

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

Public Hearing on 2010 Budget, September 23, 2009 - 7:00 p.m – Regular Meeting to Follow

Location: H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center

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, Dr. Woodson, Marques Crain, Todd DeLey, Shawn Wright Browner, Bill Turner, Laurie Murphy, Sherri Campbell

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the Public Hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance led by Mr. Doss.

Mr. Licata showed a Power Point containing information on the 2010 Budget including the 2010-2012 Capital Projects Fund Plan and the 2010-2021 Bus Replacement Plan. The budgetary process begins with building requests which are reviewed by the Superintendent's Cabinet. The Board of Education holds Special Sessions in order to review the requests and begin to develop the budget. After a Public Hearing is held, the budget is sent to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval. The Department of Local Government Finance will provide a final Budget Order in early 2010. Mr. Licata went over the taxable funds in detail. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The Public Hearing can be heard in its entirety on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu/html>

Comments From the Public

There were no comments from the public relating to the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget, the 2010-2012 Capital Projects Fund Plan and the 2010-2021 Bus Replacement Plan.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Ms. Harris called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:43 p.m.

Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2009 Regular Meeting and the September 9, 2009 Memorandum of Executive Session
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$2,924,009.83
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One New Appointment (68); and One Contract Addendum (1); Classified Personnel – Five New Appointments (38), (39), (40), (41), (42); One Resignation (22); One Retirement (2), and an Addendum to the Certified Personnel Report containing One New Appointment (69).

- 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. Dzwonar moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Kite seconded. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Mervilde introduced Sean Taylor, who has been hired as the new Assistant Principal at Allisonville Elementary School.

Superintendent's Announcements

Mr. Dzwonar and Ms. Harris will accompany Dr. Mervilde and other staff on school visits to John Strange Elementary and Eastwood Middle School on Thursday, September 24th. The ISBA/IAPSS Fall Conference will be held on September 28 & 29, 2009. An International Baccalaureate workshop was held for teachers today at the Community and Education Center. Additional IB training will be held on October 16 & 17, 2009 at the Community and Education Center. The North Central High School Drama Department's Fall Drama The Laramie Project will run September 24th through September 26th. Mrs. Reynolds will host visitors from China and staff for dinner at her home on September 29th. North Central High School has 10 National Merit Semi Finalists.

The first of the Community Roundtables on the General Fund Referendum's 2010 expiration will be held at Eastwood Middle School on September 30, 2009. The second Community Roundtable will be held at Westlane Middle School on October 7, 2009.

Comments From the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

There were no action items on the agenda for this meeting.

Information Items

1. ADM Report – Ms. Lane

Ms. Lane presented the ADM Report. The figures were accurate as of last Friday, but have changed since then. Friday, September 18, 2009 was the official enrollment count day for the school year. This is the day that every student enrolled in and attending our schools must be counted. The District has enrolled 10,664 students. The ADM number is 10,332 which is up about 350 students over the 08-09 school year. The difference comes from the Kindergarten students because they are counted as ½ of a person only on the ADM report. Fifty one percent of our student population receives free and reduced lunch. Students who attend our schools come from 88 different countries. The District has seen an increase in French speaking African students and Burmese students who are refugees. The Board received a report that detailed the exact count and ethnicity in each of the District schools. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place.

2. Positive Behavior Supports Program – Mrs. Reynolds

Mrs. Reynolds shared a PowerPoint on Positive Behavior Supports. The District began looking at this program several years ago with pilot projects at Harcourt and Fox Hill Elementary Schools. Last year Administration decided to include the middle schools. Each school has put together a team to lead this effort. The team consists of teachers, counselors and assistant principals. The goal of the Positive Behavior Supports Program is to achieve sustainable positive school climates which affect academics and overall learning in the classroom. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place.

3. 2009 ISTEP+ Report – Dr. Ewing

The spring 2009 ISTEP+ results were released by the Indiana Department of Education on September 16th. Dr. Ewing reported that, due to changes in the test, its benchmarks and the new spring administration of the test, these results are significantly different than previous versions of the ISTEP+ and don't allow for direct year-to-year comparisons. The spring 2009 results, however, will be used as baseline data for future spring administrations of ISTEP+. Below is a brief overview of our District results:

Elementary

- **Grade 3:** 75% of third graders met both the language arts and mathematics standards. These percentages are above the state averages of 74% in language arts and 72% in mathematics
- **Grade 4:** 71% of fourth graders met both the language arts and mathematics standards and 74% met the science standard. These percentages are below the state average in language arts and above the state average in mathematics and science
- **Grade 5:** 70% of fifth graders met the language arts standard, 88% met the mathematics standard, and 60% met the social studies standard. These percentages are at the state average in language arts, well above the state average in mathematics and above the state average in science

Middle School

- **Grade 6:** 71% of students met the language arts standard, 76% met the mathematics standard, and 54% met the science standard. These percentages are above the state average in language arts, above the state average in mathematics and at the state average in science
- **Grade 7:** 69% of students met the language arts standard, 66% met the mathematics standard and 60% met the science standard. These percentages are above the state average in language arts, below the state average in mathematics and above the state average in social studies
- **Grade 8:** 69% of eighth graders met the language arts standard and 71% met the mathematics standard. These percentages are above the state average of 65% in language arts and above the state average in mathematics.

The Board had questions. Discussion took place. Dr. Mervilde and Mrs. Reynolds are meeting with fifth grade math teachers at each school to find out what they did to increase the math scores at that level.

4. Community and Continuing Education Partnership with Lawrence Township – Mrs. Wright Browner

Effective this school year, Washington Township will partner with Lawrence Township Schools to offer self-funded Community and Continuing Education Adult Enrichment Programs to their residents. In the past Lawrence Township Schools serviced more than 5,000 such students. This partnership will not be an additional burden on the existing budget. The community and Continuing Education Program is self supporting and will continue to be fiscally responsible while still offering high quality programs. This collaboration will also strengthen academic skills; connect Continuing Education secondary programs with post-secondary level by providing professional development activities for instructors and faculty. It will also seek to develop, improve or expand technology into all aspects of the program. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

5. Review the Referendum Process and the Drafting of A Plan – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde reviewed the Referendum process with the Board by sharing a Power Point. A group of citizens have formed a 501(c)(4) in order to run the Referendum campaign if and when a decision is made by the Board to pursue renewal. The officers of the 501(c)(4) are George Crawford, President, Linda Cantor, Secretary and Joe Erne, Treasurer. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The PowerPoint and discussion can be accessed on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/Referendum.html>

6. Board Goals Discussion

Due to the length of the Board Meeting, this item was tabled but will be added as an Information Item on the October 28, 2009 School Board Meeting Agenda. The Board will review the goals individually prior to the next meeting.

Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Mr. Kite attended the first Foundation meeting of the year as the Board Liaison. The focus was revisiting the Mission Statement. Dave Sternberg did a wonderful job presenting. Mr. Kite attended the Plaza Re-Dedication and the Homecoming Game. He also attended the Northview meeting with the China Delegation.

Mr. Dzwonar attended the first Parent Council as meeting of the year as the Board Liaison. He said there was a lot of good energy, dedication and very good representation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.**