

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

Regular Board Meeting, February 23, 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, Mr. Kneebone, Mr. Hwang

Mr. Dzwonar called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 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 February 09, 2011 Regular Meeting and the February 09, Memorandum of Executive Session
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$3,090,961.44.
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Maternity Leave (18). - Classified Personnel – Four New Appointments (99), (100), (101), (102); and Four Resignations (100), (101), (102), and (103).
- 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.

Superintendent's Announcements

Congratulations to Mr. Turner and his family. Mr. Turner's daughter Ashley was named a Benjamin Templeton Scholar. The Benjamin Templeton Scholars Award Program is a merit scholarship program for academically talented students. The Templeton Scholars Award Program is a four-year renewable full tuition scholarship at Hanover College. There are three students at North Central High School who were named Templeton Scholars.

Congratulations to the following five North Central faculty members and one Eastwood Middle School faculty member for being awarded Lilly Grant Fellowships for Summer 2011:

Joyce J. Click (1992)

Tunes from the Tower of Terror - study songs inspired by prisoners in the Tower of London; compose an operetta for madrigal choir

Thomas D. Gayda

Media Wow! An Immersive Experience in New York City - shadow professional journalists in New York City; write stories about and photograph the city

Carl L. Gibson (2003)

Searching the Stars for Exceptionality - study rules and their exceptions in physics and astronomy

Steven R. Perkins

Great Caesar's Ghost: Bringing a Roman Soldier to Life - obtain a suit of Roman armor and create a Roman soldier character for performance in the classroom

Elaine L. Wiggins

Kilimanjaro Summit: Finding My Soul's Depth on the Rooftop of Africa - train for and climb Mount Kilimanjaro; participate in safari in Tanzania

Lori Kixmiller- Eastwood Middle School: *Feeling French: Creative Inspiration through Victor Hugo's Les Miserables.*

Congratulations to all. We will expect them to come back this fall and give us a report on their exciting work this summer!

The Board will be hosting three Community Meetings to gather input from all stakeholders on the characteristics they would like to see in the new Superintendent. The meetings will be held at Eastwood Middle School on March 1st, Northview Middle School on March 2nd and at Westlane Middle School on March 3rd.

Men's basketball Sectionals begin next week at Broad Ripple High School. The Washington Township School's Foundation annual event, The Great North Run, will be held on the North Central Campus on Saturday, March 12th.

Monday, February 28, 2011 is the first day of ISTEP testing and will end on March 10, 2011.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Acceptance of the Washington Township Schools Foundation Spring 2011 Grants – Dr. Mervilde

The Board had received the grant information in advance of the meeting. The Grants Reception was held at the Community and Education Center last week. Mr. Kite drew the Board's attention to one grant in particular "Project Einstein on Display" This Grant is for a photography project awarded to Sharon McCarthy that will raise awareness of Burmese refugee students at

North Central High School. Mr. Kite said this project will pair North Central High School students with Burmese students. Students will be given a camera to document becoming a part of not only the North Central community, but the larger community they live in. The Board would like know when the showing of the pictures will be held so they may attend. Dr. Mervilde will inform the Board when the event will take place.

Mr. Turner moved approval to accept the Washington Township Schools Foundation Spring 2011 Grants as presented. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

2. Approval of Ed. Tech Grant – Mr. Kneebone

The Educational Technology Grant offers an opportunity to improve core-subject classroom teaching and learning through the use of technology in Indiana schools. Funds awarded under this grant will support the acquisition of technology and student learning. Washington Township is eligible for \$200,000. The grant will provide Netbooks to 9th grade English classrooms and will be loaded with assistive technology software for word prediction and reading assistance.

This Grant will support ENL students and Special Needs students with assistive technology. It will also provide wireless infrastructure at the high school that will allow for future deployments of wireless technology. The grant stipulates that 25% be applied to professional development. Award announcements for the grants will be made on March 30th. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full discussion can be heard on the district's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

Mr. Kite moved approval to submit the Ed. Tech Grant to the Indiana Department of Education as presented. Mr. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. Resolution on 2011 State Education Legislation – Mr. Dzwonar

The Board has had ongoing discussion about possibly drafting a Resolution to send to State Legislators that represent Washington Township. Mr. Dzwonar and Ms. Harris drafted three Resolutions and presented them to the full Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Dzwonar said the question is should the Board adopt one Resolution which would have two calls to action one for Legislators and one for parents and patrons or whether they should adopt two separate Resolutions one for a call to action for Legislators and the other a call for action for parents? After review and discussion the Board decided to adopt one Resolution.

Mr. Turner read the Resolution aloud. Mr. Dzwonar will make sure Legislators who represent our District receive a copy of the signed Resolution. He will also send a copy of the Resolution to The Indiana School Boards Association. Ms. Harris asked that the Indiana Urban Schools Association also receive a copy of the Resolution. Mrs. Spann Roddy also suggested that the Resolution be placed on the home page of the District's website. Mr. Dzwonar will also work to see that a press release gets out tomorrow. The Board discussion and the Resolution can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html. The Resolution can also be accessed on the District's website homepage at www.msdt.k12.in.us

Mr. Dzwonar moved that the Board accept the Resolution as presented with one change in the title by removing the words “For Legislators”. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Information Items/Board Discussion

1. Software Issues Update – Mr. Kneebone

Mr. Kneebone updated the Board on two software searches that are underway. The first is a search for a new data warehouse software. Our current data warehouse software continues to fail at delivering reliable data and accurate reports. Access to reliable data is very important to the success of many of our initiatives. Request for Proposals were submitted to vendors in November. Five vendors submitted their products to a committee. The committee will narrow the field down to two vendors and invite them back for an in depth look at the products. Mr. Kneebone will return to the Board in March with a recommendation and ask for Board approval.

The second software search is for a new Point of Sale software for Child Nutrition Services. Child Nutrition Services has been using School Link’s Point of Sale software and hardware for approximately 15 years. Although the system has served its purpose a lot has changed in technology over the years and Child Nutrition Services is need of a faster, more secure and reliable system. 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. Demographic Study Report – Mr. Smith

Because the District has seen increased student growth in the past two years, Mr. Hwang’s company DeJong-Richter was asked to do a demographic study for the school district in November 2010. Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Hwang. Mr. Hwang presented the study to the Board. The report is the result of collection, review and analysis of student demographics, migration and housing data for the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township.

As a result of the upward enrollment trend over the past few years at MSDWT, the District is contemplating opening a previously closed school. By providing this student and subdivision analysis to the District, it will be better equipped to make informed decisions regarding a course of action to manage the increase in enrollment. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full report can be accessed on the District’s website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

3. Board Discussion and Liaison Reports – Board Members

Ms. Harris did not attend Parent Council this month in order to allow other Board Members who wanted to attend to do so. She did attend the hearing on the Voucher Bill. She was very impressed with our parents who attended the hearing they did a great job. This past weekend she attended the County Level Academic Pursuit Tournament. Our middle schools performed well at each grade level. Eastwood won top level in the eighth grade.

Mrs. Spann Roddy and Mr. Turner attended the Parent Council meeting where Dr. Bennett presented. All of the Community Rooms were filled to capacity. Parents did a wonderful job and asked a lot of tough questions.

Mr. Turner said because the rooms were filled to capacity he thought it would have been nice to have the full Board in attendance at that Parent Council meeting. He and Mrs. Spann Roddy spoke with parents after the meeting. Mr. Turner said we have great parents here in our District.

Mr. Tuner will have the information on the Vendor Relations Policy to the Board soon. He said he is proud of his daughter Ashley for being named a Benjamin Templeton Scholar. The day after she received the scholarship students throughout the day, came up to congratulate her. He is proud that North Central High School is the type of public school that reaches out to students like his daughter. He is proud of being in this District.

Mr. Kite noted for the record that there was no shortage of interest on the part of all the Board Members in attending the Parent Council Meeting with Dr. Bennett. It was simply a decision to have fewer than three attend in order to avoid having to call a special meeting of the Board under the Open Door Law. Mr. Kite attended the February 15th meeting of the Washington Township Schools Foundation and encouraged all to sign up for the Great North Run set for Saturday, March 12, 2011 on the North Central campus.

He greatly enjoyed today's Economic Club speaker, Marc Morial. The former Mayor of New Orleans and current National Urban League President spoke on several issues including education. He advocated for more hours and days for schooling, especially for disadvantaged students as well as staying connected to schools even when we no longer have kids in them. Mr. Kite recently purchased an audio book titled Courts, Kids and the Constitution. The tapes cover many issues the Board has discussed and any member may borrow the tapes if they would like.

Mr. Dzwonar again invited all interested stakeholders to one of the upcoming Public Forums that will be held at the three Middle Schools March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd to provide input as to the qualities people would like to see in the next Superintendent of Schools. All of the Forums will be begin at 7:00 p.m. He also noted that the position has been advertised within Indiana and across the country. Applications are being accepted through the University Placement Team until March 15th. The Board will conduct interviews in April, and hopes to announce the next Superintendent in May and have that person assume the position effective July 1, 2011.

Mr. Kite asked if the position had been advertised with the National Association of Black School Administrators (NABSE). The position has been advertised there as well as with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and in the national publication Education Week.

Mr. Dzwonar appreciated the spirit and the civic-mindedness exhibited via the North Central Senior Class Blood Drive. He also attended the North Central Coffee with the Principal on the same day – a great way for parents to get to know the school and the administration better. He reminded the Board to contact Dr. Woodson if they plan to participate in the Challenge Day activities at the middle schools March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Finally, Mr. Dzwonar encouraged all parents and patrons to communicate with their state legislators about currently pending education legislation.

Dr. Mervilde told the Board that he sent a thank you note to Dr. Bennett after his appearance at the Parent Council meeting. He was proud of our community's turnout and the way

our democracy operates when people have differences of opinion. Dr. Bennett deserves credit for attending and addressing the tough questions.

Ms. Harris asked about the format of the Public Forums. Mr. Dzwonar noted the meetings are advertised as Special Sessions so that all members may attend as desired to observe the process. The forums, facilitated by the University Team, will collect individual as well as group input on the questionnaire which is also available on the Search webpage.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Kite moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.