

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

Regular Meeting, June 24, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Kite, Mrs. Spann Roddy, Mr. Dzwonar, Ms. Harris and Mr. Wright

Absent: None

Others: Dr. Mervilde, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Doss, Shawnee Ames, William Turner, Teresa Duwe, Gretchen Becker, Penny Bigelow, Glenna Reinhardt, Glenn Hotmaker, John Hunter, Loretta Conner, Holly Solomon, Karen Neal, Elizabeth Satrom, Lisa Juberg, Jim Cheney, Kimberly Thomas, Louise Murphy Nickelsburg, Mark Renholzberger

Presiding: Mr. Kite, President

Mr. Kite called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:15 pm with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance led by students who participated in the Learning Under the Sun Summer Camp. Each student shared an experience about the camp and talked about their favorite part of the camp. Mr. Kite noted that revisions to the Superintendent's contract would not be on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 2009, the June 10, 2009, the June 16, 2009 and the June 22, 2009 Memoranda of Executive Session
- Approval of Claims Docket totaling \$3,736,764.43
- The Personnel Report which includes: Certified Personnel –One Resignation (14); One Leave (1); and Seven New Appointments (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13).
- Approval or Acceptance of Non-competitive Grants, Gifts and Donations – There were three non-competitive grants presented for approval – the TASL Grant (formerly CODA) in the amount of \$561,300.00, the Basic Special Education Grant in the amount of \$2,515,312.00, the Discretionary Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the Federal Early Childhood Grant in the amount of \$70,693.00

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

Superintendent's Announcements

The Indiana Urban Schools Association Summer Conference was held June 17-18. About 21 people from the District attended including parents and two Board members. At the Conference, Mrs. Balagopal, Principal at Spring Mill Elementary and Jessica Heidelberg teacher presented information on the student data system and Charlie Geyer, ESL teacher at Westlane Middle School gave a presentation on the importance of our English Language Learner programs.

We are in the process of scheduling a Board Development Session on the topic of Board goals and self-evaluation. Mrs. Sutton will work with the Board on dates. Dr. Mervilde drove by the former White River School property. The property is now a park. Arrangements are currently underway to transfer the property permanently to the city.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Approval of Agreement Between Washington Township and Cummins Behavioral Health Systems – Dr. Mervilde

The Board had received the contract for Cummins Behavioral Health Systems in advance of the meeting. Dr. Mervilde reminded the Board that the Elementary Counseling Grant has expired and in order to continue to provide services for students in need of extra support, Administration is seeking the approval of the Board to enter into an Agreement with Cummins Behavioral Health Systems. Services would be paid for with stimulus and special education funds, Medicaid billing and private insurance. The Board had comments and questions. Discussion took place.

Mrs. Spann Roddy asked if Cummins will be providing services at the high school. Dr. Mervilde indicated that at this time North Central will not receive services from Cummins, however, through the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Common Goal Program, a graduation coach will be provided to North Central High School, and will address some of the issues associated with students in need of extra support. The hope is to have additional support through Cummins at the high school in the future.

Ms. Harris moved approval of the Agreement Between Washington Township and Cummins Behavioral Health Systems as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Title II (d) Technology Grant – Mr. Kneebone

Mr. Kneebone reminded the Board that about a month ago they approved submission of the first round of the Title II (d) Technology Grant which has been received in the amount of \$109, 815. This is the second round of the Grant that the District is eligible for in the amount of \$300,000. Funds awarded under this grant will support the acquisition of technology such as software and HP Mini-Notebooks. The District is partnering with Center Grove Schools on this grant and will collaboratively share Professional Development and some online instructional activities with students. Twenty Five percent of the grant has to be used for Professional Development. The Board had questions and comments.

Mr. Dzwonar moved approval to submit the Title II (d) Technology Grant to the Indiana Department of Education in the amount of \$300,000. Mr. Wright seconded. Passed unanimously.

Information Items

1. Copier Selection Update – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata talked about the process that has been taken in order to secure new copiers for the District. The process began with meetings held in January. In February a user survey was submitted to those who would be using the equipment. Pre-qualification notices were sent to bidders twice in March. A vendor fair was held at the Community and Education Center in May. The fair allowed all district employees to see the machines and ask whatever questions they had.

The final four vendors submitted Request for Information (RFI) in June. The committee narrowed it down to two vendors after receiving the RFI's and then selected a vendor. A contract will be submitted to the Board for approval on July 8th. The Board had comments and questions. Discussion took place.

2. Board Discussion on Phenix Investigation Report – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde noted that the District requested that Phenix Investigations compile a report on the events that led up to the death of Christopher Beltz at Spring Mill Elementary School on February 6, 2009. The Phenix Agency is contracted through the District's law firm, Bose, McKinney and Evans. Dr. Mervilde reminded the Board that one of the commitments he made to the community on February 6th was to give them an accurate account and analysis of the events that happened on that day so that, with that understanding, the District could act to prevent its recurrence.

On February 11, 2009 the Administration formed a Task Force to study the traffic and transportation procedures at each school and to recommend changes necessary to ensure safety for all the children who attend Washington Township Schools. Significant physical and procedural changes have already been made at Spring Mill Elementary School and several other schools in the District.

After tonight's meeting the report will be on file at the Community and Education Center for inspection between the hours of 8:00 – 4:00 p.m. In addition certain parts of the report, which would include the Executive Summary and the Safety Report are available on the district's website at www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html

Dr. Mervilde then invited Jon Bailey, Partner with Bose McKinney and Evans Law Firm, Brian Bauer, CEO of Phenix Investigations and Brian Herbert Lead Investigator with Phenix Investigations to provide a summary of their report and to address any questions from the Board. Their presentation and the Board's questions and discussion can be heard in its entirety on the District's website at <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/mini.html>

3. Budget Development Workshop – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata went over the eight taxable funds. Since no budget has been passed by the State many of the figures for the coming year are rough estimates only. A second workshop is scheduled for July 8, 2009. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Mr. Kite noted that a good policy suggestion has been passed on by the Indiana School Boards Association regarding a minority contracting policy. He and Ms. Harris attended the District's GED Graduation on June 11th. He said it was inspiring.

Mr. Dzwonar echoed Dr. Mervilde's comments about the IUSA Conference in particular because there were parents there. There were presentations regarding getting parents more fully involved in school improvement plans. He enjoyed spending time with Mr. Licata at a School Budgeting Seminar held by the Indiana School Boards Association. It was very informative and helpful to him as a Board Member.

Mrs. Spann Roddy participated in a Lacy Leadership training program called Opportunity in Indianapolis. The discussion on charter schools by representatives of the Mind Trust and Indianapolis Public Schools was particularly informative.

Dr. Mervilde reminded Board Members that an ESL Summer School Celebration will be held on Friday, June 26th at Nora Elementary School.

Adjournment

There being no further business, **Mr. Kite adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.**

We hereby certify that the foregoing constitute the minutes of the Board of Education of the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township for the Board's Regular Meeting occurring on June 24, 2009 as approved by the Board on July 8, 2009.

Mr. Donald B. Kite, President

Mr. Anthony S. Dzwonar, Secretary