

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

Regular Meeting, December 16, 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, Bill Turner, Mark Van Allen, Gretchen Becker, Nathan Keith, Annie Renholzberger, Mark Renholzberger, Jamie Phillips, Kathy Rieke, Nicci, Andrew and Nicholas Saari, Pete and Claire Campassi, Brenda Henne, Steve Perkins, Joe Knight, Matt Hansen, Morgan Loudermilk, Joe Tyler, Sam Atterholt, Julia Pike, Chris Hansen, CE Quandt, Matt Kaiser, Ed Coleman

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 November 24, 2009 Regular Meeting and the Memoranda of the November 24, 2009 Special and Executive Sessions
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$6,949,907.40
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel –One Resignation (5), One Retirement (2), and One New Appointment (71); – Classified Personnel – Ten New Appointments (85), (86), (87), (88), (89), (90), (91), (92), (93), (94); and Two Resignations (31), (32).
- 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

North Central High School students Jessie Laurin, Colleen Baker, Jack Atterholt, Olivia Snyder and Andrew Cutter were recognized for their participation in the Best Buddies Chapter at North Central High School. The mission of Best Buddies is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-on-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since its inception, the Best Buddies Chapter at North Central has won several awards with the most recent being the Best Buddies International Outstanding High School Chapter.

Ed Coleman, English Teacher and Department Chair at North Central High School was recognized for being one of two Indiana teachers who received the prestigious Milken Educator Award. As a Milken Award recipient Mr. Coleman received \$25,000.

Nathan Keith, District Secondary Math Coach is one of five Indiana educators chosen as State-level finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The Award is the highest recognition that a K-12 math or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. As a finalist, Mr. Keith will receive \$10,000.

Andrea Smith, Spanish Teacher at North Central High School and Steve Perkins, Latin and Theory of Knowledge Teacher at North Central High School, were recognized for being named Blazing Torch Award Recipients. In October, the Indianapolis Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. presented Blazing Torch Awards to Andrea Smith and Steve Perkins for their professional achievements and community service initiatives.

Nicole Saari, Teacher Eastwood Middle School was recognized for being named Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Teacher of the Year. By winning this award, Mrs. Saari is recognized as the top Grade K-8 World Language Teacher in the State of Indiana.

CE Quandt, Principal North Central High School was recognized for being named District 7 High School Principal of the Year. This is the second time Mr. Quandt has received this honor.

Mr. Kevin Brinegar, President and CEO of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, was at the meeting to present an award to Mr. Quandt honoring "Excellence in Hoosier Education." The Chamber looked at how high schools were succeeding with the amount of State funding they received. This award is based on SAT participation rates, SAT composite scores, ISTEP Pass and Pass+ rates, Advanced Placement scores, and Graduation rates. Of the State's 357 public high schools surveyed for this study, 135 were selected to receive the Best Buy Award for 2009. Additionally 26 high schools were given the "Honor Roll" distinction for excelling in spite of having at risk student demographics above the State-wide average. The top recognition went to North Central High School for its exemplary effort in offering the highest level of academic achievement for the comparatively lower amount of tax dollars received. North Central is only one of ten high schools in the State to be tapped as a member of the "2009 Head of the Class." This is the second year in a row that North Central High School has received this award.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Mervilde reminded the Board that Winter Break will begin at the end of the Day on Friday, December 18th. Board Notes will be published on Friday but the Board will not receive the notes again until January 8, 2010. The Marion County Health Department's H1N1 vaccination process is complete in all of our schools. They vaccinated 5,143 students in Washington Township. We are waiting for information on the second round of shots for elementary students aged nine and under. Dr. Mervilde sent a letter to Darryl Finkton congratulating him on being named a Rhodes Scholar. The Board will recognize Darryl when he becomes available later this year.

Comments From the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Approval of 2010 Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata explained that this Resolution authorizes the District to make emergency transfer loans to refund loans made in 2009. Since property taxes haven't been completely collected by the end of the year the extension of this warrant is necessary.

Mr. Kite moved approval of the 2010 Tax Anticipation Warrant as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding – Dr. Mervilde

The Race to the Top grant is part of the AARA Stimulus package approved earlier this year. States and School Districts are being asked to complete a Memorandum Of Understanding to submit with their grant application proposals. This is a highly competitive grant and only fifteen states will be awarded. If awarded, the money will be appropriated based on the District's Title I makeup. The Memorandum Of Understanding says that the District is willing to explore further participation in the grant process. It does not commit the District to the grant. The major commitment of the Race to the Top grant will be evaluation of school personnel. Every teacher and every administrator will have to be evaluated every year and student performance will be a major criteria. The Memorandum of Understanding has to be submitted to the State before January 12, 2010. The final grant will have to be approved by the Board. The Board had comments.

Mr. Wright moved approval of the Resolution authorizing the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Information Items

1. Discussion of \$1.3 Million Reduction Plan – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde reviewed the plan with the Board via Power Point. He had hoped to come to the Board with a final plan at tonight's meeting, but in light of the Governor's recent announcement regarding K-12 funding, the reduction plan will not be approved until the first meeting in January 2010. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place. The discussion and the PowerPoint can be accessed on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html>.

2. Update on Strategic Plan Process – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde gave the Board an update on the Strategic Plan Process via Power Point. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The Power Point and discussion can be accessed on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html>

3. Report on Nora District 5 Attendance Adjustments – Mrs. Reynolds

The first draft of student reassignments was put together in early November. Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith and the Director of Transportation have met with the two principals at John Strange and Nora schools to discuss plans for the transition. Those principals received a list of students who will be reassigned. In January letters will be sent home to the Nora families transitioning to John Strange. Those letters will also contain invitations to John Strange spring events. Students will visit their new schools in February with a meeting being held for parents of those students at John Strange on the same day but later in the evening. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

4. Development of Board Goals – Dr. Woodson

Dr. Woodson led the Board through the development of their goals. Development of Board Goals will also be placed on the January 13, 2010 meeting agenda for further discussion. The Board Goals discussion can be heard on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html>

Separately Reported Board Member Activities

On December 4th, Mr. Kite attended North Central High School's annual Madrigal Dinner at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and thought that all concerned, including North Central's Performing Arts Department, the King's Court Singers, the Madrigal Brass and the Handbell Ringing Ensemble, did a wonderful job of ushering in the Holiday Season.

On December 7, 2009, Mr. Kite had the opportunity to make a second presentation to the combined North Central High School Theory of Knowledge classes. Mr. Kite was impressed with the students' level of focus and engagement and their insightful questions, and thanks Ms. McNew and Mr. Perkins's for their invitation to speak to the class.

On December 15, 2009, Mr. Kite and his wife attended the District's Holiday Open House, which provided an opportunity to celebrate the Holiday Season with MSDWT's faculty, staff and administration, as well as with members of the community. Mr. Kite enjoyed the student musical performances very much.

Mr. Dzwonar was quite impressed with the performances at the NCHS Madrigal Dinner on December 5th and enjoyed celebrating with staff and students at the MSDWT Holiday Open House on the 15th.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Dzwonar moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Mr. Kite seconded. Passed unanimously.