

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

December 14, 2011

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, in the Board Room of the Education Service Center, 1240 S. Adams Street, Marion, Indiana, at 6:03 p.m.

Board members present:

Mr. Aaron Vermilion	President
Dr. Harry Hall	1 st Vice President
Mr. Scott Murphy	2 nd Vice President
Mrs. Katie Morgan	Secretary
Mrs. Cathy Moritz	Member
Mr. Greg Kitts	Member
Mr. Mike Luce	Member

Board members absent:

Mr. Scott Murphy	2 nd Vice President
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Also present:

Mr. Steve Edwards	Superintendent
Dr. Kenneth Folks	Asst. Superintendent for Instruction
Dr. Ginger Studebaker-Bolinger	Asst. Superintendent for Personnel
Mr. Jim McWhirt	Business Manager
Mr. Troy Freeman	Director of Support Services
Dr. June Robinson	Director of Special Services
Mrs. Michelle Clouser	Elementary Instructional Coordinator/Title I
Mrs. Michelle Lochner	Principal, Justice Intermediate School
Mrs. Michele Kelsay	Principal, Riverview Elementary School

Distinguished Guests:

Mr. John Clayborn	MTA President
Mr. Derek Beigh	Chronicle-Tribune
Ms. Julia Cline	WBAT-WCJC-WXXC Radio

Spectators/Patrons	14
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I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 11-259 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD DECEMBER 7, 2011*
- 11-260 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 7, 2011*
- 11-261 PERSONNEL REPORTS*
- 11-262 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – MARION HIGH SCHOOL*
- 11-263 AMENDMENT OF VALIC 401A PLAN*
- 11-264 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – ALLEN ELEMENTARY*

11-264.1 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

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

11-259 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD DECEMBER 7, 2011

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the executive session held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

11-260 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 7, 2011

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

11-261 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

12/14/11

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Recommendation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Lawrence Johnson III	McCulloch, 7 th and 8 th Grade Wrestling Coach	For the 2011-2012 Wrestling Season
William Tucker	MHS, Varsity Girls Swim Coach	For the 2011-2012 Swim Season

CLASSIFIED REPORT

Family Medical Leave

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Heather Pratt	MCS Early Childhood Center, Head Start Education Coordinator	12/12/11 through 2/6/12
Darrell Smith	MHS, Working Lead Custodian	10/31/11 through 1/16/12

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Ashlee Shook	From McCulloch, Math (temporary contract – Bargaining Unit) to McCulloch, Academic Specialist (Classified Employee)	10/31/11

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
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Pamela Bricker	Transportation, Bus Driver	11/10/11
Peggy Briggs	Kendall, Recess Monitor & Kitchen Assistant	12/4/11
Daniel Castillo	Frances Slocum, Lead Custodian	1/15/12

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Angie Boone	Kendall, Instructional Educational Assistant	12/15/11

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

11-262 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – MARION HIGH SCHOOL

The administration recommended approval of the overnight field trip request from Marion High School for the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honorary Society members to participate in the 2012 Mu Alpha Theta National Convention in Boston, MA. The group will leave Marion High School on Sunday, July 8, 2012 at a time to be determined, and return on Friday, July 13, 2012. Transportation to and from the Indianapolis airport will be provided by the school district transportation department. There will be approximately 20-30 students participating and approximately 6 adult chaperones.

Board Policy #2340 requires Board approval for school sponsored out-of-state student trips and/or overnight field trips. The Superintendent recommended approval of the field trip request as part of the Consent Agenda Items.

11-263 AMENDMENT OF VALIC 401A PLAN

To keep in compliance with new law changes, Mr. McWhirt recommended the Board approve the “Amendment for Pension Protection Act, HEART Act and Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act” and a “Certificate of Adopting Resolution” for the amendment, to the Marion Community Schools Administrator’s 401(a) Plan prior to December 31, 2011. This plan is with VALIC. The amendments provide employees with enhanced benefits and more flexibility with the funds, in accordance with applicable provisions. **(Exhibit “A”)**

11-264 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – ALLEN ELEMENTARY

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the acceptance of a donation to Allen Elementary School from the Student Education Association of Indiana Wesleyan University, of hats, scarves, and gloves, an approximate value of \$115.00. These articles will be given to the Allen students who need assistance.

11-264.1 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

Mr. Edwards recommended the Board approve entering into a contract for consulting services with Learning WoRX, Inc. for a comprehensive plan for improvement at Justice Intermediate School. The contract will be for 40 days, with services to be rendered on or before June 15, 2012, for a total cost of \$48,000. **(Exhibit “B”)**

Mrs. Moritz entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items #11-259 through and including #11-264.1, as presented. After a second by Dr. Hall, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

III. DISCUSSION

11-265 JUSTICE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Mr. Edwards gave a report to the board detailing the steps being taken at Justice Intermediate School to improve student performance. Mr. Edwards answered questions from the Board members.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Joselyn Whittaker addressed the Board regarding student achievement.

Mrs. Annette Yancy addressed the Board regarding policy and student behaviors at school.

Mr. Doug Haviland addressed the Board regarding student behavior at Justice.

V. MARION TEACHERS ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Marion Teachers Association.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Thanked the public for being here tonight and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Hall thanked everyone who spoke tonight. He would like to see more people at the Board meetings and engaged in the schools. We may not always agree with you but we do listen. Please don't get disappointed just because we don't agree with you.

Mr. Kitts stated that if parents are concerned with bullying, Mr. Edwards wants to speak with you about it. At the end of the day, we have to educate all students. We have to maintain discipline in the classroom so that all children can learn. We understand that it's a struggle each day for teachers, but we are here to support the teachers and the administration.

Mr. Murphy thanked everyone who came out to speak. There are concerns. The community involvement piece and parent accountability is difficult for a school system to reach out to, but we need to work harder at getting everyone involved. We can do a better job building relationships, and we need to work harder on getting the community involved. We did a great job with the Friends of Marion High School and we need to expand that in some form or fashion at Justice and McCulloch. He thanked the teachers. Mr. Murphy stated that he believes that every kid is a good kid but some are difficult to reach. Our teachers work incredibly hard as does the administration.

Mr. Luce stated that nothing that is really important comes easy. The education of every student is first and foremost. We have seen good success and great accomplishments at Marion Community Schools in the last three years. Input from the community is valued. We need more people to come forward with their views and ideas. He is proud of the MTA and the work they have put in, in terms of trying to move our system forward. It is a difficult job to be a teacher and an educator. Our administrative staff has shown great leadership and have put teachers in leadership roles to help us move forward. We need to stay positive, identify what needs to be addressed, and make improvements. We heard the comments made tonight from everyone. Let's stay positive, understand that it takes a lot of work and there will be a lot more work as we move forward. Every problem will not be corrected overnight, but it will be addressed. Mr. Luce commended the administration and the staff for all the work they do. He especially commended the MTA. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

Mr. Vermilion thanked the Student Education Association of IWU for their donation. If it were easy we'd all do it. It's not easy, but everyone in the district is trying to make MCS better. We get hit with a lot, but we will keep fighting because these are our kids.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be an organizational and regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Service Center. There being no further comments, President Vermilion adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Aaron Vermilion, President

Dr. Harry Hall, 1st Vice President

Scott Murphy, 2nd Vice President

Katie Morgan, Secretary

Greg Kitts, Member

F. Michael Luce, Member

Cathy Moritz, Member