

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

The Board of School Trustees of Marion Community Schools met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, Room 2-29, Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St., Marion, Indiana, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Cathy Moritz | 1 st Vice President |
| Scott Murphy | Secretary |
| Chuck Griffin | Member |
| Greg Kitts | 2 nd Vice President |
| Katie Morgan | Member |

Board members absent:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Aaron Vermilion | President |
| Todd Nicholson | Member |

Also present:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Brad Lindsay | Superintendent |
| Shelley Preston | Human Resources Director |
| Bob Schultz | Asst. Superintendent of Business Affairs |
| Michele Smith | Elementary Education Director |
| Lynn Gosser | Director of Exceptional Learners / Secondary Ed |
| Olivia Wright | Director of Special Education |
| Keith Burke | MHS Principal |
| Mike Ripperger | MRCC Director |
| Robin Peterman | Justice Intermediate Principal |
| Gwen Lavert | Frances Slocum Elementary Principal |
| Trudy Grafton | Kendall Elementary Principal |
| Lendon Schwartz | Riverview Elementary Principal |
| Patricia Gibson | Director of Communications |

Media/Distinguished Guests:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Scott Simpson | Marion Teachers Association |
| Spencer Durham | Chronicle-Tribune |

Spectators/Patrons 1

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- 17-148 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD AUGUST 22, 2017
- 17-149 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 22, 2017
- 17-150 PERSONNEL REPORTS
- 17-150.1 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS
- 17-151 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST
- 17-152 FINANCIAL REPORT
- 17-153 OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORMS
- 17-154 TEACHER APPRECIATION GRANTS POLICY

17-148 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD AUGUST 22, 2017

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the Executive Session held Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 6 p.m.

17-149 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 22, 2017

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 7 p.m.

17-150 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

9/12/17

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Geoff Smith	MHS, Quiz Bowl Coach	8/10/17
Larry Hinshaw	MHS, Assistant Volleyball Coach	8/28/17
Kirston Hiller	MHS, Team MHS Sponsor	8/1/17
Justin March	MHS, Social Studies Dept Chair	8/9/17

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Lawrence Jordan	McCulloch, 8 th Grade Boys Basketball and Golf Coach	9/7/17

CLASSIFIED REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Jaqueline Parson	McCulloch, Special Ed EA	9/11/17
Ronikka Drake	MRCC, Alt Education Non instructional EA	8/28/17
Arik-Kristofer Scott	Frances Slocum, Academic Lab/Technology Specialist	8/28/17

Ike Young	Allen, Academic Lab/Technology Specialist	8/28/17
Jason Stepp	Riverview, Academic Lab/Technology Specialist	8/28/17
Paige Bockover	McCulloch, Food Service	9/12/17
Leah Knight	Frances Slocum, Food Service	9/12/17
Julia Stevens	Frances Slocum, Food Service	9/12/17
Mary Robbins	Frances Slocum, Food Service	9/12/17
Stephanie Johnson	Justice, EA ISS	9/25/17

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Richard Eastes	Transportation, Bus Driver	8/21/17
Brittany Sowers	Frances Slocum, Educational Assistant	8/31/17

Change in Assignment

Heidi Wood	From Frances Slocum, Library to McCulloch, Special Ed EA- Elem Alternative	8/29/17
Karen Brooks	From Food Service Assistant to Food Service Substitute	8/15/17

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Kristi Hawkins	Frances Slocum/Kendall, Head Start Community Partnership Coordinator	3/2/18-3/23/18
Mary Davis	Justice, Food Service	9/6/17-9/8/17

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ADDENDA

PERSONNEL REPORTS

9/12/2017

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Sean Berne	McCulloch, Teacher	TBD upon receipt of Indiana teaching license

CLASSIFIED REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Teresa Thomas	McCulloch, Food Service	9/12/17
Tia Burbank	Justice, Food Service	9/12/17
Joe Harris	Riverview, Food Service	9/12/17
Kristy Whitton	Kendall, Food Service	9/12/17
Alisa Boyd	MHS, Food Service	9/12/17
Adrien Cyrus	Frances Slocum, Library Coordinator	9/13/17
Bruce Johnson	Frances Slocum, Academic Lab Specialist	9/12/17 upon successful completion of the hiring process

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Stephanie Floyd	MHS, Food Service Dept Head	9/11/17

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Kelly Colbert	From 2.75 hours to 4.25 hours at MHS	9/12/17
Joey Baker	From Food Service Substitute to Food Service Assistant 3.75 hours	9/12/17

Family Medical Leave

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Carl Grant	MHS, Custodian	9/1/17-9/19/17

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

17-151 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 8/1/17 through 8/31/17 and 8/15/17 through 8/25/17 and 9/1/17 through 9/11/17 9/11/17 through 9/12/17 were presented. The report included accounts payable claims #14,423 through #14,633 for a total of 211 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$2,047,910.41; of that amount \$907,894.20 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. (Exhibit "A")

17-152 FINANCIAL REPORTS

An analysis of the 2017 Local Tax Revenue as well as the Fund Summary Report and a 2017 Expenditure report was presented to the board for review.

17-153 OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORMS

Overnight field trip requests were presented for approval, for the MHS JROTC to travel to the Raider National Championship in Molena, Ga., in November, and for the MRCC aviation mechanics class to travel to Oshkosh, Wisc., to pick up an airplane being donated for use by the class, and to visit a relevant museum there.

17-154 TEACHER APPRECIATION GRANTS POLICY

The new policy for teacher appreciation grants, required by the state to be in place by Sept. 15, 2017, was presented for approval.

Scott Murphy entered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Katie Morgan seconded the motion. Greg Kitts abstained from 17-148 and 17-149, voted no to 17-151, and aye to the rest. All other board members voted unanimously yes. Motion passed.

III. ACTION

17-155 – PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE THE PROPOSED BUDGET, CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN AND BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

NOTE: An item from the discussion portion of the meeting was moved up to take place before this action item. See below for notes on 17-159 2018 Budget Public Work Session, which took place immediately preceding this vote.

After the work session discussion, Bob Schultz asked the board to give permission to advertise the 2018 budget by the deadline set by the state.

Scott Murphy entered a motion to give permission to advertise the 2018 budget. After a second by Cathy Moritz, the motion unanimously passed.

17-156 – STATEMENT OF BENEFITS REVISION

Bob Schultz explained that there was an error in the revised Statement of Benefits approved by the Board on August 8, 2017, in the section pertaining to transportation employees. He asked that the Board today approve a revision to fix that error.

Scott Murphy entered a motion to approve the revision to the Statement of Benefits. After a second by Katie Morgan, the motion unanimously passed.

17-157 – CHANGE TO ADULT MEAL PRICE

Bob Schultz explained that the price charged for adult breakfasts needed to be increased to align with legally mandated levels. He asked the Board to approve the increased price.

Katie Morgan entered a motion to approve the price change for adult meals. After a second by Scott Murphy, the motion unanimously passed.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

17-158 DISTRICT TARGET #2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS

Several administrators provided an update on the ongoing district-wide focus on literacy and numeracy, and how that is playing out in their buildings.

Lendon Schwartz, principal of Riverview Elementary School, gave an update on how grade levels are rated on phonemic and phonological awareness levels - the basics of literacy. He provided a look at overall data that showed that they were focusing on filling in these gaps for students, regardless of what grade level they are in, so we make sure they have the foundation to build on moving forward.

Gwen Lavert, principal of Frances Slocum Elementary School, gave an update on how the staff is using the NWEA Learning Continuum to differentiate instruction and give each student what they need every day. This is re-evaluated regularly, and professional learning is ongoing for teachers.

Robin Peterman, principal of Justice Intermediate School, gave an update on how the staff is working with data (various assessments) and personalizing this, and how that is shaping professional learning that is then driving student instruction.

She also discussed how they verify that this is making it into the classroom. She emphasized that all subject area teachers are contributing to LitNum teaching.

Keith Burke, principal of Marion High School, talked about their focus on critical thinking, analysis, and test-taking skills and strategy, with a heavy emphasis on vocabulary. He presented examples of test questions that push students to not only find a right answer, but to be able to determine degrees of correctness (which one is the best, or the most correct) and to defend their answer. This prepares them for what they will see on the ISTEP, yes, but it is also boosting critical thinking skills, which is an important life skill for their future, regardless of what it holds.

He noted that the high school now has a word of the day, power words that have been shown through research to be common on the high school ISTEP. All teachers are responsible for working that word in each day, so students hear it in context at least 7 times a day.

Katie Morgan asked what kinds of tools we are giving our parents to help support our students with these complex questions. Keith said that's something we should be talking about. Brad emphasized that after school study tables can help fill that need, and Keith said the high school does have several tutoring options.

Keith also noted that now in his fourth year, he feels like everything is in sync, departments are working together, that all staff is realizing literacy / numeracy is a basis for ALL subjects and that ALL teachers / subjects benefit from focusing on this. Collaboration continues to be great.

17-159 2018 BUDGET PUBLIC WORK SESSION

(NOTE: This portion was moved to before the Action section of the meeting, to give board members time to ask any questions before they were asked to give permission to advertise the budget.)

Bob Schultz reminded that the budget is an estimate, based on best educated guesses as to revenue and expenses over the course of 2018. He noted that as always, we'll adjust as the year goes on, as needed.

The budget will need to be advertised in Gateway / local print media as required by law within 2 days. He noted that in the action portion of the meeting, he would be seeking permission for that advertisement. (This is the last year the print copies will be required. That along with many other things will be changing with 2019 budget, as required by new state law.)

Bob noted there is a month between advertising and approval, and things can be revised if needed after advertising.

He presented the budget timeline:

- September 12, 2017: Board Work Session/Permission to advertise
- September 14, 2017: Budget Advertised in Gateway (DLGF) / CPF & Bus Replacement Plans advertised in newspapers
- September 26, 2017: Public Hearing
- October 10, 2017: Adoption of 2018 Budget
- October 12, 2017: Submit copies of Budget to DLGF and Auditor / Publish Notice of Adoption of CPF Plan
- February 15, 2018: Deadline for DLGF to certify budget

Bob noted some of the things that impact MCS revenues:

- Enrollment (must monitor) -- impacts General Fund only
- Assessed Valuation (flat) -- impacts CPF, Transpo., Bus Repl.
- Circuit Breaker (Property Tax Caps) -- loss to CPF, Transpo., Bus Repl.
 - 2010: \$226,585
 - 2016: \$1,072,414
 - 2017: \$1,103,902
 - 2018 (estimated): \$1,467,178

- Current Complexity Index began 2014 -- loss to General Fund
 - 2015: \$613,836 less than 2014
 - 2016: \$951,076 less than 2015 (total loss \$1,564,912 over 2 years)
 - 2017: \$541,673 more than 2016 (formula/calculation change)
 - 2018 estimated: \$38,418 more than 2017 (still \$984,821 less than 2014)
 - Overall since 2014: Loss of \$984,821
- Over \$1.8 million annual pension debt obligation until 2024 (must be neutralized by reducing other funds – primarily CPF and Transportation)
- Grants add funding for staff, professional development, technology, and other instructional support for MCS students.....federal govt. Is cutting grants (35% reduction in Title 2 for 2017-18) (General Fund)
- Investment return on deposited funds will remain high (primarily impacts General Fund)
- Vocational enrollment steady (Marion Regional Career Center) (impacts General Fund)

Bob gave an overview of the appropriation history since 2016, and the request for 2018:

	2016	2017	2018 (requested)
General Fund	28,472,317	28,762,165	27,822,849
Debt Service	1,669,753	1,649,488	1,647,558
Pension Bond	1,282,295	1,279,530	1,283,649
Capital Projects	4,548,811	4,422,941	4,319,371
Transportation	2,303,710	2,663,556	2,434,040
Bus Replacement	533,000	530,083	533,000
TOTAL	38,809,886	39,307,763	38,040,467

He also presented a chart on General Fund expenditures for 2016-17, divided into categories, that showed that salaries and benefits account for 84.93% of expenditures (59.87% = salaries, 25.06% = benefits). Other categories: Purchased services (utilities, liability insurance, etc.) = 7.01%. Equipment = 3.34%. Supplies = 2.77%. Other = 1.95%.

Bob presented an overview of the assessed value of the property within the MCS district, and tax rate history, since 2014:

	Assessed Valuation		Total Tax Rate	
	Advertised	Actual	Advertised	Actual
2018	900,000,000	TBA	1.1472	TBA
2017	890,000,000	985,350,550	1.2381	.8503
2016	887,500,000	953,660,247	1.1295	.8912
2015	887,860,000	950,929,923	1.1296	.8821
2014	827,250,000	975,408,777	1.1735	.8876

Bob also presented an overview of the rates for all tax-based funds in 2017, and the proposed amounts for 2018:

	2017		2018	
	Advertised	Actual	Advertised	Actual
Debt Service	.1874	.1576	.1862	TBA
Pension Debt	.2099	.1547	.1206	TBA
Capital Projects	.4723	.2589	.4675	TBA
Transportation	.2847	.2363	.3087	TBA
Bus Replacement	.0838	.0428	.0642	TBA
TOTAL	1.2381	.8503	1.1472	TBA

Bob also gave an overview of the primary source of revenue for all MCS funds:

Fund	Primary source of revenue
General Fund	State funds - based on student enrollment
Debt Service	Local property tax - must be sufficient to meet debt obligations
Pension Debt	Local property tax - must be sufficient to meet debt obligations
Capital Projects	Local property tax - maximum revenue (levy) set by state (DLGF)
Transportation	Local property tax - maximum revenue (levy) set by state (DLGF)
Bus Replacement	Local property tax - maximum revenue (levy) set by state (DLGF)

Bob Also gave an overview of the impact of property tax caps (AKA circuit-breaker) for some Grant County taxing units:

Taxing Unit	Estimated 2018 impact
Eastbrook Schools	\$19,608
Madison-Grant Schools	\$9,096
Oak Hill Schools	\$262,600
Mississinewa Schools	\$295,336
City of Marion	\$3,768,251
Marion Community Schools	\$1,467,178
Grant County TOTAL	\$7,875,159

He also detailed the estimated loss to the 2018 MCS capital projects fund and transportation fund:

	Pension Bond Debt Service	Property Tax Caps	TOTAL
Capital Projects	\$885,212	\$408,837	\$1,294,049
Transportation	\$200,000	\$391,369	\$591,369

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

Scott Simpson said: "I love working in this corporation. As a whole, the staff in this corporation is fabulous."

He added: "There is no group of teachers that works harder than ours. They are invested, they are passionate about their children learning."

Also: "I am happy to be associated with MCS."

He noted that standards are always changing, and we're going to rise to the challenge.

He also said that putting preschool into our elementary buildings was one of the best things we could have done. The interaction and collaboration between preschool and kindergarten staff is beneficial to student progress.

He noted that educational funding has not been adequate since property tax was taken away from General Fund. Foundational funding from the state is not sufficient for affluent communities, he said, and certainly not for challenged communities. If we want a highly trained workforce, we need to invest in education at an adequate level.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

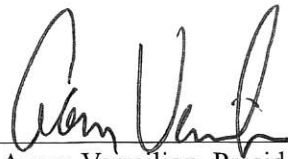
Superintendent Brad Lindsay said this year has been the best start to the school year during his tenure. He said we will continue to get better, because we must.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

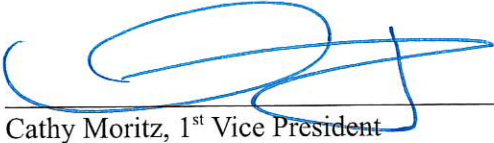
Greg Kitts said that we need to continue fight to push the state to make education funding adequate to meet the needs of students.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Room 2-29 at Marion High School. There being no further comments, Mrs. Moritz adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

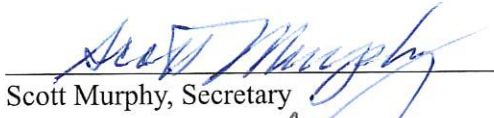


Aaron Vermilion, President

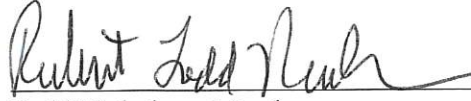


Cathy Moritz, 1st Vice President

Greg Kitts, 2nd Vice President



Scott Murphy, Secretary



Todd Nicholson, Member



Katie Morgan, Member



Chuck Griffin, Member