

# MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Room 2-29, Marion High School, 750 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Marion, Indiana, at 7 p.m.

**Board members present:**

Cathy Moritz	President
Todd Nicholson	1st Vice President
Aaron Vermilion	2nd Vice President
Chuck Griffin	Secretary
Scott Murphy	Member
Greg Kitts	Member
Katie Morgan	Member

**Also present:**

Brad Lindsay	Superintendent
Bob Schultz	Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs
Shelley Preston	Human Resources Director
Michele Smith	Elementary Education Director
Lynn Gosser	Director of Exceptional Learners
Olivia Wright	Director of Special Education
Keith Burke	Marion High School Principal
Patricia Gibson	Director of Communications
Larry Batchelor	MHS Dean
Terry Lakes	MHS English teacher / cross country coach
Nate Larson	MHS art teacher / track coach

**Media/Distinguished Guests:**

Scott Simpson	Marion Teachers Association
Kaitlin Gebby	Chronicle-Tribune
Caleb Cottrell	GrantCOnnected.net

Spectators/Patrons: 25

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Cathy Moritz, President, called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given. There was a moment of silence.

The School Board also honored Marion High School students who were awarded Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships recently by the Marion Baptist Ministerial Alliance and by Ivy Tech Community College: LaShaunte Wallace, Ta'Nyia Betts, Jacob Speikes, Stephen Johnson, Manual Davis, Alexis Moore, Jaimie McFarland, and Erica Batchelor.

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

18-025 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 23, 2017  
 18-026 PERSONNEL REPORTS  
 18-026.01 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS  
 18-027 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST  
 18-028 FINANCIAL REPORT  
 18-029 MEAL PRICES FOR 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

- 18-030 RESOLUTION TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT
- 18-031 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATIONS
- 18-032 REQUEST TO APPROVE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - JROTC
- 18-033 REQUEST TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**18-025 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 23, 2017**

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 7 p.m.

**18-026 PERSONNEL REPORTS**

**18-026.01 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS**

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

2/13/18

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**BARGAINING UNIT REPORT**

**Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Danielle Richards	Kendall, Teacher	1/19/18

**Addenda Position Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Ramona Manning	MHS, Girls Assistant Tennis Coach	1/18/18

**Retirement**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
JoEllen Shipman	McCulloch, Teacher	6/1/18

**Change in Assignment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Javon Washington	From MRCC ABE Instructor to Frances Slocum, New Beginnings Teacher	1/31/18

**Addenda Position**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
-------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------

Sarina Lashbrook	MHS, Assistant Track Coach	2/8/18 pending successful completion of the hiring process
Michelle Faulkner	Riverview, Robotics	1/11/18 split stipend
Justine May	Justice, Girls Basketball	1/19/18
Katelyn Letterman	MHS, Asst. Varsity Girls Coach	11/13/17

**CLASSIFIED REPORT**

**Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Glendill McBroom	Lakeview, EA	2/2/18
Lindsey Gonzales	McCulloch, EA	2/21/18

**Change in Assignment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Beth Carrico	From Kendall, New Beginnings EA to Riverview LGP EA	1/29/18
Audrey Wayman	From Kendall EA to Kendall New Beginnings EA	1/29/18
Patricia Thompson	From MRCC ABE EA to ABE Teacher	2/5/18
Tammy Wilson	From Food Service Asst to Food Service Sub	1/31/18
Destiny Lamb	From Food Service Asst to Food Service Sub	2/9/18
Laycee Bruner	From MHS, Guidance Secretary to MHS, Registrar	2/5/18

**Unpaid Leave of Absence**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Sarah McGibbon	Justice, EA	1/3/18-1/15/18
Diana Spitzer	District, Title I Secretary	3/29/18 & 6/18/18-6/22/18
Wendy Morrell	Justice, EA	1/8/18, 1/16-1/17/18, 1/19/18
Joey Baker	MHS, Food Service Asst	1/29/18
Tiffani Dunica	Kendall, Food Service Asst	1/26/18

**Family Medical Leave**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
-------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------

Jamie Ensor	MHS, Custodian	1/16/18-1/28/18
-------------	----------------	-----------------

**New Employee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Tim Witte	Allen, EA	2/20/18
Heather Crouse	Lakeview, Educational Assistant	2/22/18

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
ADDENDA  
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

2/13/18

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**BARGAINING UNIT REPORT**

**Addenda Position Resignation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Building and Assignment</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Terry Lakes	MHS, Cross Country Coach	2/12/18

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

**18-027 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST**

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 1/1/18 - 1/31/18, 2/1/18 - 2/6/18, 2/1/18 - 2/13/18, were presented. The report included accounts payable claims #16075 through #16278 for a total of 204 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$1,470,558.35; of that amount \$601,883.79 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. (Exhibit "A")

**18-029 MEAL PRICES FOR 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bob Schultz requested the Board approve the meal prices for next school year, presented for discussion at previous meeting. This is to bring prices into alignment with IDOE required levels. He noted that CEP program will continue next year, so free breakfast and lunch will continue for all students. The prices for adults are \$2.50 breakfast, \$3.75 lunch. A la carte milk for adults and students if 45 cents (no change from 2017-18).

Aaron Vermilion asked whether the price increase for adults was required; Bob confirmed that it is. We are required to raise it several cents, this simplifies the change process and also should keep us good for a few years, hopefully.

**18-030 RESOLUTION TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT**

This resolution authorizes the superintendent to offer employment during the months of February and March 2018, due to the extended time between board meetings after the cancellation of the second February meeting. The Board approved and signed the resolution (Exhibit "B").

**18-031 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATIONS**

The Board was asked to accept donations of respiratory equipment from Marion General Hospital, part of their Community Outreach Program; and of epipins from Kaleo Inc. pharmaceuticals.

#### **18-032 REQUEST TO APPROVE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - JROTC**

The Board was asked to approve an overnight field trip by the MHS JROTC, to a drill, color guard, and marksmanship competition at Fort Knox, Ky.

#### **18-033 REQUEST TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Board was asked to approve an professional development of more than three days for two Little Giants Preschool staffers, Director Kerri Wortinger and interventionist Sarah Summersett, to attend the National Head Start Conference.

Scott Murphy entered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Todd Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

After the vote, the Board heard from Terry Lakes, who is retiring from coaching after about 30 years and reflected on his career. He will remain as an English teacher and department head. Several current and former student-athletes were in attendance to honor Coach Lakes.

Lakes spoke about the decades he has spent as coach, shared some memories, thanked administrators, ADs, and assistant coaches he has worked with over the years, special thanks to AD Jim Fricke and Coach Darlene Bridgeman.

Without our athletes, he said, our program would be nothing. They put in the time and the effort and the commitment. It's not easy. I know because I've done it.

Thanked his high school and college coaches — said a great coach improves your life. Said if it weren't for his high school coach, he would never have gone to college, and his life would have been totally different.

Thanked his wife and his sons for their patience and their graciousness over the years.

I'm still going to be here, he said, still going to help. Just not going to be in the head coach spot.

Katie Morgan thanked him, said she wasn't sure if he realized how much he had helped to shape so many people. "There's nobody that I've ever met who has worked harder than those who are part of a cross country team. These teams are tightly knit, they're a family, and Coach Lakes was a paternal figure. It is incredible to have been coached by him, but also to have watched my son get to have that experience too. Thank you for not just what you helped us learn to do physically, but also who you helped us become."

Aaron Vermilion said he remembers him as a great teacher, and now sees his kids having that same experience. Thanked him for setting the bar high and preparing our kids well for college and life after high school.

Scott Murphy congratulated him on a great coaching career, and also thanked him for being an excellent teacher - noting both of his daughters benefited from that, now both are at IU.

Chuck Griffin said congratulations for being a great coach and a great teacher of both of his daughters.

Greg Kitts thanked him for being such a great, involved coach for so many years.

Todd Nicholson said thank you for his years as a coach, and thanked him for continuing to teach.

Cathy Moritz said thank you for his time as a coach and teacher. Noted board members are just a few parents expressing thanks, there are many, many more. Thanked his family for their sacrifice over the years too.

#### **IV. ACTION**

None

## **IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

### **18-034 STATE APPROVAL OF BUDGET**

Dr. Bob Schultz, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, presented information regarding the approved 2018 budget.

He noted that state cut where we expected (CPF, Transportation, Bus Replacement).

He also noted that the tax rate went up about 2 cents, largely due to the fact that assessed valuation of taxable property went down about \$14 million. He said he knows conversations are happening at the state level as to how to address the property tax cap problem in areas like ours.

Chuck Griffin asked why AV is so volatile. Bob noted that TIF districts play into this, as do business closures, slow growth, stagnant new home building.

Todd Nicholson asked for Bob's opinion on what is going to happen to the per-student funding amount. Bob noted there is a bill still alive in the Legislature to restore what schools were shorted in the state budget for the base funding amount. This will amount to about \$40,000 for us. The base funding amount won't be addressed again until 2019. Todd asked about the change back to one count day per year (instead of two in recent years). Bob confirmed that. In the last three years, our enrollment has gone up mid-year, and in previous years we have gotten a boost in funding because of that. But this year we will get no additional money for those students. This hurts many schools across the state, Bob said. But those who are hurt by it have lobbied hard against it. Superintendent Brad Lindsay noted that another thing that contributed to the second count per year was the charter school effect, especially in the Indy metro area. The charters would take students at beginning of year, get the funding, then would send students back to their home schools, who would then not have the funding for that student. Two count days were helping remedy that, but now it's gone.

### **18-035 DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY**

Dr. Bob Schultz noted this policy is required to be in place, and we are currently undergoing a regular audit, which will require this to have been approved for the year. MCS has also convened a committee to review as required. This will be a living document, Bob noted, with changes being made as needed. The policy will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

### **18-036 DISTRICT TARGET 2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS UPDATE**

Superintendent Brad Lindsay noted that at the midpoint of the year, in 9 of 11 tested areas, the majority of our students are on track for more than one year's expected growth. This is a big improvement over last year. One of the areas that didn't yet meet that mark is very close.

MCS is currently in its 60 day countdown window leading up to state standardized testing windows, and school personnel are working to meet students where they are and get them to where they need to be for proficiency and growth. He then turned the discussion over to Elementary Education Director Michele Smith and Director of Exceptional Learners Lynn Gosser, who helps oversee secondary level education.

Michele talked about how at the elementary level, teachers are providing focused instruction based on each student's NWEA data, enabling them to group appropriately and make adjustments as needed. Grouping is not set and then left. Students come in and out of groups based on their needs at that time. We are using all resources, she said, to prepare students, including after school tutoring and strategic grouping during the day. We are keeping the focus on the literacy and numeracy status of each student.

Lynn noted that at the secondary level, much the same. Groups are fluid, based on student needs and progress. We have been very intentional with professional development for staff in areas of literacy and numeracy instruction. Topics have included individualized instruction based on NWEA, and moving toward small group instruction — something that isn't always a big part of secondary. We are moving students toward more rigorous experiences, higher-level questions. We

have changed the way we utilize all resources, such as aides, to support teachers and small-group instruction.

Michele noted ISTEP begins Feb. 26, IREAD begins March 12. Each building has developed testing schedules to best serve their students and maximize their opportunities for success.

Lynn noted teachers in all content areas in secondary are collaborating in teams to support math and ELA teachers / numeracy and literacy, and again, focusing on multiple question types that students will be seeing on tests.

Scott Murphy asked about tech preparation for testing. Michele responded that MCS applied for paper waiver for Part 1 for everyone. The Dept. of Ed aims for full online implementation. We were granted partial waiver, however. Third through sixth grades will be paper for Part 1. We just conducted a technology stress test in preparation for testing, and that went pretty well. We did identify a few issues that we can control, such as needed OS updates to devices. Tech Department put a plan in place to address this. They are also providing some direction ahead of time to teachers to troubleshoot during live test, then how to reach out for help if it is needed.

Todd Nicholson said a benefit of technology purchases was to be that students have more experience with these devices before they have to test with them, and asked whether that has played out. Michele said that our pilot groups are spread throughout the system, it's not across the board, but she has already been impressed at how much the schools have been able to spread out that benefit to as many students as possible. She noted that we will be presenting a deeper look at tech in an upcoming meeting. She also noted that our younger kids show more adaptability to tech. Older kids are still working to transition, but we are working on that with them.

## **VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS**

Scott Simpson congratulated McCulloch Junior High School choir teacher Christina Huff for Marion's participation in Circle the State festival, which she served as regional coordinator for this year. She does a fantastic job with our choirs.

Scott also recognized Terry and Vicky Lakes - they run the gamut of ed at MCS, from special ed at elementary level (Vicky) to AP English at MHS (Terry). Their hard work and mentoring of other teachers has made a huge impact.

Scott noted Aaron Vermilion's comment regarding state edict on meal prices. Scott said he wishes local control for many more things.

Scott also noted the new diploma bill is moving forward in the Legislature, there will likely be one Indiana diploma with multiple endorsements. This is a good thing for our students and our schools.

However, he said, there is still some negative legislation going through that will hurt schools like us. It's frustrating when everyone in education is on the same page, but the legislators won't listen. That's exactly where we are right now in the state of Indiana.

Scott concurred with Brad's comment regarding the second student count day. This is about private and charter schools losing funding, he said, because they aren't serving students. Their lobbyists won the day, unfortunately.

Todd Nicholson asked about the bill that would have changed preschool requirements to allow more students to be eligible for OMWPK. Scott responded that bill is dead. Unfortunately.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Brad Lindsay thanked Scott Simpson for representing us at the Legislature and throughout the community. He said he's thankful that we're up 29 students from fall to spring. He's thankful for all of the opportunities we offer our students (noted upcoming Black History Club play and college trip, recent music successes).

Superintendent Lindsay recommend the next board meeting set for 2/20 be canceled. The board indicated there was a consensus agreement.

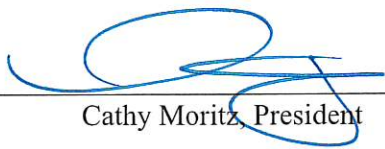
**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS**

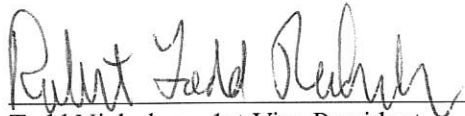
Chuck Griffin expressed appreciation for the donations accepted.

Cathy Moritz noted Matt Bennet's Facebook fundraiser for the MHS yearbook staff to buy cameras. She also thanked Scott Simpson for speaking about Marion Regional Career Center's aviation program to the Marion Rotary Club.

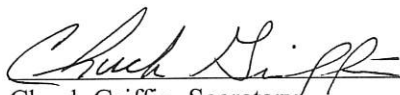
**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the Room 2-29 at Marion High School. There being no further comments, Cathy Moritz adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

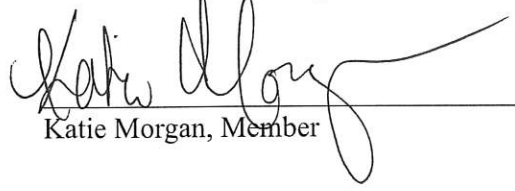
  
Cathy Moritz, President

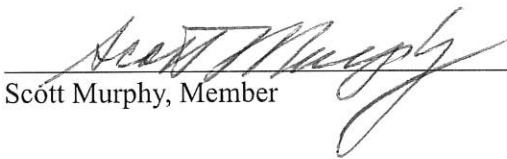
  
Todd Nicholson, 1st Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Vermilion, 2nd Vice President

  
Chuck Griffin, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Kitts, Member

  
Katie Morgan, Member

  
Scott Murphy, Member