

MADISON-GRANT UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION
September 21, 2009 – Madison-Grant Administrative Office – 7:30 P.M.
Minutes of the Board of School Trustees

The Board of School Trustees of the Madison-Grant United School Corporation met for its regular meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the Madison-Grant Administrative Office, 11580 South E00W, Fairmount, Indiana.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Michael Solms who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were: Brobst, Chambers, Draper, Poore, Sickman, Solms, and Stanley. Also attending were: Mr. John Trout, Superintendent; Mr. Steve Bloomfield, Assistant to the Superintendent, and Mrs. Rebecca Monroe, Business Director.

The minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting were approved upon a motion by Chambers with a second by Stanley.

The minutes of the September 8, 2009 work session were approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Draper.

The minutes of the September 9, 2009 board/administrative retreat were approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Chambers.

School Board Vouchers #1510 through and including #1598 and PR # 19, totaling \$650,503.41, were approved upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Draper.

Mrs. Monroe explained that this meeting included the adoption of the 2010 School Budget (see copies). Mrs. Monroe reviewed Form 1 and it was adopted upon a motion by Poore with a second by Draper. Form 3 was reviewed by Mrs. Monroe and was adopted by the Board upon a motion by Stanley with a second by Brobst. Mrs. Monroe then reviewed Form 4 and it was adopted upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Poore. Form 5 was adopted upon a motion by Stanley with a second by Chambers. Form 1S, Form 2, Forms 4B, were also reviewed.

Mrs. Monroe stated that a tax neutrality resolution is required to reduce the levy in one or more funds in 2010 by an amount equal to the levy for debt service on its Taxable General Obligation Pension Bonds of 2006. Mrs. Monroe explained that a neutrality resolution will be required each year by the Department of Local Government Finance for our Pension Bonds. She stated that even though it is the plan to neutralize only in the CPF (Capital Projects Fund) and the Bus Replacement Fund in 2010, all available funds will be listed just in case a problem would present itself. Mrs. Monroe stated that, although this is highly unlikely, we must make sure we cover all bases. The Tax Neutrality Resolution was approved upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Stanley.

A Resolution for Reduction in Appropriations (see copy) was presented for Board approval. This resolution would authorize Mrs. Monroe to make reductions in any of the budgeted funds for 2010 if it should become necessary. She stated that, should this become necessary, appropriations would be reduced per Department of Local Government Finance guidelines. This resolution was approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Chambers.

Mr. Bloomfield reviewed the ADM (Average Daily Membership) count with the Board. Mr. Bloomfield explained that the official ADM count day this year was September 18, 2009. Mr. Bloomfield stated he did not have the final count yet as he was still working with one building on final numbers. However, he stated that the final ADM count will be between 1421.5 and 1431.5. The ADM count number is lower because kindergarten students count only as one-half. Mr. Bloomfield stated that, as a district, our enrollment is down

between 50 and 60 students from last year. In addition, we anticipate losing at least another twenty-five students next year just because of the lower kindergarten class sizes.

Mr. Trout presented data outlining the 2009 Spring ISTEP results which was recently received (see copy of data comparing our results with the State average). Mr. Trout stated that, overall, he was pleased and reminded those present that the spring scores could not be compared to the fall of 2008 results. Mr. Trout stated that there was a problem with the scoring for the fifth grade at Liberty because it was discovered that they were marking their answers to questions in the wrong test booklet. Unfortunately, those tests were counted as a failure, but in reality most of those students would have done very well. However, he stated that it was important to note that these results would not count towards our AYP categories this year. Mr. Solms asked if the 2009 Spring ISTEP scores would act as baseline scores for next spring. Mr. Trout stated that they would. Mr. Poore said that he assumed there was a plan in place to make sure the fifth grade problem did not happen again anywhere in the corporation. Mr. Trout said, yes, absolutely. Mr. Trout said that changes will be made on how the test is proctored.

Mr. Trout asked the Board's permission to allow the Madison-Grant United School Corporation to join the Indiana Coalition of Quality Schools (see copy of letter to the Coalition requesting membership). Mr. Trout stated that this would help our teaching staff and community to see that we are establishing a long-term commitment to this initiative. Mr. Trout stated that there was no cost to join this coalition. This request was approved upon a motion by Stanley with a second by Brobst.

The following personnel recommendation was approved upon a motion by Stanley and a second by Chambers.

1. Trevor Wright – Assistant Wrestling Coach – High School

Mr. Trout reminded the Board of the upcoming ISBA conference. He stated that check-in to the hotel would be on Sunday, September 27 and dinner would be at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Trout stated that the school van would be available for those wishing to ride together.

Mr. Solms explained that the Board had discussed Mr. Trout's evaluation and the Board's self-evaluation. Mr. Solms said that Mr. Trout would contact Mr. Adamson, ISBA Director of Board Services, to set up a time for the Board's self evaluation. Mr. Solms stated that the Board would do this first (most likely in October) and then work on Mr. Trout's evaluation at some time after that.

Mrs. Sickman reminded the Board of the October 7 ISBA regional meeting in Kokomo. All Board members indicated that they would be attending.

Mr. Draper stated that this was Homecoming Week and there would be lots of activities going on in the High School during the days and in the evenings. He said that there would be lots of fun times and he would like to see everyone out to show their support for the kids.

Mrs. Sickman asked if the Girls Softball State Champion rings had arrived. Mr. Trout stated that he was not sure, but the girls would be honored at the Homecoming football game on Friday.

Mr. Stanley noted that the Junior High made a clean sweep at the recent Grant County Volleyball Tournament and congratulated the girls for their accomplishment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Stanley, seconded by Poore, and approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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