

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

Regular Meeting, September 09, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Others: Dr. Mervilde, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Doss, Dr. Ewing, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Lane, Mr. Licata, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Marques Crain, Penny Bigelow, Gretchen Becker, Loretta Conner, Holly Solomon, Julie Canady, Molly Murphy, Will Staal, Nicci Saari, Jamie Phillips, Nikki Woodson, William Woodson, Sylvia Trotter, Laurie Phillips, Kari Carr, Kim Piper, Allyson Smith, Sally Lugar, Barbara Wynne, Ralph Power, Val Boots, Dan Boots, Bob Taylor, Paul Bossert, Mark Renholzberger, Charlie Fry, Mark Van Alley, Lara Pastore, Linda Miller, Alan Kenp, Susan Gilchrist, David Krahulik, June French, Ramla Hampton, Murray Clark, Stacy Raysor- Mitchell, Tom Gallulo

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the meeting to order with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance led by Mr. Doss

Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the August 26, 2009 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$9,649,172.27
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel - One Childrearing Leave (2); One Change in Status (5); and Two New Appointments (65), (66) and Classified Personnel – Nineteen New Appointments (19), (20), (21), (22), (23) (24), (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), (32), (33), (34), (35), (36), (37); and Five Resignations (17), (18), (19), (20), (21); and an Addendum to the Personnel Report containing One New Appointment (67).
- 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.

Mr. Wright asked that the Question be divided by removing the Addendum to the Personnel Report New Appointment #67 – Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent from the Consent Agenda and that the Addendum be voted on separately.

Mr. Kite amended his motion to approve the Consent Agenda absent the Addendum to the Personnel Report, New Appointment #67. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. The Consent Agenda absent the Addendum to the Personnel Report passed unanimously

Mr. Dzwonar made a motion to approve the Addendum to the Personnel Report containing New Appointment #67. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded.

Discussion took place. Full comments can be heard on the district's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html>

After discussion Mr. Dzwonar called the vote. The vote passed 4-1 with Mr. Wright opposed.

Dr. Mervilde introduced the new International Baccalaureate Coordinator Allyson Smith. Allyson is currently the Assistant Principal at Allisonville Elementary School. He then introduced Dr. Nikki Woodson. Dr. Woodson has been selected to replace Dr. Hibbard as the new Assistant Superintendent of Washington Township Schools.

Recognitions

Nicole Saari – IN-NELL Teacher of the Year

Nicole Saari was named Teacher of the Year for 2009 by the Indiana Network for Early Language Learning (IN-NELL). She was nominated for this award because of her dedication and enthusiasm for language teaching and her involvement in the community.

She is the secretary of IFLTA (Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association), Public Relations Chair for IN-NELL, and serves on the Advisory Board of I-AATSP (Indiana Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese). She has been nominated as an All Star presenter at the Central States Conference for Teaching of Foreign Languages. In addition to this she has mentored many beginning teachers and hosted student teachers at Eastwood Middle School. Lastly, she coordinates the International Festival each spring at Eastwood Middle School.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Mervilde has finalized and distributed the school visitation schedule to Board members. The Board is registered for the Indiana School Boards Association/Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents Fall Conference September 28th and 29th. The Board is also invited to attend a breakfast on September 28th hosted by the Indiana Urban Schools Association prior to the beginning of the Fall Conference. North Central High School's Homecoming activities will be held on Friday night, including a tailgate party. Prior to the game against Lawrence North High School a short ceremony will be held to dedicate the newly renovated stadium.

Comments From the Public

Mrs. Loretta Conner and Mrs. Valerie Boots made comments to the Board. Those comments can be heard on the district's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html>

Action Items

1. Approval of Supplemental Service Contracts – Mrs. Reynolds

Greenbriar Elementary School entered into year two of school improvement based on last fall's ISTEP+ AYP results. Title I schools that do not make AYP for at least two years must offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to low income students who are in academic need. The Supplemental Educational Services Agreement and Policy are required by the Indiana Department of Education under Title I school improvement status. Districts of these qualifying schools are required to set aside 20% of their total Title I budget for these supplemental services which are designed to improve student academic skills in language arts and math. All children at Greenbriar who qualify for free or reduced lunch are eligible to receive SES. Tutoring services will be provided after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Board members had comments. Discussion took place.

Mr. Dzwonar moved approval to submit the Supplemental Educational Services Agreement and Policy to the Indiana Department of Education as presented. Mr. Kite seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Approval to Submit Independent Service Contracts – Dr. Farrell

Dr. Farrell requested that the Board approve continuing to participate in Independent Service Agreements with individuals who are registered to provide physical and/or occupational therapy for identified special education students. According to the Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) public agencies must provide related services to a student if the individual education planning team determines such services are necessary. There are usually 300-350 students who receive occupational and/or physical therapy during the school year. Annual costs projected for 2009-2010 are \$240,000.00

Mr. Kite moved approval of the Independent Service Contracts as presented. Mr. Wright seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Superintendent's Contract – Ms. Harris

The Board has had many Executive Sessions regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract. Ms. Harris started with some background information. This has been a lengthy process. The Board Attorney, Mr. Charles Rubright was on hand to answer questions.

Mr. Kite moved approval of the Superintendent's Contract as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded.

The Board had questions and comments. Full comments can be heard on the district's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html>. Discussion took place.

The vote passed 4-1 with Mr. Wright opposed.

4. Approval of Agreement with Education Services Company for Actuarial Services – Mr. Licata

In 2003 the District set up a buyout plan for employees with pension bonds. When employees who are not vested leave the District they are not entitled to the buyout money. The funds go in to a forfeiture account and are later distributed to the remaining employees. To make this distribution, an actuary has to determine how much of the forfeited dollars each individual remaining in the club is entitled to. Educational Services Company will provide a qualified individual to assist the School Corporation with the reallocation of forfeitures with the 401(a) and/or VEBA Plan that the school District has set up for buyout purposes. Educational Services Company has been already been providing this service to the District. This agreement is buying that service for the next three years.

Mr. Dzwonar moved approval of the Agreement with Educational Services Company for Actuarial Services as presented. Mr. Wright seconded. Passed unanimously.

Information Items

1. Recap 2008 Financial Settlement Report – Mr. Licata

The District is in relatively good financial health with a 10% cash balance. The District does not have a State Approved 2009 Budget yet. Mr. Licata recapped the actual revenue and expenses of all the taxable funds for 2008. Mr. Licata reported that just under 98% of property taxes for 2008 have been collected by the County. The County gave the District too much in excise taxes in the amount of \$79,000. That money will not have to be repaid, however, the District will receive a less amount in future distributions to offset the overpaid amount. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place.

2. Second Quarter – 2009 Financial Report – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata gave the second quarter – 2009 financial report. The goal is to maintain a prudent operating balance. Some adjustments will be made in the Transportation Fund. The 2009 Budget approval should be received from the State within the next four to six weeks. The CPF Fund will have a loss of revenue in 2009 due to the decrease in assessed valuation and the State-mandated rate cap. The first tax bill for 2008 pay 2009 will be sent out in October. The second bill could go out as soon as February. The County would like to make final settlement in the first quarter of 2010, with two tax bills going out in 2010 to get back on track after four years. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place.

3. Report on Legal Status of Washington Township Swim Club and Public Records Information Request – Dr. Mervilde

Mr. Wright had requested that the Superintendent provide him with printed copies of any Agreements and/or Contracts Washington Township has with the Washington Township Swim Club, Dynamo F.C. Soccer Organization and the Washington Township Schools Community Tennis Program. The Superintendent and his staff spent a considerable amount of time searching for the documents requested from Mr. Wright's public access request. Dr. Mervilde reported that only one document that fit the description of Mr. Wright's request was located. That document was a Lease that was executed on February 27, 1992 between the School District and the Dynamo F.C. Inc. Dr. Mervilde provided all Board Members with a copy of said Lease along with Board policies and other documents regarding the use of District facilities by outside

groups. Discussion took place. The full discussion can be heard on the district's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html>.

4. September 2, 2009 Special Session Follow-Up – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde shared a PowerPoint to follow-up on the Board's September 2, 2009 Special Session on the Referendum. One point of emphasis is that transparency and openness will continue to be keys in conducting this conversation within our community. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Ms. Harris participated in the interview process for the Assistant Superintendent along with Mr. Kite and Mrs. Spann Roddy. It was a very interesting experience with a very positive outcome. She and Mr. Kite also attended the dedication of the Memorial Garden at Spring Mill as a tribute to Christopher Beltz. It was a meaningful and intimate event .

Mr. Kite said he appreciated the Assistant Superintendent interview process. There were three excellent candidates. He also appreciated the invitation to the Greenbriar Open House. Greenbriar is doing a great job with student learning data at their school.

Mr. Dzwonar thanked the Board, Dr. Mervilde and the public who attended tonight's Board Meeting. The Board dealt with some difficult issues and differences of opinion at tonight's meeting. He feels this is the way the Board ought to deal with these types of situations. He encouraged everyone in the Washington Township community that when they do have differences of opinion to deal with them in an open and constructive way, according to policies in order to work through differences as best as we can. He said he hopes that this is the way the District will move forward.

Mrs. Spann Roddy personally welcomed Dr. Nikki Woodson to the Washington Township family and is looking forward to working with her.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.**