

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

April 22, 2015

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in room 4-4 of Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St., Marion, Indiana, at 6:01 pm.

Board members present:

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

Board members absent:

None

Also present:

Mr. Brad Lindsay	Superintendent
Mr. Chris Hoke	Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs
Mrs. Brenda McVicker	Director of Elementary Education
Mrs. Shelley Preston	Director, Human Resources
Mrs. Patricia Gibson	Director of Communications
Mr. Mike Ripperger	Director, Tucker Career & Technology Center
Mr. David Khalouf	Principal, Kendall Elementary School
Mrs. Kristi Phillippe	Assistant Principal, Kendall Elementary School
Mrs. Michele Kelsay	Principal, Riverview Elementary School
Mrs. Melissa Richards	Principal, Justice Intermediate School
Mr. Keith Burke	Principal, Marion High School
Mrs. Anne Liddick	Principal, Frances Slocum Elementary School
Mr. Lendon Schwartz	Assistant Principal, Allen Elementary School
Mrs. Dawn Morgan	Assistant Principal, McCulloch Junior High School
Mrs. Kerri Wortinger	Head Start Program Manager
Mr. Nate Miley	Assistant Principal, Frances Slocum Elementary School
Mr. James Bragg	Associate Principal, Marion High School
Mr. Scott Hoeksema	Title I Data/Instructional Technology

Media/Distinguished Guests:

Mr. John Butcher	President, Marion Teachers Association
Mr. Scott Simpson	Vice President, Marion Teachers Association
Ms. Jillian Fellows	Reporter, Chronicle-Tribune

Spectators/Patrons

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.

RECOGNITION

Frances Slocum Elementary was awarded the “Outstanding Success School Award” from the Association of Teacher Educators Indiana Unit. Dr. Alexis Armstrong from Taylor University presented the award to Mr. Nate Miley and Mrs. Anne Liddick.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 15-094 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 8, 2015*
- 15-095 PERSONNEL REPORTS*
- 15-096 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST*
- 15-097 FINANCIAL REPORTS*
- 15-097.1 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST – Marion High School*

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

15-094 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 8, 2015

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

15-095 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
 PERSONNEL REPORTS**

4/22/15

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Victor Castanon	MHS, Assistant Softball Coach	3/30/15
Heather Leach	McCulloch, 7 th Grade Cheerleading Sponsor	5/27/15
Kelli Marchello	MHS, Head Varsity Volleyball Coach	5/27/15

Addenda Position Recommendation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Scott Wood	MHS, Assistant Baseball Coach	3/16/15

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Kelli Marchello	MHS, PE	The Last Day for Professional Staff for the 2014-2015 School Year
Kyle Petricek	Kendall, Grade 4	The Last Day for Professional Staff for the 2014-2015 School Year

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Elizabeth Rice	Tucker, Health Careers	4/30/15

CLASSIFIED REPORT

Family Medical Leave

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Rachel Slater	Allen, Secretary	3/30/15 through 6/12/15

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Katrina Auld	Transportation, Bus Driver	3/19/15 and 3/20/15
Staici Batchelor	Allen, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator	3/17/15 through 5/28/15
Christy Bernardin	Justice Marshall, Instructional Educational Assistant	3/18/15
Emily Bess	Various Buildings, Speech Language Assistant	4/17/15 through 5/27/15
Suellen Emery	Justice Marshall, Non-Instructional Educational Assistant	3/16/15 through 3/20/15
Paula Gentner	Frances Slocum, Non-Instructional Educational Assistant	3/17/15 (.75 hours) and 3/18/15 (3 hours)
Traci Michel	Frances Slocum, Instructional Educational Assistant	3/9/15 (6.5 hours)
Patricia McClung	Transportation, Bus Aide	3/17/15 (1/2 day) and 3/18/15 through 3/20/15

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Arthur Jones, Jr.	Transportation, Bus Driver	4/9/15
Helen Jane Miller	McCulloch, Library Coordinator	5/27/15
Craig Neuenschwander	Transportation, Bus Driver	4/3/15

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Lisa Bushman	Transportation, From Bus Aide to Bus Aide w/CDL	4/23/15

Retirement

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Rick LeFavour	MHS, Custodian	6/1/15

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

15-096 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 3/8/15 through 4/8/15 was presented. The report included accounts payable claims #94,701 to # 94,727; #94,736 to #94,913; and #94,921 to #94,988 for a total of 274 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$1,980,985.61; of that amount \$812,044.36 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. **(Exhibit "A")**

15-097 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Chris Hoke, Business Manager, presented an Analysis of the 2015 Local Tax Revenue as well as the Fund Summary report and a 2015 Expenditure report.

14-097.1 APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST – MARION HIGH SCHOOL

The administration recommended approval of the field trip request from Marion High School Physics classes to attend Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. The group will leave Marion High School on Friday, May 15, 2015 at approximately 5:45 a.m. and return on the same day at approximately 11:59 p.m. Transportation will be provided by the district transportation department. There will be approximately 24 students participating and 2 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.

Mrs. Morgan entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 15-094 through 15-097.1. After a second by Mr. Vermilion, the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Mr. Kitts and Mrs. Hutchison abstained from items 15-094 and 15-095.

III. ACTION

15-098 RECOMMENDATION FOR REDUCTION-IN-FORCE

In an effort to move towards a balanced budget, the Superintendent recommended the Board approve a reduction-in-force effective with the upcoming school year. Mr. Lindsay estimated that with expected retirements and natural attrition, that he would expect a RIF of 6 to 9 licensed positions.

Dr. Hall entered a motion to approve the recommendation for a reduction in force. After a second by Mrs. Hutchison, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

15-099 RESOLUTION DECLARING BUILDING NO LONGER NEEDED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

It was the administration's recommendation that the Board approve a Resolution for Disposition of School Property. The property involved is the Education Service Center building at 1240 S. Adams Street in Marion. This resolution authorizes the Superintendent to pursue the timely transfer of the property, for nominal or no consideration, to an Indiana non-profit organized for religious purposes that is exempt from Federal taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. **(Exhibit "B")**

Mr. Vermilion entered a motion to approve the resolution. After a second by Mrs. Moritz, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

15-100 STUDENT HANDBOOKS FOR 2015-16

2015-16 student handbooks were presented to the Board for discussion and review. A recommendation to approve will be brought to the Board at the Board meeting on May 13, 2015.

15-101 2015-16 MEAL PRICES

The administration presented, for discussion only, recommended increases in the meal prices for paid student and adult meals for the 2015-16 school year. The recommendation to increase is based upon the cost incurred by

Marion Community Schools and the stipulations and guidelines provided by the Indiana Department of Education and the National School Lunch Program. A recommendation to approve will be brought to the Board at the May 13th Board meeting.

15-102 PROGRESS REPORT ON CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Creative Development Projects and fundraising plans were discussed with the Board. There were several community members and local businesses present, all of whom made donations to the Three Giant Endowments. Mr. Fauser described how the Three Giant Endowments would help the district with sustained support for the arts, academics and athletics across the district. He discussed plans for improvements to the sports complex and plans for a Giant Challenge Weekend to be held July 17-18, 2015. There are also plans to implement a Giant after school program for grades K-4, that will benefit 50 to 100 students at this point. In the future we hope to offer the after school programs to all K-4 students at Marion Community Schools.

15-103 DISTRICT TARGET #2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS UPDATE – ISTEP+ AND ECA

Mrs. McVicker and building principals reported to the Board on the upcoming ISTEP+ testing plans and timelines.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lisa McFarland and Ms. Brandi Gibson addressed the board with regard to bullying education.

VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

Mr. Butcher stated that he appreciated the passion of the parents who spoke this evening about their cause. He commented that he was happy that the RIF numbers are significantly down, but that we are still cutting positions even if teachers aren't being laid off. These reductions will have an impact on the education of Marion students. We need to be prepared if it has a negative impact. Be proactive vs. reactive.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Lindsay said he appreciates the teamwork. He sees teamwork throughout the district. He is thankful that the number of RIF positions is far less than what he originally thought. This is a tough time but we need to live within our means. Mr. Lindsay is excited about the endowment and the commitment of people who are vested. He believes in our staff and our schools. This is the time where parents are choosing where their kids go to school. He believes in our staff and our schools. Please choose Marion Community Schools to send your students. We are the best around. The RIF does have an impact, no doubt. We will continue to commit to reduce outside of the classroom, where possible.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Vermilion commented that he agrees with Mr. Butcher's comments, but unfortunately with our budget, it's where we are. If your kid doesn't go here, even for a few years, it affects us. We have lots of friends that choose to send their kids to private schools just for the first few years. Those first few years turn into 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, and then we lose teachers from it. Those aren't bad schools, but if you choose Marion Community Schools, choose them for K-12. They are all good schools. If you're going to choose Marion as a 5th grade or 7th grade, why not choose to enroll them when they are in kindergarten? For him it's a matter of having teachers and staff that we want to employ and who have been great with our kids, and having the ability to continue to do that so that we are not continuously losing students.

Mrs. Hutchison stated that the biggest asset a community can have is a quality school. That will bring more people in and increase population. That's the best value we can have for our community. It's important that if you live in our community, you support our schools. Our children are our best resources.


Dr. Hall commended the teamwork that we saw today from the administrative staff, principals, to Mr. Fauser and his wonderful presentation. Great sign of teamwork and there is clear evidence of community support. We just need to make sure that others continue that support as well.

Mr. Kitts thanked all the donors who came tonight. It's wonderful to see everyone contributing like that. Hopefully we can get this pulled today and have an endowment that will outlive all of us. He has a heavy heart when we have layoffs and encourages everyone to support Marion Community Schools. He believes in all the staff in everything they do every day. We always work out our disagreements, we see it through. Reasonable people can make things happen.


Mr. Murphy commented that last week the study team met for the first time and it was a very productive meeting. The Study Team will meet again next week and three sub-teams are meeting on what the future looks like and to Mr. Butchers point, we expect to be able to be proactive as we move forward. When we are dealt with the situation we have with funding, it puts most any school district in a reactive situation. We hate it that we are in this situation but it's critical that we do what's best for kids and teachers. We've touched on what we can do as a community to improve revenue by asking people to send your kids here. Mr. Murphy thanked the Grant County Manufacturers Association who funded the 3.5 banquet last Friday. It's incredible to listen to each student's story about how the teachers have affected their lives. He appreciates what the teachers have done.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

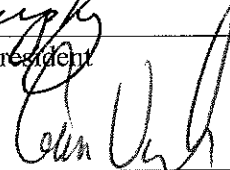
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4-4 of Marion High School. There being no further comments, President Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.




Scott Murphy, President



Dr. Harry Hall, 1st Vice-President



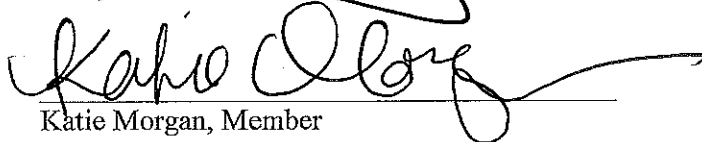
Aaron Vermilion, 2nd Vice President




Cathy Moritz, Secretary



Pam Hutchison, Member



Katie Morgan, Member



Greg Kitts, Member