

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

Regular Meeting, November 11, 2009 - 7:00 p.m

Location: H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center

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

Absent: None

Others: Dr. Mervilde, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Doss, Dr. Ewing, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Licata, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Dr. Woodson, Marques Crain, Ginny Hacker, Shawn Wright Browner, Todd DeLey, Loretta Conner, Terry Bowen, Charlotte Jacobs, Katie Kerr, Jonathan McBride, Natalie Moore, Hayley Nui, Kelly Ovattara, Julia Bauer, Kathy Null

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In honor of Veterans Day Mr. Phil Smith, who is a veteran, asked those in attendance to please stand for the presentation of the National and State flags and to remain standing for the recitation of the pledge of allegiance and posting of the colors led by the North Central Army Junior JROTC Battalion.

#### Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the October 28, 2009 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$5,207,105.41
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Retirement (1); One Maternity Leave (9), and One New Appointment (70) – Classified Personnel – Seven New Appointments (68), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), (74); and Two Resignations (27), (28).
- 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. Passed unanimously.**

#### Recognitions

The founders of the Bowen Scholarship Robert and Terri Bowen were recognized by the Board for their generosity in providing Practical Nursing students with scholarships. The Bowen Scholarship targets support to African-American students who reside in Marion County and are enrolled in a career-technical school. Since 1994, the Bowens have provided many of our students the funds to continue their education and cover educational needs beyond what their Pell Grants and Stafford loans offer. Mr. Murvin Enders, Bowen Foundation Board Member and Former Washington Township School Board Member, was also in the audience. He has helped the Bowens with the Foundation from its inception.

Margaret Graham, daughter of Dr. J. Everett Light, was also honored by the Board. Margaret coordinates the Philanthropic Educational Organization's (PEO) Program for Continuing Education. P.E.O. is an organization of women celebrating advancement through education. The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE) was established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the United States and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families. We are fortunate to have caring PEO chapter members who interview students each year for the PEO scholarships and grants through J. Everett Light Career Center Programs.

### Superintendent's Announcements

The Board has received several invitations to upcoming events including the Madrigal Feast that will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and Damn Yankees, North Central High School's Fall Musical that will be presented November 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the next School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 instead of Wednesday.

Loretta Conner, Karol Farrell and Doreen Rogers have done a great job coordinating the Marion County Health Department's vaccination process through the District's schools. Dr. Mervilde was at Allisonville Elementary for the start of the vaccinations on Monday morning. He said everything was very well organized. The consent forms for middle and high school students to receive the vaccination will be sent home on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Comments From the Public

There were no comments from the public.

### Action Items

1. Acceptance of Fall Foundation Grants – Dr. Mervilde

The Board had received the Grant information in advance of the meeting and Dr. Mervilde asked Mrs. Hacker to tell the Board a little about the grants. Mr. Smith Vice President of the Foundation Grants Committee also spoke briefly about several grants the Foundation has awarded. Mr. Smith asked for acceptance of the Foundation Grants totaling \$94,578.40

**Mr. Kite moved approval to accept the Fall Foundation Grants in the amount of \$94,578.40 as presented. Mr. Dzwonar seconded. Passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Employee Assistance Program Agreement With Methodist Hospital – Mr. Doss

Mr. Doss explained that the original agreement was with the ISTA Insurance Trust. Methodist has been honoring the terms of that agreement despite the fact that the District is no longer with the ISTA Insurance Trust. This benefit is available to all employees. The annual cost of the Program is \$15,844. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Kite moved approval of the Employee Assistance Program Agreement with Methodist Hospital in the amount of \$15,844 as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.**

3. Approval of Internet Connectivity Contract – Mr. Licata

The Technology Department has investigated the expansion of District Internet connections due to the increase in online assessments, textbook materials and other online media that require larger amounts of bandwidth. A Request for Proposal was issued and four responses were received. Mr. Licata recommended that the Board approve a three year contract with FiberTech to provide Internet connection. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Dzwonar moved approval of a three year contract with FiberTech to provide Internet connection as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Information Items

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata gave the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report going over all the taxable funds. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

2. Board Goals Process Discussion – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Woodson shared a PowerPoint with the Board regarding refining their goals with the help of the S.M.A.R.T. rubric. The Board will work on their Goals and send suggestions and comments to Dr. Woodson to be included in their continuing Board Goals discussion at a Special Session that will held following the Regular Meeting of November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Mr. Wright attended a Gifted and Talented meeting. It was an interesting discussion. Some of the discussion centered on how certain talents are difficult to measure and identify.

Mrs. Spann Roddy and the Health Committee will be meeting for the first time next week. The Policy Committee will also be meeting soon to begin to reviewing current Board policy.

Mr. Dzwonar appreciated the fine Veterans Day program put on by Greenbriar Elementary School. He also had the privilege of attending the North Central High School Wind Ensemble Concert. It was really inspiring. He encouraged everyone to attend the fine arts productions put on by various schools in the District.

Mr. Kite attended Greenbriar's Veterans Day Program. Clearly a lot of thought goes into this event. The Program engages students in a way that is meaningful to them. The students are really paying attention and the significance of the event isn't lost on them. Mr. Kite, Mr. Dzwonar and Ms. Harris attended the GED Graduation and the North Central Open House. The GED Graduation was wonderful and highlighted the Partnerships with Ivy Tech and the Private Industry Council.

Ms. Harris reminded the Board that an Executive Session will be held on Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the Community and Education Center. Last week Ms. Harris met with Mr. Licata, Dr. Mervilde and a representative from the State Auditor's Office who is currently going over federal funds for the District. This is the first year that the Board President has been included in the opening meeting. Last week she attended the Campaign College regarding School Referendum issues along with Dr. Mervilde. On Tuesday evening she attended the Eastwood Middle School band and orchestra concert. She was in awe of how the teachers have engaged the students to perform at the level they did.

Mr. Kite asked if the Board could have discussion about the National School Boards Association Convention that will be held in the spring. That item will be on the November 24<sup>th</sup> Agenda for discussion.

Dr. Mervilde attended the John Strange Pancake Breakfast on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Fox Hill Pancake Breakfast will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, **Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.**