

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

OCTOBER 15, 2015

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015, in the cafeteria of Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St., Marion, Indiana, at 7:01 pm.

Board members present:

Mr. Scott Murphy	President
Dr. Harry Hall	1 st Vice President
Mr. Aaron Vermilion	2 nd Vice President
Mrs. Katie Morgan	Member
Mr. Greg Kitts	Member
Mrs. Pam Hutchison	Member

Board members absent:

Mrs. Cathy Moritz	Secretary
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Also present:

Mr. Brad Lindsay	Superintendent
Dr. Robert Schultz	Assistant Superintendent/Business Affairs
Mrs. Brenda McVicker	Director, Elementary Education
Mrs. Shelley Preston	Director, Human Resources
Mr. Keith Burke	Marion High School Principal
Mr. Mike Ripperger	Director, Tucker Career & Technology Center
Mrs. Michele Kelsay	Instructional Coordinator
Mrs. Patricia Gibson	Communications Director
Mrs. Lynn Gosser	Director, Grant County Special Ed Cooperative
Mrs. Lisa Graham	Director of Special Services
Mrs. Melissa Richards	Justice Intermediate School Principal
Mrs. Kerri Wortinger	Preschool Program Manager
Mr. David Khalouf	Principal, Kendall Elementary
Mr. Lendon Schwartz	Principal, Riverview Elementary
Mr. Dan Gerhart	Support Services System Manager
Mr. Chris Walker	Associate Principal, Marion High School
Mrs. Anne Liddick	Principal, Frances Slocum Elementary
Mrs. Michele Kelsay	Instructional Coordinator
Mr. Anthony Williams	Principal, Allen Elementary
Mrs. Dawn Morgan	Principal, McCulloch Junior High School
Mrs. Justine Pond	Assistant HR Director
Mrs. Lynn Gosser	Director, Grant County Sp.Ed Coop
Mrs. Jenn Nickell	Asst. Principal, Justice Intermediate School
Mr. Tim Cruea	Transportation Director

Media/Distinguished Guests:

Mr. Ben Quiggle	Reporter, Chronicle-Tribune
Mrs. Stephanie Holcomb	Marion Teachers Association

Spectators/Patrons

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Murphy, Board President, called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given. There was a moment of silence.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lindsay requested approval of the Board for the Consent Agenda Items as follows:

- 15-214 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2015*
- 15-215 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2015*
- 15-216 PERSONNEL REPORTS*
- 15-216.1 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS*
- 15-217 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST*
- 15-218 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – ALLEN*
- 15-219 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – RIVERVIEW*

Any Board member may request to breakout any consent agenda item and conduct a separate vote.

15-214 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the executive session held Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:45 pm.

15-215 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

15-216 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

10/14/15

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Willie Tucker	MHS, Head Varsity Girls Swim Coach and Head Varsity Boys Swim Coach	9/14/15

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Kyle Etherington	MHS, Social Studies	10/19/15

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Ceola Friday	Riverview, Kindergarten	11/30/15; 12/1/15; and 1/22/16

CLASSIFIED REPORT

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Debra Burkhart	MHS, Instructional Educational Assistant	9/16/15
Deborah Butcher	Tucker, Instructional Educational Assistant	10/1/15
Kimberly Davis	Allen, Academic Lab/Technology Specialist	10/21/15
Shaela Smith	District, Payroll Bookkeeper	10/9/15

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Carlos Delgado	From Educational Assistant Substitute to Justice Marshall, Instructional Educational Assistant	10/5/15
Stephanie Floyd	MHS, Kitchen Assistant – from 5.25 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day	10/15/15
Alicia Harris	From Food Service Substitute to MHS, Kitchen Assistant	10/15/15
Joseph Harris	From Food Service Substitute to Riverview, Kitchen Assistant	10/15/15
Karen McMurray	From Food Service Substitute to McCulloch, Kitchen Assistant	10/15/15
Maegan Paul	From Food Service Substitute to Frances Slocum, Kitchen Assistant	10/15/15
Patricia Rogers	MHS, Kitchen Assistant – from 6.5 hours per day to 5.25 hours per day	10/15/15

Family Medical Leave

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Steven Chambers	District, Title I/Resource Clerk	9/26/15 through 10/9/15

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Nila S. Edgell	Kendall, Elementary Food Service Supervisor	10/19/15 through 5/20/16

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Derek Anderson	Justice Marshall, Academic Lab/Technology Specialist	10/15/15

Termination

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Theresa Grant	MHS, Kitchen Assistant	9/18/15
Eva Johnson	MHS, Kitchen Assistant	9/18/15

The Superintendent recommended approval of the Personnel Reports, as presented.

15-216.1 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ADDENDA
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

10/15/15

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Recommendation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Robert Burchell	MHS, Head Varsity Boys Swim Coach and Head Varsity Girls Swim Coach	11/10/15 and 10/27/15
Dru McCoy	McCulloch, Club Sponsor – 7 th & 8 th Grade Tennis	8/11/2015

CLASSIFIED REPORT

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Lucille Neal	MHS, Kitchen Assistant – from 2.75 hours to 4.25 hours per day	10/17/15

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
William Brown	Transportation, Bus Driver	10/16/15
Shayona Funches	Frances Slocum, Instructional Educational Assistant	10/12/15

The Superintendent recommended approval of the Addenda Personnel Reports, as presented.

15-217 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 9/26/15 through 10/14/15 was presented. The report included accounts payable claims #96,755 to #96,760; #96,770 to #96,790; #96,797 to #96,847; #96,857 to #96,866; and #96,870 to #97,043 for a total of 262 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$2,464,939.21; of that amount \$931,959.43 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. (Exhibit "A")

15-218 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – ALLEN ELEMENTARY

The administration recommended the Board approve the acceptance of a donation to Allen Elementary of \$500 from Kappa Kappa Sigma. The donation will be used to continue to stock the food pantry at Allen Elementary.

15-219 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY

It was the administrations recommendation that the Board approve the acceptance of a donation from Walmart (Corporate Giving). The donation of \$250 provides additional funding for students to go on field trips.

Mrs. Morgan entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 15-214 through 15-219. After a second by Mrs. Hutchison, the motion passed. Mr. Vermilion abstained from items 15-214 and 15-215.

III. ACTION

There was no action taken.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

15-224 DISTRICT TARGET #2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS UPDATE

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS PK-12 – Draft school improvement plans were provided to the Board for review. Principals from each building discussed specific sections of their building plans.

15-225 PHASE II RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Lindsay summarized the steps that have been taken since last October to finally develop a recommendation for restructuring. The Superintendent's recommendation was:

For the 2016-17 School Year:

- P-4 schools at Allen, Slocum, Riverview, Kendall
- 5-6 and Pre at Justice
- 7-8 at McCulloch
- 9-12/CTE/Alt. Ed./District Offices at Marion High School

Looking into the 2017-18 school year, a possible scenario might be:

- P-4 schools @ Allen, Slocum, Riverview, Kendall
- 5-7 at Justice
- 8-12/CTE/Alt. Ed. at Marion High School

This proposal for restructuring addresses several of the community concerns:

1. Keeping local neighborhood schools.
2. Desire for longer span of years in same school.
3. Concern with 7th grade students at the high school.
4. Desire to slow the reconfiguration process down.

Mrs. Morgan thanked Mr. Lindsay and the administration. She commented that she sat through many presentations, and appreciated how the information was prepared. She has said before that no decisions had been made before this meeting. She appreciated the public comments. This process and decision have weighted heavily on the Board.

Mr. Kitts recognized and thanked everyone who served on the Study Team Committee.

Mr. Vermilion stated that this recommendation looks different than what he thought it would look like. It bothered him that some people thought the decision had already been made. We really cared and listened to what the community said and brought back something the overwhelming majority wanted. The reason we have to do this is we have almost 2000 student excess capacity in our buildings. His other concern was we were going too fast. We want to be ready the 2nd week of August and that's why you see a two phase approach. Finally, if you don't send your kids to Marion, you should. He knows we have a lot of kids who leave us at 5th or 6th grade. His kids attend MCS, and his oldest son is going to be able and prepared to go to any college he wants. If you have kids, you should be sending them here K through 12th grade. We need this so we don't continue to shrink. You need to tell your neighbors the truth. There are many good things happening.

Dr. Hall applauded the study team and the Superintendent for coming up with the recommendation. It addresses the concerns we heard from the community. It's probably not what we would have wanted in the first place but it gets the job done and it meets the needs of our parents and community at the same time. It positions us for the future. Gives us some opportunity, whatever way our enrollment goes, or how the budget goes, we are ready and we can weather for another 5 or 10 years without major changes. He is proud of the work that has been done.

Mrs. Hutchison commented that she has been going to several Indiana School Board Association meetings. Something that has stuck out is the best thing to draw people to a community is a strong school system. Making it the biggest asset our city has, we can recapture the city that we all want.

Mr. Murphy thanked the study team, especially the administrators and teachers. This has been ongoing for months and months and he knows it can be a stretch. He had a parent who thought we were going to close Kendall after the first week. Rumors were all over the place and questions. It has been a good process and supported by a strong administrative team. We received a lot of parent input as well, and he's pleased with what he sees. Today we have 5 transitions. The 17-18 year would be down to three. The community wanted neighborhood schools, and we heard that loud and clear. Seventh (7th) graders in a different setting than the high school was another thing we heard loud and clear. Mr. Murphy has appreciated the leadership through this process. It's interesting because he does think we have a strong school system today. A system with a B rating last year, look at the progress that has been made in the last few years. We can point to where we are at today and feel very good. Marion Community Schools prepared his two daughters for college and they both had an outstanding experience here. He knows it's been a journey but it's been well worth it.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. MARION TEACHERS ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Marion Teachers Association.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Lindsay thanked the MTA leadership for their efforts and offering solutions. We have a press release that will be sent out tonight. It will also be put on the website, e-connections, and sent to parents through School Messenger. Beyond that, our principals are equipped to answer staff questions and to engage them. Here at Marion Community Schools, we have won, we are winning, and we will win. We are one Giant Nation. That's what we do, we win!

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Hall commented that we are coming toward the end of our soccer season, and the boys had a wonder year, and the girls game last night at Logansport was great.

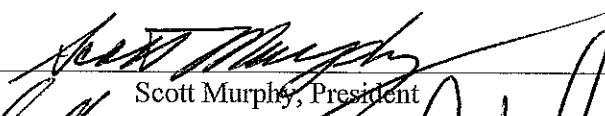
Mrs. Morgan stated that we just ended the first 9 weeks and she thanked all the administration and staff. Her children are off to a great start and she's hearing that from a lot of other parents. Mrs. Morgan acknowledged all the donations accepted tonight.

Mr. Kitts commented that this is a time of change and restructuring and relooking at things. He asked that the Board and administration consider allowing high school students to be released for lunch outside of the school. Junior and senior leaders, who are in good standing, should be allowed to eat lunch in the community. We are competing with the local competitive market, and this might be another reason for someone to choose Marion Community Schools.

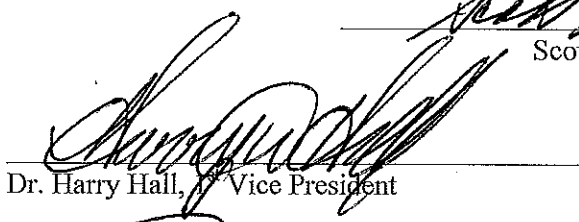
Mr. Murphy commented that our math team competed this week and finished 2nd in a group from Ohio and Indiana. Congratulations to Mr. Burke on their outstanding performance. Mr. Murphy thanked everyone for allowing the board meeting to be rescheduled from Wednesday to Thursday so that we could support the Girls Soccer team. It was nice to get out and support our kids in Logansport.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

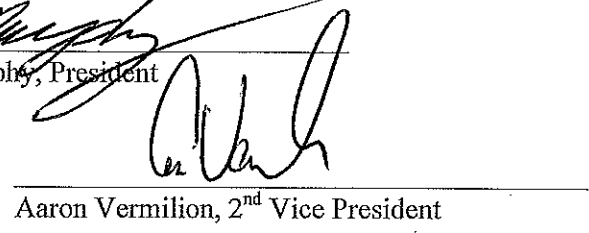
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Marion High School. There being no further comments, President Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



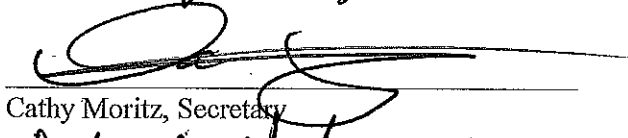
Scott Murphy, President



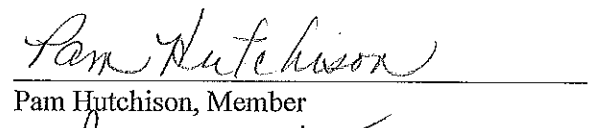
Dr. Harry Hall, Vice President



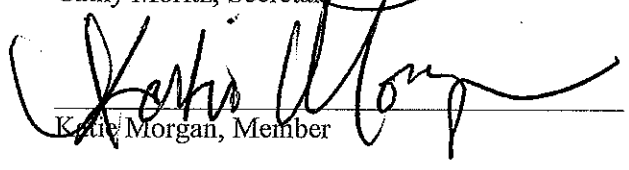
Aaron Vermilion, 2nd Vice President



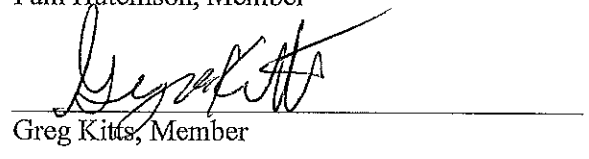
Cathy Moritz, Secretary



Pam Hutchison, Member



Katie Morgan, Member



Greg Kitts, Member

