

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

Regular Meeting, October 28, 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, Mrs. Brackett, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Marques Crain, Joe Erne, Chris Wood, Emma Kotyuk, Emma Markey, John Barbee, Mark Renholzberger, Denise Bliss, Holy Solomon, Bill Turner, Stacy Raysor-Mitchell, Lara Pastore, Erica Mayes, Loretta Conner

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. stating that all Board Members were present. 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 October 14, 2009 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$2,761,831.10
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Resignation (4); Two Maternity Leaves (7), (8) and One Administrative Leave – Classified Personnel – Fourteen New Appointments (54), (55), (56), (57), (58), (59), (60), (61), (62), (63), (64) (65), (66), (67); Three Resignations (24), (25), (26); and Two Terminations (1), (2).
- Approval or Acceptance of Non-competitive Grants, Gifts and Donations: There were two non-competitive grants presented for the Board's approval: the 2009-10 Title II, Part A Grant designated for professional development and class size reduction in the amount of \$417,823 and the Title IV, Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant designated for activities and programs that establish, operate and improve local programs of school drug and violence prevention and early intervention in the amount of \$49,124. There were no donations presented for the Board's approval.

Mr. Dzwonar moved approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Mervilde spoke at St. Luke's Methodist Church on Sunday as the church has adopted Fox Hill Elementary School as a Community Service Project. The efforts of Dr. Millard and his parishioners partnering with Fox Hill Elementary are very much appreciated by the District.

North Central High School will host its Annual Open House from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday November 1st. A special GED Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:00 in the North Central High School Performance Classroom.

John Strange Elementary Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009. The Kings Court Madrigal Feast is scheduled for December 4th and 5th.

Three consecutive Executive Sessions are scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2009 in order for the Board to meet with a consultant and to hear about possible litigation and personnel matters.

Comments From the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Approval of 2010 General Fund Referendum Resolution – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde showed a Power Point reviewing information on the 2010 General Fund Referendum. The information has also been presented at Board Meetings and two Public Forums. Dr. Mervilde's Recommendation to the Board is to renew the Referendum for \$.08 to yield a levy of \$4 million and to neutralize the effects on the tax rate by reducing the Capital Projects Levy by \$4 million each of the next seven years. The District will still have to cut \$1.3 million from the budget even if the Referendum does pass. The Board had questions and made comments. Discussion took place. The Power Point and the discussion can be accessed on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html>

Mr. Kite moved approval of the 2010 General Fund Referendum Resolution to renew the Referendum for \$.08 to yield a levy of \$4 million as presented. Mr. Dzwonar seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2010 Neutrality Resolution – Dr. Mervilde

Mr. Dzwonar moved approval of the 2010 Neutrality Resolution to neutralize the effects on the tax rate by reducing the Capital Projects Levy by \$4 million each of the next seven years as presented. Mr. Kite seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. Approval to Reject All Bids for North Central Roofing Project Received on October 1, 2009 – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith reported that on October 1, 2009 bids for the roofing project at North Central High School were received and opened. Five local contractors submitted bids. An analysis of the bids revealed that four out of the five contractors bid roofing products from the same manufacturer. The fifth contractor used a different manufacturer but that bid didn't meet the performance specifications as defined in the project documents.

The District will work with professional partners to determine why only one manufacturer met the specifications and why five local contractors bid the same manufacturer and to also

review and revise the specifications if necessary. Mr. Smith recommended that the Board pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-12-4 reject all bids received on October 1, 2009 and grant permission for Dr. Mervilde to direct that the project be re-advertised and rebid with revised plans and specifications. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

Mr. Kite moved approval to Reject Roof Bids Received on October 1, 2009 for the North Central High School Roofing Project and Granted Permission to Re-Advertise the Project as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Information Items

1. H1N1 Update – Dr. Farrell

Dr. Farrell told the Board that the Marion County Health Department will develop Consent Forms that will be sent to schools for duplication. Forms will need to be distributed ahead of time and must be signed by a parent or guardian prior to vaccination. Only those children with signed Consent Forms will be vaccinated. Vaccinations are recommended but not mandatory. A Connect-Ed message will go out to families to alert them that a Consent Form will be sent home and to inform them of the vaccination clinic days that will be held during the school day. The vaccines will either be nasal mist or injections. Public Health Nurses from the Marion County Health Department will administer the vaccinations at no charge to students in grades K-12. Current guidelines will call for children under age 10 to receive two doses, a minimum of 21 days apart.

General plans have been developed and will be reviewed with each building principal. Each school will have an established vaccination area, including a checkpoint to verify information. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

2. Board Goals Discussion – Board Members

The Board had time to review their Goals prior to the meeting. Dr. Mervilde also provided them with a Financial Goal that is a legal requirement and should be included as one of the Board's Goals. The Board also received a S.M.A.R.T Goals Rubric from Dr. Mervilde. Ms. Harris suggested that a couple of Board Members get together to re-draft the Board Goals using the S.M.A.R.T Goals model. Mr. Dzwonar asked that the three basic areas that were developed at a previous Board Development Session remain intact when the Goals are re-drafted.

Dr. Mervilde stated that he and Dr. Woodson would also like to be involved in re-drafting the Board Goals. Mr. Kite asked that the Financial Goal document be looked at by our legal counsel because of some of the language stated in it. Mr. Dzwonar added that he would like to see the inclusion of some of the steps the previous and current Boards have taken included in the Financial Goal i.e., building a cash balance and closing schools. Mrs. Spann Roddy and Ms. Harris will meet with Dr. Woodson and Dr. Mervilde to re-draft the Board Goals. The Board had questions and comments. Discussion took place.

3. Debriefing School Visits – Board Members

Ms. Harris prefaced the comments by saying that each Board Member was grateful and appreciative for the time each building principal and the Superintendent and his staff put into the tours of the schools. It was great seeing the difference and similarities at each school.

Mr. Kite attended eight different schools. Each school approached the tour differently and he observed many unique things. He was wowed by the extent at which Greenbriar is working with Ball State. Mrs. Zybert's enthusiasm at Nora is leading the building to the extent that the professional learning communities are really working well. Each year he has experienced something different on the tours. Westlane really made him aware of the impact of using the positive behavior supports system.

Mr. Dzwonar greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn more about schools he did not know as well as the ones his children attend. He has now visited all of the schools except Crooked Creek. The thing that most impressed him was the focus on data and how staff at each building is really looking at the data to close the achievement gaps to make sure the needs of every student is met. He enjoyed getting to know more about the teaching staff and administrators. Seeing the passion and talent that we have throughout the district was very instructive for him. He recommends that the district continue this practice on an ongoing basis especially for new Board Members so they can see how everything discussed in Board Meetings is actually being worked out in the buildings.

Mrs. Spann Roddy said all the visits were absolutely wonderful. The one thing she has learned is that education like nursing is a science and she is fascinated by it. She noted that, having grown up with teachers, she never fully appreciated the science of education until now. Mrs. Spann Roddy's mother taught in the District for many years. Her sister is currently a teacher at Allisonville.

Mr. Wright said every time he goes into an elementary and middle school he is impressed with how complex they are and what great skill it takes to run a school building. He compared each school to different factories producing the same product but each has a different sound and different pace. It was very important to him to be able to visit the schools.

Ms. Harris enjoyed seeing the different ways that each school has taken some steps to begin teaching the profile of an IB learner. A great deal of enthusiasm for that approach was observed. She also enjoyed seeing the portable classrooms in action and learning that many teachers were very pleased to be using those classrooms.

Dr. Mervilde told the Board that there will be school visits in the second semester that will showcase some of the quality assurance measures that have been implemented in schools. Fifth grade math scores on the ISTEP+ test have spiked this year. Dr. Mervilde and other staff have visited each elementary school and asked the fifth grade teachers what they did in order to make this happen. The information from those meetings will be compiled and sent to the Board.

Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Mr. Kite and Ms. Harris attended an ISBA Regional Meeting. There were able to hear a couple of wonderful presenters. Mr. Kite attended the Empty Bowls event to fight hunger that was held at North Central High School. On the same night he attended the Schools Foundation meeting. The Foundation's focus was building bridges with different groups in the community.

There are still tickets available for the Foundation's Boots and Jeans Bash, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dzwonar shared that there was a lot of energy at the Parent Council meeting that he attended on October 20th. That evening was the Parent Council's Annual Legislative night. Representatives Delany and Porter were in attendance and there was good discussion. The evening ended with a lot of very engaged committee work. He also attended the ceremony at North Central High School where Ed Coleman was named a Milken Award Winner.

Mrs. Spann Roddy said the Health Committee will meet sometime in November.

Mr. Wright was asked by State Representative Cindy Noe to speak at an education forum held at Tech High School. His presentation was titled "So You Want to Be On The School Board." Mr. Wright's wife is one of the 45 members of St. Luke's church that has partnered with Fox Hill School. She spends a couple of hours on Wednesday mornings to help with ENL students. On Thursday she and their son Steven, who is also one of the St. Luke's volunteers, provide a special dance class for Title I students at Fox Hill Elementary. They very much enjoy being able to volunteer through the St. Luke's partnership.

Ms. Harris noted that during the School Visits she did not hear any complaints about the loss of professional development half-days from teachers. She did, however, hear about creative solutions on how to provide those opportunities to the faculty in spite of the loss of those half days. Some of those opportunities include lunchtime, breakfast and dinner meetings. She attended the Eastwood Parent Education Night where the discussion was about Positive Behavior Supports. The level of parental interest was great. Parents will try to see how some of those behavior supports can be incorporated as tips in the newsletters and in some student social settings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.**