Fund operating balance at year end is a little over \$6.4 million, approximately 10%, and consistent with 2009's balance. We have positive cash and operating balances in all of the funds. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full report and discussion can be held on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

2. 2011 Summer School Update

Mrs. Reynolds told the Board that, as fewer districts statewide offered summer school, MSDWT received a higher than normal reimbursement for 2010 summer school. This additional money plus stimulus dollars will enable the District to serve more students in 2011 summer school. Elementary and ENL Summer School will be held June 6-29, 2011 at Nora Elementary School. Summer School at the Middle School will be held June 2 – July 22, 2011 North Central will still have two sessions of summer school with the first beginning on June 2, 2011. At the elementary level the main focus will be on literacy. Participating students will be identified at the school level and transportation will be provided.

3. Board Discussion and Liaison Reports – Board Members

Last week Ms. Harris attended a book launch for Diana Mercer a member of the North Central class of 1982. Ms. Mercer lives in California but chose to have a book launch in Indianapolis. The name of her book is Making Divorce Work. Ms. Harris attended the education rally at the State House on February 8th. She said it was heartwarming to see that there are a lot of people who realize the gravity of the bills that are in play right now. She mentioned a Facebook page that is growing in numbers in support of public schools.

On February 8th Mrs. Spann Roddy along with Mr. Turner met with Dr. Woodson and a consultant on the Vendor Relations Policy. Mr. Turner added that Mr. Smith and Mr. Licata were also in attendance at the February 8th Policy Meeting. He will put all of the detail about the meeting together and present it to all Board Members. The main purpose of the meeting was to see how other school districts handle vendor relations. IPS has a policy and also has two employees dedicated to working with minority vendors. Mrs. Spann Roddy works very closely with Representative Greg Porter who represents a portion of our school district. She said he is working very hard for public schools

Mr. Turner said he believes that as a Board they need to keep in touch with what is going on in the State Legislature. He said whatever he can do to help please call on him to do so.

Mr. Kite agreed with Mr. Turner's Statement saying he is also willing to do whatever it takes. He thinks the Board should look at an efficient way to get involved. He likes the idea of the

Board President or designee drafting a statement. Mr. Kite attended the REMS Safety meeting. Mr. Clouse is pursuing a no cost extension of the grant. This group is being very attentive to training at minimal cost. Mr. Kite also attended the State House Celebration for Milken Award Winner, Keana Parquet that was held at the State House.

Mr. Dzwonar shared his concern about the potential impact that some of the education bills currently before the General Assembly could have on our school district. He said it does behoove the Board to collectively make a statement. He also noted that nothing prohibits them as public citizens from making their individual concerns known to our elected officials. Three state legislators representing parts of MSDWT sit on education committees either in the House or the Senate. The Washington Township community should reach out to these elected officials to let them know how we feel about our schools here in Washington Township. Those elected officials are State Representatives Greg Porter and Cindy Noe and State Senator Scott Schneider.

Discussion took place. The Board will prepare a Statement to be presented to the State Legislature. The Board will continue this discussion at the next Board Meeting on February 23, 2011. The Board's full discussion can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

Mr. Dzwonar asked Board Members to get back to him if they have an interest in participating in the Fox Hill Associate Principal interviews. Mr. Kite and Mr. Turner expressed interest.

The Superintendent Search Process continues. The Superintendent Search Brochure and Application has been printed and is in the process of being distributed. The position is also being promoted in a number of Indiana and National publications. In the next week or so Public Forums will be announced and advertised. The Public Forums to gather input from all stakeholders will be held at Eastwood Middle School on March 1, 2011, Northview Middle School on March 2, 2011 and at Westlane Middle School on March 3, 2011. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. There is information regarding the search and the Public Forums on the District's website. Information will also be promoted through other means.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Kite moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.