

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 27, 2017, Room 2-29, Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St., Marion, Indiana, at 6:01 p.m.

Board members present:

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

Also present:

Brad Lindsay	Superintendent
Bob Schultz	Asst. Superintendent of Business Affairs
Shelley Preston	Human Resources Director
Michele Smith	Elementary Education Director
Lynn Gosser	Director of Exceptional Learners
Olivia Wright	Director of Special Education
Mike Ripperger	Director, Marion Regional Career Center
Keith Burke	Principal, Marion High School
David Keller	Assistant Principal, Marion High School
Ryan Vermilion	Guidance Counselor, Marion High School
Josh Huff	Director of Bands, Marion High School
Bryce Conway	Director of Choirs, Marion High School
Patricia Gibson	Director of Communications

Media/Distinguished Guests:

Scott Simpson	Marion Teachers Association
Spencer Durham	Chronicle-Tribune

Spectators/Patrons: none

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

17-191 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2017
 17-192 PERSONNEL REPORTS
 17-193 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST
 17-194 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION

17-191 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2017

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 7 p.m.

17-192 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

11/27/17

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**BARGAINING UNIT REPORT****Addenda Position Resignation**

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
June Williams	MHS, Assistant Cheer Coach	11/13/17

Addenda Position Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Sarah Bournique	MHS, Assistant Girls Swim Coach	10/27/17
Matthew Lakes	Justice, 6 th Grade Basketball Coach	12/4/17
Julius Mays	MHS, Assistant Varsity Girls Coach	10/16/17
Jill Williams	MHS, Assistant Varsity Girls Coach	10/16/17
Monique Mays	MHS, Assistant Varsity Girls Coach	10/16/17
Dontae Weatherly	MHS, Freshman Girls Coach	10/16/17
Danielle Boykin	MHS, Freshman Girls Basketball	11/20/17
Mary Miller	Justice, Robotics Coach	11/13/17
Vickie Linehan	Riverview, Robotics Coach	11/13/17

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Rebecca Herr	Justice, Preschool Teacher	11/6/17, 11/7/17

CLASSIFIED REPORT**New Employee**

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
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Sia M'Bayo	Allen, Educational Assistant	11/20/17
Ramona Sheron	McCulloch, Educational Assistant	11/20/17
Christen Gall	Frances Slocum, Sp Ed Educational Assistant	11/17/17
Jeff Ricks	Transportation, Bus Driver Trainee	11/15/17
Darrell Johnson	Transportation, Bus Driver Trainee	11/27/17

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Kirston Hiller	MHS, Secretary	11/9/17

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Nikki Nealis	Riverview, EA	11/6/17

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Kim Straley	From 2.75 to 2 hours. Riverview, Food Service	11/15/17
Cathy Greer	From sub to 3.25 hours. McCulloch, Food Service	11/15/17
Resa Thomas	From 3.25 to 4.5 hours. McCulloch, Food Service	11/15/17
Destiny Lamb	From sub to 3.25 hours. McCulloch, Food Service	11/15/17

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

17-193 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 10/13/17 through 10/20/17, 10/2/17 through 10/31/17, 11/1/17 through 11/14/17, 11/1/17 through 11/28/17 were presented. The report included accounts payable claims #62,410 through #62,450 for a total of 370 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$2,135,240.07; of that amount \$782,359.08 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. (Exhibit "A")

17-194 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION

A donation to the Justice Intermediate School robotics team was presented for approval.

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

III. ACTION

17-195 REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF IDOE UNUSED BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

Bob Schultz explained he was asking the board to approve the resolution to ask the IDOE to waive the requirement to offer the unused Tucker building for sale to charter schools. The resolution would state that the board believes this facility is not attractive to charters due to size, facility layout, needed repairs, cost for maintenance. If the board voted to request this waiver, the IDOE would then weigh in. Should the waiver be granted, we would then be able to move forward toward

a potential sale, but that would be a separate discussion.

Chuck Griffin entered a motion. Cathy Moritz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

17-196 PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM GENERAL FUND

Bob Schultz noted that many school boards take this action this time of year. He said we budget as close as possible to expected expenses, but at end of year if we run out of appropriated funds, we cannot pay our bills. He reminded the board that last year we requested and were granted an additional appropriation but did NOT have to use the money. Tonight the board is being asked to approve advertising a public hearing, where we will officially request the additional appropriation, Bob explained. At the hearing, the board will be asked to vote on that request.

Todd Nicholson asked if under the new budget process the need for additional appropriations to cover the end of a budget period will become a more frequent occurrence. Bob said yes, that's likely.

Cathy Moritz entered a motion. Scott Murphy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

17-197 DISTRICT TARGET #2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS UPDATE

• **MHS COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE**

MHS Guidance Counselor Ryan Vermilion presented the course guide, noting that they would be starting to plan classes for next year's freshmen and sophomores soon.

Several updates are proposed, including:

- an AP business class (which will mean there is an AP option in every academic department at MHS). This can also count as a senior math class.
- Biology 2 honors/dual credit: Gives a dual credit option to those who may not want to tackle AP.
- Ivy Tech Credits Count dual credit for freshman/sophomores to get them ready for post-secondary success. Focuses on study skills and other important aspects.
- Weighted English class focused on speech and writing; aimed in part at junior students who are ahead because they've have taken English 9 at MJH.
- Fine Arts:
 - Dance classes that will enable CSA Academy students to also get MHS credit for part of their dance training (in addition to academic credits they are already getting through that partnership)
 - Weighted high-level music classes meant to keep students involved in later years rather than feeling like they have to jump to another class to boost their GPA
- MRCC:
 - Construction Trades - Electrical I and II
 - Computer Science - Ethical Hacking
 - Robotics & Industrial Automation

Chuck Griffin asked about the industrial maintenance classes in the robotics pathway. Mike Ripperger said state requires specific courses in each pathway.

Superintendent Brad Lindsay asked Mike Ripperger to speak to enrollment / staffing. Mike explained that if enrollment doesn't support a whole class in a specific new pathway, they will be placed into related classes to get relevant skills and be able to pursue specific certifications.

Brad mentioned that we are looking ahead to the new graduation pathways being discussed at the state level, and these added classes will put us ahead when that is put in place in a few years.

Ryan Vermilion noted that MRCC additions are also aimed in part to help attract people and businesses here to Marion.

Greg Kitts said that the lack of an independent test to verify a weighted music class is concerning to him (as opposed to an AP class, where the AP exam determines whether weight is earned.) At some point, he asked, does that make high GPAs less meaningful? Ryan mentioned the competitive facet of these classes, the extra hours of practice and competition that this requires.

Katie Morgan said the rigor and expectations in these classes are at a similar level of AP in terms of skill and time commitment, but we are pushing some of our best kids out of the music department because of the lack of weighted classes.

Cathy Moritz asked if weighted high-level music classes is this the norm at other schools

Josh Huff said that is increasingly true. He noted it is true at places including Hamilton County, Zionsville, and northern Indiana. The ultimate goal, he said, is that we will see greater success in state competitions, which are standardized by ISSMA.

Aaron Vermilion asked how the rigor standards are established for these classes.

Josh responded that there are assessments, which are on a sliding scale based on ability / experience. This is similar to ISSMA competition, in that the rubric is the same, but there are various other factors (music chosen, etc.) that determine the cap for your score. In addition, there are IDOE requirements for these courses.

Katie mentioned it's similar to college music classes.

Greg said he understands and values the weighted concept. Based on what he's hearing, he said, it sounds like there is plenty to back up this change.

Brad added that the more kids involved in these groups, the better opportunity they have to share with and engage with our community.

Katie noted that not having these options makes it harder for our high-level art students to continue at high-level post-secondary programs.

Aaron noted that the weighted grade issue is real, and affects a lot of our students. It is worth continuing to explore what options people are sacrificing because of it.

Katie expressed gratitude that some of the proposed additions to the course offerings are aimed at kids who aren't the very top. Every kid who wants to get early college credit should be able to do so, she said.

Ryan said that at the end of the day, we're here to educate each kid in the way that's best for them, for their future. We're not waiting on the state to mandate this. We are going to do what's best for our kids.

Brad said that alignment with McCulloch Junior High is key to providing more opportunities to more kids in high school / CTE. He said he's proud of the work that has been put into these proposals.

Todd said the proposal for weighted music classes seems reasonable, that it would benefit the system and the individual student, and that he's supportive.

Ryan noted in general regarding weighted grades that it does allow kids who put in more work at a higher level to take that risk of more difficult courses, dual credit, etc. This also makes the education MHS offers clearly valuable and verifiable.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

Scott Simpson noted that the calendar is full of holiday concerts and events, and he encouraged all to attend as many as they could.

He also made a positive note regarding state Legislature: As you may remember, teacher appreciation grants used to be called teacher performance grants. ISTA lobbied to call it what it really is. He's pleased with the new model that gives teachers an even chance to be rewarded based on their performance, not on what challenges their students do or don't face.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Brad Lindsay noted that we are down to 13 days in this semester. We're doing mid-year assessments so we can make shifts as necessary before end of year (ISTEP, etc.). We will be planning share times for this mid-year benchmark in December. We want to celebrate the wins, and focus in on what we need to do for second semester.

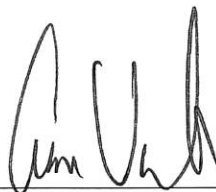
VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Greg Kitts emphasized that we need to have good sub coverage because every day counts so much. He thanked all for the work they're doing every day. He said it was great to hear Aaron Vermilion on WBAT's Good Morning Grant County this morning, talking about the great things happening at Marion Community Schools.

Aaron Vermilion thanked MHS staff for their work on the course description guide. He also noted that the CSA partnership is a unique situation and it's good to be able to recognize that work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

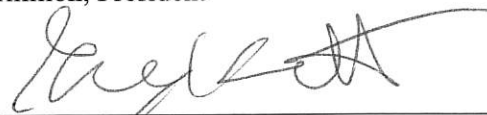
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Room 2-29 at Marion High School. There being no further comments, Aaron Vermilion adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.



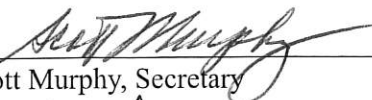
Aaron Vermilion, President



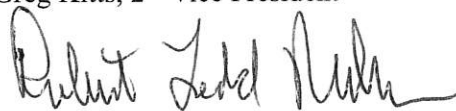
Cathy Moritz, 1st Vice President



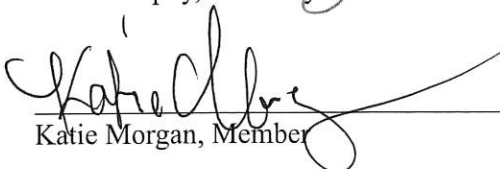
Greg Kitts, 2nd Vice President



Scott Murphy, Secretary



Todd Nicholson, Member



Katie Morgan, Member



Chuck Griffin, Member