

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

Board of Finance Meeting, January 26, 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, Gretchen Becker, Sylvia Lane

Mr. Dzwonar called the Board of Finance Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The first order of business at the Board of Finance Meeting was to elect officers.

Ms. Harris made a motion to elect Mr. Dzwonar as President of the Board of Finance. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Kite made a motion to elect Mr. Turner as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Licata gave the Board an investment report. The District has not made any investments in the last year as cash flow requirements necessitated all extra funds be held in liquid checking and savings accounts. The District money is on deposit with JP Morgan Chase Bank. Interest returns are pretty low at this time.

The Board had questions, discussion took place. The discussion can be heard on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html. Mr. Dzwonar invited comments from the public. No public comments were offered.

Mr. Kite made a motion to adjourn the Board of Finance Meeting. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Dzwonar closed the Board of Finance Meeting and called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Doss led those in attendance with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Kite read the newly adopted Mission Statement aloud.

Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2011 Regular Meeting, the January 12, 2011 and the January 15, 2011 Memoranda of Executive Session and the January 20, 2011 Memorandum of Special Session.

- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Resignation (6). - Classified Personnel – Five New Appointments (92), (93), (94), (95), (96).
- Approval or Acceptance of Non-competitive Grants, Gifts and Donations: There were no non-competitive grants or donations presented for the Board’s approval.

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

Superintendent's Announcements

Mr. Dzwonar and Ms. Harris joined Dr. Mervilde and Dr. Woodson at the IUSA Legislative Luncheon that was held earlier today. Drs. Mervilde and Woodson also attended the IU Partnership Meeting where Dr. Bennett spoke to that group. Dr. Bennett will be a guest speaker at the February 16th Parent Council Meeting. Dr. Mervilde will keep Parent Council and others informed about the decisions the State Legislature is making regarding public schools. Parents needs to stay involved in the process.

Dr. Mervilde and his wife attended Junior Spectacular last week. He will attend the Milken Award Ceremony that will be held in the Rotunda at the State House on Monday, January 31st at 5:00 p.m. Keana Parquet, a teacher at Crooked Creek who recently won the Milken Award, will be honored at Monday’s ceremony. Since Washington Township has had several Milken winners a wall in their honor will be placed in the Community and Education Center lobby.

An Executive Session will be held on February 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Second Reading and Adoption of Various Policy Updates and Revisions – Dr. Woodson

Dr. Woodson led the Board through the updates and revisions received from NEOLA based on changes in Indiana Code. The Board received the final updates and revisions prior to the meeting. The Board suggested a few minor changes and had questions. Discussion took place. After discussion amendments were made to Policy 5111. The full discussion can be accessed on the District’s website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html

Mr. Kite moved approval of Second Reading and Adoption of Various Policy Updates and Revisions as presented with the exception of clarifying changes made to Policy 0142.3 (F. “...the required oath of office.”) and Policy 5111 (A. “...to the requirements of this policy.”) Mr. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Information Items/Board Discussion

1. Superintendent Search Process – Mr. Dzwonar

Mr. Dzwonar shared that the Board has been working diligently since Dr. Mervilde's retirement notice to develop a process and timeline for the hiring of a new Superintendent. The Board is very grateful for the strong position in which Dr. Mervilde will leave the District and will work to have the best candidate available on the job by July 1, 2011. The Board will incorporate time in the hiring process for community input in order to learn what qualities all District stakeholders would like to see in the next Superintendent. Public Forums will be held in March with additional details being shared in the coming weeks during Search updates at Regular School Board Meetings and other communications.

2. Proposed Upgrades to the Cross Country Course – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith and several members of the Cross County staff gave the Board a brief report on proposed upgrades to the North Central Cross Country Course. Mr. Randy Stevens, a parent of two North Central students, outlined a plan to raise private funds for course upgrades including bridges that would allow NCHS to host meets that it is unable to accommodate currently. This would allow for transportation cost reductions and allow North Central an opportunity to make money while hosting meets. Approximately 120 North Central High School Students and approximately 200 middle school students participate in cross country running. While the current course is sufficient for practice, the teams' meets are run on other courses in the city. An artist's rendering of the improved course was shown. The plan is to raise \$50,000 from North Central alumni, businesses and private donations. The fundraising would be coordinated with the Washington Township Schools Foundation through a designated giving program. Once raised, the funds will be turned over to the North Central Athletic Department to complete the project. 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/minu.html

3. Update on Elementary Building Usage – Mr. Smith and Mrs. Reynolds

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Reynolds gave an update on a report the Board received on elementary building usage in December. Mr. Smith provided the Board with some of the data received from a demographic study. In the last several years the District has seen significant increases in student numbers at the elementary level which has created concern about the adequacy of our existing facilities. Mr. Smith, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Licata have met with every elementary school principal and have reviewed every square foot of space to see how it is currently used and how it could be used with minor modifications, renovations and scheduling changes. They have identified additional space in the west side elementary schools and at Nora school. These minor changes and modifications will be made over the summer so as not to interrupt school and will be paid for within the existing Capital Project Funds budget. 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

4. Discussion of Balanced School Year Calendar – Mr. Doss

Mr. Doss gave the Board a brief update on the work of the Calendar Committee. The Committee of 12 teachers and administrators is examining the pros and cons of a Balanced Calendar as it works to establish the calendar for the 2012-2013 School Year. The Balanced Calendar being discussed would reallocate the existing 181 student days by shortening summer break and lengthening Fall and Spring Breaks to two weeks each. This calendar would start school

about 17 days earlier and end one day later than the current calendar. If the Committee's discussion finds that the Balanced Calendar has merit, additional feedback from various stakeholder groups will be solicited prior to bringing the calendar back to the Board for formal approval. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The full discussion and the Balanced Calendar can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

5. Quarterly Progress Update on Major Work Plans – Dr. Mervilde

The Board received the quarterly update prior to the meeting. Dr. Mervilde touched briefly on a few points in the quarterly update. The District received an additional reimbursement for summer school in 2010 and will use that money to expand elementary summer school and ENL summer school to accommodate as many students as we can in 2011. Dr. Mervilde also noted that the IB Program is a unifying framework for addressing major instructional issues in the District. The Board had questions and comments on the Quarterly Update. The full discussion can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

6. Board Discussion and Liaison Reports – Board Members

Ms. Harris and Mr. Turner attended the last Parent Council Meeting. Ms. Harris spoke to the group about Dr. Mervilde's retirement and the search process for the new Superintendent. She also attended and enjoyed Junior Spec. She and Mr. Dzwonar attended the parent's session on Schools to Watch at Eastwood Middle School. It was great to hear what other parents had to say and to see how impressed the people doing the review were. Yesterday she attended the IB Head Council Meeting with Mr. Dzwonar. The meeting was very interesting where Middle School IB Coordinators had made visits to several MYP programs and gave reports on their visits. The biggest theme from their reports was the importance of coordinating the Middle School IB Program with the High School IB Program. The other important item at the meeting was how to incorporate special education students into the IB Program.

She and Mr. Kite worked on the Superintendent Vacancy Brochure which is almost complete. Ms. Harris along with Mr. Dzwonar attended the IUSA Legislative Luncheon that was held today. She was alarmed before the event and said things in the Legislature this year are very concerning. We really need to help inspire our parents to start pushing back because Legislators want to hear from parents. Parents of private and charter schools have already hired people to make sure the bills they are interested in get passed.

Mrs. Spann Roddy and Mr. Turner continue to work on revising the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool so they can have it done early spring. By the time the new Superintendent is on board the document will be in its final form. Mrs. Spann Roddy's daughter is currently doing research on a potential legislative issue related to breathalyzers and drug screens on 21st Century Scholarship students.

Mr. Turner corrected an earlier statement that he had made to Dr. Mervilde related to the Work Plans report given earlier. He and Mrs. Spann Roddy are also working on policy but will modify it by only reviewing required policy reviews from NEOLA until the Board's work in hiring a new Superintendent is complete.

Mr. Kite attended the WTS Foundation's special meeting. The Foundation is looking at different ways to raise money. The Foundation Board is very supportive of the International Baccalaureate Program. The next REMS Safety meeting will be on January 28, 2011.

Mr. Turner and Mrs. Spann Roddy provided Board Members with information on the Vendor Relations policy and requested feedback from all members in order to move forward with the process. Mr. Kite suggested that a full discussion take place with all Board Members prior to proposing revisions to the Vendor Relations Policy. Discussion took place. The full discussion on this topic can be accessed on the District's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/minu.html

Mr. Dzwonar said having been consumed with the Superintendent's search process he had not been able to read all of the information regarding proposed legislation that could impact our District. After hearing discussion at the IUSA Legislative Luncheon, he believes it is very important for the Board to accurately study what those potential changes might be and seek detailed input from staff where appropriate. Depending on the impact, the Board may want to discuss directly communicating its position on such changes with our elected officials at the State House and the MSDWT community in addition to relying on the representation provided by the Indiana School Boards Association and other groups representing MSDWT and its staff. Mr. Dzwonar hopes to have something to share with the Board at the next Board Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Kite seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.