

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
MARION, INDIANA  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
April 8, 2015

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in room 4-4 of Marion High School, 750 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Marion, Indiana, at 6:01 pm.

## Board members present:

Mr. Scott Murphy	President
Dr. Harry Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Mr. Aaron Vermilion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Mrs. Katie Morgan	Member
Mr. Greg Kitts	Member

## Board members absent:

Mrs. Cathy Moritz	Secretary
Mrs. Pam Hutchison	Member

## 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
Mr. Mike Ripperger	Director, Tucker Career & Technology Center
Mr. David Khalouf	Principal, Kendall Elementary School
Mrs. Kristi Phillippe	Assistant Principal, Kendall Elementary School
Mrs. Patricia Gibson	Director of Communications
Mrs. Melissa Richards	Principal, Justice Intermediate School
Mr. Keith Burke	Principal, Marion High School
Mrs. Anne Liddick	Principal, Frances Slocum Elementary School
Mrs. Michele Kelsay	Principal, Riverview Elementary School
Mr. Lendon Schwartz	Assistant Principal, Allen Elementary School
Mrs. Lisa Graham	Director of Special Education

## 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

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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.

**RECOGNITION**

The Board recognized regional spelling bee winners from all elementary schools, Justine Intermediate and McCulloch Junior High. Our winners were:

Kendall - Kris Patel (1st Place); Joseph Cheung (2nd place)

Riverview - Nolan Baker (1st place); Briana Moore (2nd place)

Slocum - Kayell Gonzales (1st place); Jamarey Reid (2nd place)

Allen - Stevie (1st place); Justice Adams (2nd place)

Justice - Carynna Aguila - (1st place); Corbin Havens (2nd place)

McCulloch - Hailey Teegarden (1st Place; Guadalupe Sanchez (2nd place).

It was also recognized that Carynna Aguilar from Justice finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Grant County Spelling Bee.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 15-083 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 18, 2015
- 15-084 PERSONNEL REPORTS
- 15-085 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST
- 15-086 FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 15-087 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 15-088 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – TUCKER
- 15-089 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – DISTRICT
- 15-090 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – MARION HIGH SCHOOL

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

**15-083 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 18, 2015**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

**15-084 PERSONNEL REPORTS**

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
 PERSONNEL REPORTS**

4/8/15

**BARGAINING UNIT REPORT**

**Addenda Personnel Resignation**

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Danielle Christenson	MHS, Spell Bowl; Quiz Bowl, Academic Super Bowl- English	The last day for professional staff for the 2014-2015 school year

**CLASSIFIED REPORT**

**Change in Assignment**

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Alicia Harris	From Food Service Substitute to McCulloch, Kitchen Assistant	4/8/15

**Unpaid Leave of Absence**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Katrina Auld	Transportation, Bus Driver	3/5/15; 3/11/15 (1/2 day); 3/12/15 (1/2 day);
Katherine Beavers	Transportation, Bus Aide	3/12/15
Leslie Cryderman	MCS Early Childhood Center, Education/Disability Coordinator	3/10/15
Suellen Emery	Justice Marshall, Non-Instructional Educational Assistant	3/4/15 (6 hours) 3/12/15 (7.5 hours)
Paula Gentner	Frances Slocum, Non-Instructional Educational Assistant	2/20/15 (3 hours); 3/2/15 (3 hours); 3/6/15 (2.5 hours); 3/9/15 (3 hours); 3/12/15 (3 hours);
Curtis McClung	Allen, Kitchen Assistant	3/16/15 and 3/18/15 through 3/20/15
Traci Michel	Frances Slocum, Instructional Educational Assistant	2/20/15 (5.5 hours)
Kellise Owensby-Walker	McCulloch, Instructional Educational Assistant	3/16/15 through 5/26/15

**Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Andrew Heiniger	McCulloch, Permanent Substitute Teacher	3/27/15
Kendra Prochnow	Kendall, Recess Monitor	3/17/15

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

**15-085 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"**)

**15-086 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

It was the recommendation of the administration that the Board approve the acceptance of a donation from the Walmart Foundation of \$250.00 to Riverview Elementary School.

**15-087 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - TUCKER**

The administration recommended approval of the overnight field trip request from Tucker students in the Health Occupation classes to attend the Health Occupations Student Association's State Conference in Indianapolis. The students will leave Tucker Career and Technology Center on Monday, April 13, 2015 at approximately 12:30 p.m. and return on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at approximately 3:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided by the Transportation Department. There will be approximately 7 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.

**15-088 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION - DISTRICT**

It was recommended that the Board accept a donation from VIA Credit Union of healthcare and personal care items for the use of our school nurses and clinic assistants. These items will be used to benefit and care for our students.

**15-089 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION – MCCULLOCH**

McCulloch asked for the Board's approval to accept the following donations:

- 1) \$1000 from Walmart for student incentives
- 2) \$400 from an anonymous donor for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- 3) \$250 from Walmart for the Boys Basketball Program

**15-090 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 students in the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honorary Society to attend the Mu Alpha Theta National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. The students will leave Marion High School on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at approximately 3:00 a.m. and return on Friday, July 24, 2015 at approximately 6:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided by parents, to and from the Chicago airport. There will be approximately 17 students participating and 4 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.

Dr. Hall entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items 15-083 through 15-090. After a second by Mr. Vermilion, the motion passed. Mr. Kitts and Mrs. Morgan abstained from item 15-083; Mr. Kitts voted no on item 15-085 and 15-087.

**III. ACTION**

**15-091 MARION HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2015-16**

The high school and Tucker administration recommended the Board approve changes to the Course Description Guide for the upcoming school year. (Exhibit "B")

Dr. Hall entered a motion to approve the high school Course Description Guide for 2015-16, as presented. After a second by Mrs. Morgan, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

**15-092 REDUCTION-IN-FORCE RECOMMENDATION**

In an effort to move towards a balanced budget, the Superintendent asked the Board to consider a reduction-in-force effective with the upcoming school year. Mr. Lindsay presented the Board with the written reduction-in-force guidelines that will be followed for this process. The guidelines are aligned to Indiana code and have been attorney approved. These guidelines were developed in collaboration with the Marion Teachers Association leadership. Mr. Lindsay stated that at the April 22, 2015 Board meeting, he will recommend the Board authorize a reduction-in-force for the 2015-16 school year. The Superintendent answered questions from the Board.

**15-093 RESOLUTION DECLARING BUILDING NO LONGER NEEDED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES**

Mr. Hoke discussed the process and timeline required for the sale of the ESC building, located at 1240 S. Adams St. Mr. Hoke is optimistic that there is a local non-profit entity that has expressed an interest in purchasing the building. Mr. Hoke has been in conversations with our school attorney, Mr. Tom Hunt, regarding a possible sale of the property. Indiana code requires the School Board to adopt a resolution declaring that the property is no longer needed for educational purposes. Indiana code also allows the transfer to a non-profit for nominal or no consideration. It is Mr. Hokes expectation that he will be able to bring a resolution to the Board for adoption at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS**

Mr. Butcher commented that a reduction-in-force is a difficult time for everyone. The quicker we can act upon this, the better off we will be for those employees who are affected. He's hoping that attrition will take care of the reductions we need, and that a reduction-in-force will not be necessary.

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mr. Lindsay stated that he appreciates all our staff pulling together during these discussions regarding a reduction-in-force. Trying to address the anxiety is very difficult. We are getting smaller as an organization. We hope the reduction-in-force will be as few as possible. He is hopeful for further attrition. Principals have done a good job through this process and the teacher leadership has been outstanding to work with. We will find the best possible for all. We are preparing for ISTEP+ and ECA's in the upcoming few weeks.

**VII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Dr. Hall echoed Mr. Butcher and Mr. Lindsay's comments. We, as a Board, are sensitive to a reduction-in-force and we are trying to get as far ahead of that to be fair to everyone. He hates to see staff in this situation but we don't have an option.

Mr. Kitts commented that he was on the Board last time we had to do something like this, and it never makes it any easier. It's a stressful and tough time. He thanked the teachers for all the work they do, as well as the administrative teams. We will push through this and keep working. Thank you.


Mrs. Morgan acknowledged the donations we accepted this evening.


Mr. Murphy mentioned this is the time of year when severe weather becomes an issue. We talked about all the rain on the school buses this morning, and he knows it's a challenge at this time of year. Mr. Murphy commented that he also struggles when we have to talk about the impact on lives. He hates it when we ask people to give up so much and then find ourselves in situations that we can't control. Difficult decisions will have to be made and hopefully we will get through with minimal impact. He's excited to get through April and work through the last phase of ISTEP+, and appreciates the hard work and focus.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

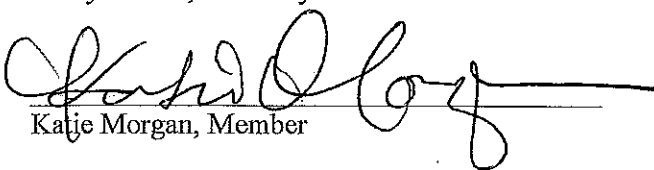
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4-4 of Marion High School. There being no further comments, President Murphy adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

  
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Scott Murphy, President

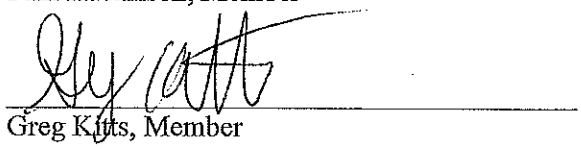
  
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Dr. Harry Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

  
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Aaron Vermilion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

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Cathy Moritz, Secretary

  
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Katie Morgan, Member

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Pam Hutchison, Member

  
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Greg Kitts, Member

