

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

Regular Board Meeting, March 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. Hammel, Mr. Doss, Dr. Ewing, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Dr. Woodson, Chris Wood, Tom Oestreich, Glenda Ritz, Sean Taylor, Jaleesa Jones, Lisa Jones, Al Watson, Sr., Abigail Hunter, Jane Wienheimer, Jeff Hunter, Lynda McQuiston, Cody Morrison, Milicent Cripe, Mimi Jacobs, Larry Cripe, Camille Reynolds, Yolanda Gardenas, Becky and Will Gering

Mr. Dzwonar called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:07 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 March 8, 2011 Regular Meeting and the March 17th, 2011 Memorandum of Executive Session.
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$2,070,299.89.
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Resignation (9); One Maternity Leave (19); Two Retirements (9), (10); Classified Personnel – Four New Appointments (105), (106) (107), (108); and an Addendum to the Certified Human Resources Report containing One New Appointment (56).
- Approval or Acceptance of Non-competitive Grants, Gifts and Donations: There were no non-competitive grants, gifts or donations presented for the Board's approval.

Mr. Kite moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Recognitions

Dr. Mervilde asked Sean Taylor to join him at the podium. Sean has just been appointed the new Associate Principal at Fox Hill Elementary School and will become the Principal of Fox Hill Elementary when Mrs. Levine retires in 2012. He is currently the Assistant Principal at Allisonville Elementary School.

William Gering, Abigail Hunter, Ellis Mannon, Sriya Muralidharan, Mark Satterly, Matthew Schaefer and Catherine Taylor were all recognized by the Board for having met all requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship program.

Jaleesa Marie Jones was recognized for having met all requirements to advance to Finalist for the National Achievement Scholarship Program for outstanding Black American students.

Elise Grant Johnson is North Central High School's Valedictorian. Elise is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate. She is involved in All for Children, is a member of the French Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, a cheerleader and she is a member of the tennis and soccer teams. Elise plans to attend Stanford or Princeton in the fall.

Millicent Hillock Cripe, is North Central High School's Salutatorian. Millicent is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, Co-President of Descants, participates in All for Children and is on the Speech Team. Millicent plans to attend Yale in the fall and would like to eventually work in politics.

Superintendent's Announcements

Spring Break will begin on March 28, - April 1, 2011. School will resume on April 4th. The Community and Education offices will be open the week of Spring Break.

We continue to watch with great interest the history making political developments of the General Assembly and continue to encourage citizens to contact their elected officials to let them know their opinions on important matters.

Last Friday, Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Erskine spent the day at Spring Mill Elementary School in honor of Jackie Robinson Week. The North Central High School baseball players came to Spring Mill Elementary school in their uniforms to the delight of the elementary students.

Congratulations to Dr. Woodson and the three middle schools for hosting Challenge Day in Washington Township. It was a very powerful event.

Dr. Mervilde thanked Kathy Hammel for filling in for Mrs. Sutton who was out ill.

Comments from the Public

Mrs. Glenda Ritz media specialist and President of the WTEA spoke to the Board about the Superintendent's search process. Mrs. Ritz's comments can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Chris Wood, President of Parent Council read aloud several Position Statements adopted by Parent Council at its last meeting. Mr. Wood's comments can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Action Items

1. Approval to Submit the AVID Contract – Dr. Ewing

The AVID Implementation Agreement is an annual agreement between the school district and the AVID Center that allows the three middle schools and the high school to continue offering the AVID Program during the next school year. The annual membership license fee is \$3,195 per school for a total of \$12,780.

Senior AVID teacher at North Central, Mrs. Lynda McQuiston and four AVID students shared with the Board what AVID means to them. The AVID seniors have received over \$1.5 million in merit based scholarships. The Board had questions. The discussion and the AVID student's comments can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Ms. Harris moved approval to submit the AVID Contract in the amount of \$12,780 as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

2. Acceptance of Title I School Improvement Plans – Dr. Woodson

The Board had received and reviewed the first draft of the School Improvement Plans prior to the meeting. Dr. Woodson told the Board that the District is applying for school-wide Title I that will include all of our elementary and middle schools. The PL221 School Improvement Plans are usually due in the fall. In order for the District not to have to write two school improvement plans we have combined both requirements of Title I and PL221 into one School Improvement Plan per school. The Plans have to be submitted to Title I by April 1, 2011 for first review. The District will receive feedback on the Plans. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place. The full discussion can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Mr. Kite moved approval to accept the Title I Improvement Plans as presented. Mr. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. Approval of Middle Years Program Application – Ms. Smith

Ms. Smith updated the Board on International Baccalaureate. She said it has been rejuvenating to see how IB has changed teaching and learning. It has not only changed how instruction is delivered, but has also changed how engaged students are. Teachers are reporting that the quality of work the students are producing is better than it has been in years. Ms. Smith is a member of the State International Baccalaureate Association and at a recent meeting she learned that Washington Township is considered a leader in the State on IB.

The application process is a three part study that begins with a feasibility statement. An authorization team from the International Baccalaureate organization will visit the district for review then the application can be submitted. The Middle Years Program Application is due in April. The IB Head Council has also reviewed the application. Eighteen months is required between the submission of the first and second application. The Application does require approval and support of the Board of Education. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full discussion can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Mr. Kite moved approval to submit the Middle Years Program Application as presented. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Information Items/Board Discussion

1. Revisiting the Growth Model – What We Know – Dr. Ewing

Dr. Ewing gave an overview of the growth model. Since ISTEP+ began, the only information educators could get was whether students were proficient in Math and Language Arts. For years educators have been asking the Department of Education for something more to show how students

grew. That is what the DOE is developing with the Indiana Growth Model. For the first time, school personnel and teachers can look beyond proficiency to see the growth students make over the course of the year. ISTEP results show student performance in relationship to State standards. Growth measures how individual students change over a period of time. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full report and the discussion can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

2. Update on Time and Attendance System – Mr. Licata

The Automated Time and Attendance is what all District employees will be using in the future. Right now the Payroll Department spends a huge amount of time processing paper timesheets. An automated system will allow employees to check into work in a number of different ways. Mr. Licata is currently seeking proposals for the new system. A committee will evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation that will be brought to the Board in late April or early May for approval. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full report and discussion can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

3. Board Discussion and Liaison Reports – Board Members

Ms. Harris went to the last Parent Council Meeting. She gave a brief update on the Superintendent's search process. The Public Policy Committee came to present the statements they had approved. It was quite impressive to see parents enthusiastic about the reports and wanting to get them out to a larger audience. Parents seem to understand the call to arms to have legislators hear from parents. She missed the IB Head Council Meeting, but did attend the Challenge Day events today. She said it was remarkable to hear and see how many obstacles and disruptions some children face each morning even before arriving at school. It was a very moving experience. She thanked Dr. Woodson for bringing the experience to Washington Township.

Mrs. Spann Roddy attended Challenge Day at Westlane Middle School and said it was very rewarding. Being a parent in the District for over 20 years, 99% of her involvement has been with teachers and students so she really appreciated the opportunity to be involved. She appreciated her staff being able to participate in the Challenge Day activities as well. She and her staff are looking into a Challenge Day opportunity for the students they work with. She thanked Dr. Woodson for her leadership in bringing the program to Washington Township.

Mr. Turner attended the Great North Run, and then headed to Hinkle Fieldhouse to watch the North Central Boys Basketball game. Mr. Turner shared his suggestions on what to keep in mind when filling future leadership positions. His comments may be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Mr. Kite attended the Great North Run, the event has really grown over the years. He also participated in the interviews for the Fox Hill Associate Principal. He attended the Greenbriar Spring Fling. It was a wonderful event. Mr. Kite mentioned that every year the Board makes breakfast for the CEC Staff and he wanted to make sure the Board gets this event on their calendars.

Mr. Dzwonar attended the North Central PTO meeting and provided an update on the Superintendent search process. The Board has received applications and is in the process of reviewing them and will begin interviews in April. It is the Board's hope to name the new Superintendent in May. The Board is still discussing if there would be time for public input once they have narrowed

down to the final candidates. The Board has been counseled to keep the process as confidential and private as possible in order to protect the confidentiality of the candidates. The Board is pleased with the pool of candidates they have received and will continue to move forward with a positive outlook.

Mr. Dzwonar attended the Top 25 Ceremony last week at North Central. The thing that struck him most was that the top 25 seniors get to recognize the teachers that have the most influence on them in 150 words or less. Watching those students and teachers stand side by side as the students' statement was read aloud was incredibly moving and powerful. He did get to stop by Challenge Day at Northview and really appreciated it. Mr. Dzwonar looks forward to hearing how these students continue along that line of work and how this spreads out in the three middle schools. He is very proud of our District and the work we do in the process of educating our students making sure that they are fully empowered to reach their full potential.

Ms. Harris said today is a special day. It is Dr. Mervilde's birthday. On behalf of the Board she wished Dr. Mervilde a Happy Birthday.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.