

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MARION, INDIANA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

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

Board members present:

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

Board members absent:

Greg Kitts	2 nd Vice President
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Also present:

Brad Lindsay	Superintendent
Shelley Preston	Human Resources Director
Bob Schultz	Asst. Superintendent of Business Affairs
Michele Smith	Elementary Education Director
Patricia Gibson	Director of Communications

Media/Distinguished Guests:

Scott Simpson	Marion Teachers Association
Spencer Durham	Chronicle-Tribune

Spectators/Patrons 1

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. PUBLIC HEARING - 2018 BUDGET / BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN / CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN

Bob Schultz reviewed the budget plans again (same information that was presented at two consecutive board meetings in September, first in discussion and then in public work session, reminding the board that at the next meeting they will be asked to approve these plans, which will then be submitted to the state by the required deadline.

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

Bob reminded that sales tax increase that was meant to replace property taxes lost through circuit breaker has only replaced about 40 percent of school funding that was lost. Costs have definitely not gone down during that time, he said.

He also noted that while Title II federal funding has been cut, and word is that Title I may be cut, we're hearing the Title IV program is being boosted, so there may be competitive grants available from the state that we will pursue.

He noted that while Indiana is among the highest in portion of state's budget that goes to K-12 education, we're one of only a few that don't use property tax money to fund classroom expenses. It was a choice by Legislature to do it that way, he emphasized. Almost \$8 million has been lost across the county to property tax caps, he said.

The budget will be up for adoption at next meeting, Oct. 10.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

17-160 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

17-161 PERSONNEL REPORTS

17-161.01 ADDENDA PERSONNEL REPORTS

17-162 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

17-163 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

17-160 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

The Superintendent recommended approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 7 p.m.

17-161 and 7161.01 PERSONNEL REPORTS

The Personnel Reports consisted of:

MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PERSONNEL REPORTS

9/26/17

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

Addenda Position Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Jessica McGibbon	McCulloch, ELA Academic Coach	9/13/17
Chris Hancock	McCulloch, Social Studies Academic Coach	9/13/17
Hannah Jones	McCulloch, Science Academic Coach	9/13/17

Retirement

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Michael Robertson	MHS, Teacher	9/20/17

CLASSIFIED REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Ashley Brockus	Justice, Alt Ed Assistant	10/2/17
Diana Spitzer	District, Title I Secretary	10/4/17, upon successful completion of the hiring process

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Alicia Harris	From 3.75 hours to 2.75 hours Food Service Assistant	9/12/17
Kristy Whitton	From Food Service Sub to Food Service Assistant 2.5 hours	9/12/17
Amanda Belcher	McCulloch, Food Service from 2.5 hours to 4.5 hours	9/26/17
Lisa McClung	Transportation, From Trainee to Sub Driver	8/28/17

Family Medical Leave

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Phillip Cooper	Riverview, Custodian	9/12/17 through 9/27/17

**MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ADDENDA
PERSONNEL REPORTS**

9/26/17

BARGAINING UNIT REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
James Bell	MHS, Department Head Health and PE	8/9/17
Cathy Griffin	MHS, BPA Sponsor	9/27/17

CLASSIFIED REPORT

New Employee

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Pamela Jackson	Frances Slocum, EA	9/26/17
Laura Reiter Smith	Frances Slocum/Kendall, Student Support Specialist	9/11/17
Darla Turner	Frances Slocum, Sp Ed EA	9/27/17
Jennifer Swathwood	MHS, Lifeskill EA	10/2/17
Sarah Bournique	Justice, SNPS	10/2/17

Resignation

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Prentice Williams	Frances Slocum, Lead Custodian	9/29/17
Karen Nichols	Justice, Little Giants Sp Ed EA	9/29/17

Change in Assignment

Name	Building and Assignment	Effective Date
Nechelle Sanders	Kendall, Food Service- From 4.75 hours to Substitute	9/20/17
Tammy Wilson	Kendall, Food Service-From Substitute to 4 hours Food Service Assistant	9/26/17

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

17-162 MARION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

The Expenditure Approval Lists for 9/2/17 through 9/25/17 and 9/26/17 were presented. The report included accounts payable claims #14,634 through #14,634 for a total of 211 accounts payable claims. The total dollar amount of claims was \$1,143,194.35; of that amount \$250,589.13 was expended from the General Fund. The Superintendent recommended approval of the expenditure approval list. **(Exhibit "A")**

17-163 REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

Donations for Justice Intermediate School and Little Giants Preschool were presented for approval.

Cathy Moritz entered a motion to approve the consent agenda. Scott Murphy seconded the motion. Aaron Vermilion abstained from 17-160, and aye to the rest. All other board members voted unanimously yes. Motion passed.

IV ACTION

17-164 APPROVAL OF RENOVATIONS TO CAFETERIAS AT McCULLOCH, JUSTICE, MHS

Bob Schultz explained that during recent routine audit, State Board of Accounts indicated the cash balance in the cafeteria funds needed to be spent down (as required by applicable laws and regulations. We have agreed that we would do that, and reported that to federal officials as well.

Wages for food service workers have been increased, and now we have the opportunity to get updated equipment that will enable us to serve better food, a greater variety of food, in a more efficient and safe way, and also more inviting students.

Installation of upgraded equipment is planned over winter break, if approved.

The CEP program (free meals for all students) is dramatically increasing the number of students who are eating, especially breakfast.

Todd Nicholson asked if they needed a not-to-exceed number in this approval of plans. Cathy Moritz said we were required by law to spend it on this, she didn't see need to set upper limit. Aaron Vermilion said if plans changed drastically, then the board would expect a change order. Bob acknowledged that. Aaron emphasized that breakfast use has increased, and he sees athletes even eating their breakfast bars as snacks later in the day. He thinks this is a great program.

Scott Murphy asked if there were other upgrades on the horizon needed. Bob said they are always on the lookout for that, and they're also considering more upgrades to improve / modernize the atmosphere in the high school cafeteria, especially. They're also exploring after-school options as well as looking to continue to replace aged equipment rather than repair, when it would be more cost-effective long term to buy new.

Cathy Moritz entered a motion to approve the renovation plans. After a second by Katie Morgan, the motion unanimously passed.

V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

17-165 DISTRICT TARGET #2: PRODUCING LEARNING RESULTS

Lynn Gosser and Michele Smith presented an update regarding school improvement grants (SIG). The Department of Education has released information in the fall instead of spring, which allows us longer planning time. In past years we have used this to help provide extended day and other enhancements.

Justice, Allen, Frances Slocum will eligible to apply for these grants this year, and we plan to apply.

Superintendent Brad Lindsay noted these are more competitive than they have been at the past.

Todd Nicholson asked if Giant Summer Academy will continue. Brad said yes, but funding will determine details in part. Rich experiences have been great for our kids.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. MARION TEACHER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

Scott Simpson referred to Bob Schultz's mention that Title IV grants would be available, and Scott noted he was at meeting recently when it was said Indiana was going to get \$6.7 million, and schools will get to apply for up to \$100,000

in a competitive grant process.

He also noted he attended a hearing at the state library earlier today on graduation pathways. All speakers he heard were in favor of more pathways, getting away from a single test being the only way to get a diploma. Portfolios and other ideas are being discussed. On Oct. 10, development of these plans starts, and in December they will be up for approval from state board. He will keep us updated.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

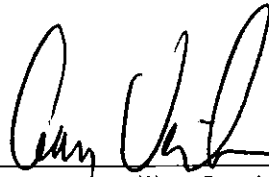
Superintendent Brad Lindsay noted that MHS JROTC Raiders are state champs, next they're headed to regional and national competitions. Tonight Marion High School and Mississinewa Valley Band are partnering for concert. This week is Homecoming, and we want to make it special. The new MHS Athletics Hall of Fame opens at 5 p.m. Friday. Saturday is the MHS Hall of Distinction induction banquet. We are thankful for growing Alumni Association that is helping to support this. Let's make it a special week for our students.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

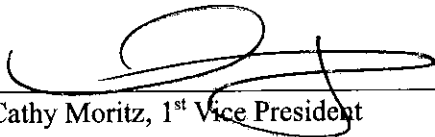
Chuck Griffin added that Rock's Tenderloin Fry starts at 5 p.m. before the Homecoming game, proceeds will benefit music department.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees will be a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 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 7:25 p.m.



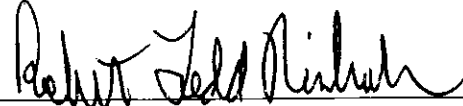
Aaron Vermilion, President



Cathy Moritz, 1st Vice President

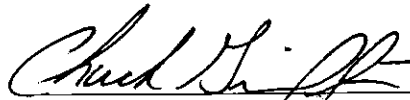


Greg Kitts, 2nd Vice President



Todd Nicholson, Member

Scott Murphy, Secretary



Chuck Griffin, Member

Katie Morgan, Member