

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

Regular Meeting, November 24, 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, Mr. Licata, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Smith, Dr. Woodson, Dr. Stroud, Mike Wentworth, Lara Pastore, Rachel Potenza, Alexis Kent, Mark Renholzberger, Todd Carter, Bill Turner

Presiding: Ms. Harris, President

Ms. Harris called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance led by Mr. Smith.

Approval Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of the Minutes of the November 11, 2009 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Claims in the amount of \$1,825,307.81
- Approval of the Human Resources Report containing: Certified Personnel – One Maternity Leave (10), and – Classified Personnel – Ten New Appointments (75), (76), (77), (78), (79), (80), (81), (82), (83), (84); and Two Resignations (29), (30).
- 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.**

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Mervilde reported that Darryl Finkton, North Central High School Class of 2006, has been named a Rhodes Scholar. Darryl is currently a senior at Harvard studying to be a doctor.

The Anti-Defamation League honored Governor Mitch Daniels, an NCHS graduate, as its Man of the Year. Mr. Quandt has been named the District 7 High School Principal of the Year an honor he also received in 1997. The Kings Court Madrigal Feast will be held December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

The District recently conducted a climate survey with teachers and other employees. In early December the District will send out information to begin a Parent Survey. A report on the results of those surveys will be given to the Board in February.

Dr. Mervilde wished everyone a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

## Comments From the Public

Mrs. Lara Pastore, President of the Washington Township Parent Council read aloud a position statement regarding the 2010 Referendum that was adopted at their November 18, 2009 meeting. The Parent Council fully endorsed the Referendum and will use their collective voice to educate the community about the critical importance of voting Yes to ensure passage of the 2010 Referendum.

## Action Items

1. Approval of HVAC Installation Contract for John Strange, Crooked Creek and Spring Mill – Mr. Smith

Legally advertised bids for the replacement of the HVAC systems at Crooked Creek, John Strange and Spring Mill Elementary schools were opened and read aloud on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center. Six contractors submitted bids, which included a base bid and nine alternate bids. Mr. Smith recommended that Lehman Mechanical Contractors be awarded a contract in the amount of \$2,663,820. The amount includes most of the alternates. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Kite moved approval to award a contract to Lehman Mechanical Contractors in the amount of \$2,663,820 as presented. Mr. Wright seconded. Passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of 2010 Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution – Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata explained that this Resolution authorizes the District to make temporary loans to meet current running expenses in all the taxable funds and the Referendum Fund. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Kite moved approval of the 2010 Tax Anticipation Warrant as presented. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.**

## Information Items

1. Ball State Immersion Grant Activities at Greenbriar – Mrs. Reynolds

Mrs. Reynolds introduced Mr. Dana Kaminski, Principal at Greenbriar Elementary School and Dr. Stroud of Ball State University. Dr. Stroud and Mr. Kaminski gave the Board a comprehensive report about the partnership. This three-year grant running from 2008 to 2011 will provide financial resources and human capital to promote student achievement growth among the student population at Greenbriar and provide an effective teacher training experience for Ball State education students using the medical training model. Among the outcomes expected are a fully functional parent resource room at Greenbriar, increased parent/community participation, increased student achievement and the potential for further funding. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

2. National School Boards Association Convention Discussion – Board Members

The NSBA Convention will be held in Chicago this year April 10-12, 2010. Dr. Mervilde noted the Board has a responsibility to continue its professional development just as the District's teachers and administrative staff. The Convention will be full of high quality programs. At a recent Board Development session the facilitator reminded Board Members that they are a very young Board and should participate in additional training. The Board had additional discussion and all Members agreed that it would be worthwhile to attend the NSBA Convention in April in Chicago. Mrs. Sutton will begin to make arrangements.

### 3. Discussion of \$1.3 Million Budget Reduction Process and Plan – Dr. Mervilde

Dr. Mervilde showed a Power Point to share with the Board a draft of the \$1.3 million in budget reductions for the 2010-2011 school year as part of the Board-adopted plan for the 2010 Referendum. The Board had questions. Discussion took place. The Power Point can be accessed on the District's website at [www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html](http://www.msdt.k12.in.us/board/file.html)

### 4. Enrollment Management Report – Dr. Mervilde

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Reynolds presented a proposal to better balance enrollment at Nora and John Strange elementary schools. Currently, a group of 58 students live in the John Strange attendance area but attend Nora. As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, Nora's attendance is 866 and John Strange's is 592. Moving these students at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year would help with balancing enrollment. The Board had questions. Discussion took place.

### Board Comments/Liaison Reports

Ms. Harris noted that a few changes will be made at this and future Board Meetings. Board Members will no longer make their comments at the end of each Board Meeting. Ms. Harris told Board Members that if they want their comments included in the minutes send them to Mrs. Sutton and she will add them. Also, going forward, a motion will be made to adjourn the meeting.

### Separately Reported Board Member Activities

Mr. Wright has been appointed by State Superintendent Tony Bennett to a School Board Advisory Council. This Advisory Board has nine members from throughout Indiana and its purpose is to be a sounding board for the State Superintendent. He has also been asked to participate in a focus group being conducted for the U.S. Department of Education. The participants on that focus group are superintendents, school board members and educators from Indiana.

Mr. Kite thought the Board Development Session held on November 13 was a great session. He attended the WTS Foundation's Boots and Jeans Bash that was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended. Mr. Kite and Mr. Dzwonar attended the Parent Council Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>. He attended North Central High School's musical Damn Yankees and said it was wonderfully done. He served coffee at a retired staff gathering hosted by the Foundation prior to attending the play. Finally, Mr. Kite attended the Crooked Creek Thanksgiving Feast.

Mr. Dzwonar attended the November 14<sup>th</sup> Parent Council meeting along with Mr. Kite. Applications for the Parent Council endorsement of the May 2010 School Board election are due

by December 16 with a decision rendered by January 21<sup>st</sup>. The Parent Council unanimously voiced its support of the General Fund Referendum that will be on the May 2010 ballot. Also at the Parent Council meeting Dr. Mervilde and others conducted a helpful Question and Answer session on productive ways of resolving conflict under the Parent Council's "Effective, Empowered Parents" goal.

Mr. Dzwonar also attended and greatly enjoyed the Washington Township Schools Foundation Boots and Jeans Bash, North Central High School's Fall musical and the Crooked Creek Thanksgiving Feast.

Ms. Harris also attended the Foundation's Boots and Jeans Bash and North Central High Schools Fall musical.

#### Adjournment

**There being no further business, Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Spann Roddy seconded. Passed unanimously.**