

MADISON-GRANT UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION

June 14, 2010 – Madison-Grant Junior High School – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Board of School Trustees

The Board of School Trustees of the Madison-Grant United School Corporation met for a regular meeting on Monday, June 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Madison-Grant Junior High School, 11640 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; Mrs. Ann Presnall, Board Member Elect; Mrs. Rebecca Monroe, Business Director; Mrs. DeShawn Wert, Park Elementary Principal; Mrs. Wendy Barr, Summitville Elementary Principal; Mr. Phil Nikirk, High School Principal; Mr. Tom Daniel, Junior High Principal; Mr. Steve Wilson, Liberty Elementary Principal; Ms. Gwen Bragg, School Counselor; Several Patrons; and Honored Guests - Mr. Terry Martin, Mrs. Rebecca Ferguson, and Mrs. Jill Henry.

Mr. Trout asked the Board to amend the agenda adding under miscellaneous number 10, Babe Ruth Tournament for age fourteen and under to use the high school diamond. The amendment was approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Stanley.

The minutes of the May 24, 2010 business meeting and the executive session were approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Poore.

School Board Vouchers #761 through and including #868, totaling \$1,719,711.55, were approved upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Chambers.

Mr. Trout spoke about those who are retiring from Madison-Grant at the end of the 2009-2010 school year: Mr. Bob Barnhart, Mrs. Rebecca Ferguson, Mrs. Kathy Giselbach, Mrs. Jill Henry, and Mr. Terry Martin. He stated that this is a bittersweet moment and they will be sorely missed. Mr. Nikirk stated that there was no one more respected and revered by all than Mr. Terry Martin and that he will be hard to replace. Mrs. Wert said Mrs. Henry was very supportive and all the kids love her. Mrs. Barr spoke about how they appreciated Mrs. Ferguson and will miss her (Mrs. Ferguson has taught first grade in the same room for her career). Mr. Nikirk said that Mrs. Giselbach did a wonderful job in a tough position as study hall monitor. Mr. Bloomfield remarked on Mr. Barnhart's 46 years of service with Madison-Grant plus 4 more years as a Liberty Township driver (before Madison-Grant incorporated) and that he will truly be missed. Mr. Solms thanked and congratulated everyone for their years of service and hope that they enjoy their retirement. Mr. Solms expressed his appreciation for Mr. Eric Draper on his work that he has done and the various committees that he served on for the Board. Mr. Trout and other Board members expressed their appreciation as well. All honored retirees were given a mantle clock as a token of appreciation.

Mrs. Wert and Mrs. Gwen Bragg explained how Andrew Lee, Fourth Grade Student at Park Elementary, is someone who has a big heart and wanted to do something for the Life Skills Class. He decided to do a fundraiser with their help and over \$900 was collected to buy instructional items for the life skills classroom. Mrs. Wert stated that she admired him for his heart for other students and other people. Mr. Trout said they were all proud of him. Mr. Solms thanked him and said that it was exciting to see a student thinking of others. Mr. Draper said he wanted to thank him personally and that it reminded him of his grandmother's saying you reap what you sow - adults can learn from you and I commend you for that.

Mrs. Barr talked about how a grant that Christopher Garrison, Fourth Grade Student at Summitville Elementary, received from the Community Foundation for recycling tubs. Mrs. Barr stated that Summitville

has a Garden Club sponsored by Mrs. Rowland and she has negotiated for a dumpster so the school and community could recycle paper products. She stated that the Summitville “Green Team” collects paper from the classrooms and takes it to the recycling dumpster. She said that this project all started with the grant written by Christopher. Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Rowland encouraged all Madison-Grant schools and community to use the dumpster. Mr. Trout commended them for a fantastic job.

Tammy Pearson with Project Leadership shared the good news about their efforts to increase graduation rate and to increase the enrollment of Twenty-First Century Scholars (see copy for complete details). She stated that three years ago, there was only about sixteen percent of eligible students (grades six through eight) enrolled in the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program – this past year they recruited 82% of eligible sixth graders, 98% of eligible seventh graders, and 100% of eligible eighth graders. Ms. Pearson explained that Madison-Grant has broken many records for enrollment in Indiana. She thanked Mr. Trout and the Board for Madison-Grant’s partnership in the program and hoped all were pleased with the results. Mr. Trout asked her what students needed to do to qualify for the Twenty-First Century Program. She stated that students must maintain a minimum “C” average (2.0) through high school, must not do drugs, must not have a criminal record, and has to file a FAFSE (financial aid form) in their senior year of high school. Enrollment in the program must be made during the student’s sixth, seventh, or eighth grade year. Mr. Trout thanked her for her leadership in this valuable program. Mrs. Brobst asked her if a family’s income would increase after a student is in the program, would that student be dropped from the program? Ms. Pearson replied, No, they would not. Mr. Poore asked what if it decreases. Ms. Pearson said that unfortunately, the enrollment time was specific to sixth through eighth grade and did not extend to high school.

Mr. Trout stated that a community group was formed this past winter and three members of that group were present to report on their work (Mr. David Milliner, Mr. Greg Thompson, and Mr. Scott Rich). Mr. David Milliner explained how the Resource Efficiency and Effectiveness Team (REET) was formed to help come up with ideas for budget cuts (budgets for schools in Indiana were cut substantially by the State for 2010). He explained that the team is an advisory group only – not a decision making group. At the first meeting, they spent the evening brainstorming ideas. At the second meeting, the new ideas were listed and voted on in order of importance for each member of the team. Mr. Greg Thompson then stated that during these meetings everyone’s opinion was valued and every idea was listed. He stated that many people were involved, coming from multiple lines of work which resulted in a broad spectrum of ideas. Mr. Scott Rich said that the team had decided that whatever they recommended could not affect the education of the kids. He stated that the district’s leadership is very good and that we were one of very few districts that did not reduce their teaching staff for the next school year. He explained that “riffing” affects kids negatively. Mr. Rich stated that although there were many more, fifty-two suggestions, that were voted most important, were brought to the Board for their consideration (see copy). He stated there were lots of ideas on energy conservation. Mr. Trout stated that this was just the beginning step for this group – he would like to get the group back together in the fall to begin the strategic planning process. Mr. Trout thanked the three gentlemen for their presentation and applauded the group for their willingness to help. He said we are reaping the benefits from their ideas. Board members also thanked the group for their help.

Mr. Trout stated that the building principals were present to share preliminary ISTEP results with the Board. He explained that Park School’s scores will be delayed because the Park boxes were shipped to the wrong warehouse. He said that there were several schools that this happened to and the State is working to take care of that problem. It will probably be late July before we have Park’s results. Mrs. Barr, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Daniel, and Mr. Nikirk all shared details of their preliminary ISTEP scores with the Board (see copy for details). Mr. Nikirk explained that this year’s junior and senior class would be the last high school students who take the ISTEP. All high schools are moving to End of Course Assessments. Mr. Trout reminded the Board of the Madison-Grant Vision Statement. Mr. Trout stated that the gap is narrowing rapidly and we are

getting closer to meeting our vision goals. Mr. Trout thanked everyone for the team effort. Mr. Solms also thanked those administrators and teachers who are in the trenches.

Mr. Trout explained that due to a lack of agenda items there will be no School Board Work Session/Meeting on June 21, 2010. Mr. Trout also stated that the School Board meetings will return to the Central Office on July 12, 2010.

Mr. Stanley said that the Youth League of Fairmount would like to use the high school softball field to host the Babe Ruth 14 and under State Softball Championships. He stated that he did not have all the details at this time, but if they could use the Madison-Grant field as well as the one in Fairmount, it would be a good opportunity for all involved. Mr. Chad Bramel would be the person in the lead of this event. Mr. Trout recommended approval pending details. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Draper with a second by Chambers.

Mrs. Wert explained that based on information received from the State, she and the Textbook Adoption Committee were recommending the delay of math textbook adoption for one year. The State will hopefully, by that time, have final guidelines for math adoption. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Brobst with a second by Chambers.

Mrs. Wert presented proposed textbook rental fees for 2010-11 school year for grades kindergarten through eighth grades. She explained that, in the past, there was a flat fee for seventh and eighth grade, but they will now be charging students based on classes taken (similar to high school process). Mrs. Wert gave the Board a list of all books so they have a fee schedule (see copy). Mrs. Wert did say that next year fees might be higher because of both Science and Math Adoptions in one year. Mrs. Sickman had a question about the first grade costs (basal reader amount compared to kindergarten and second grade). Mrs. Wert told Mrs. Sickman she would check on that and get back to her. Mr. Solms asked if the new fee structure in junior high would cost the parents more than in the past. Mr. Daniel said not necessarily. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Chambers with a second by Poore.

Mr. Bloomfield explained that based on not outsourcing the cafeteria and after meeting with the cafeteria staff, he is asking permission to post for a full time Food Service Director. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Stanley.

Mr. Bloomfield said that he has been working on a format for job descriptions and evaluations of non-certified personnel (see copy for examples). Mr. Bloomfield asked for the Board's approval of these formats. This request was approved upon a motion by Draper with a second by Brobst.

Mr. Bloomfield stated that he is seeking approval to change the classification of three full time housekeepers to custodians beginning July 1, 2010. He explained that even though there is no real difference in the jobs, there is a significant pay difference. The cost to reclassify these three employees is approximately \$7,905 per year. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Chambers with a second by Stanley.

Mr. Bloomfield stated that the Acceptable Use Policy (Internet and telecommunications) should be reviewed every year. He presented updates for both the staff and students policies (#6144 and #4200) and explained that this would be the First Reading for such amendments. He also explained that staff and students should sign these each and every school year – if they do not sign, they will be denied internet privileges. Mr. Bloomfield said that if there were any questions or concerns, the Board could give him a call and he could then make revisions as necessary before the Second Reading takes place.

Mrs. Monroe asked permission to make fund to fund temporary loan transfers as needed to make adjustments at the end of the year. Mrs. Monroe explained that Grant County is supposed to make settlement on spring property taxes, but she does not expect that we will receive a settlement from Madison County by June 30, 2010. If such transfers are necessary, she will report those to the Board at the first meeting in July. This request was approved upon a motion by Sickman with a second by Poore.

Mr. Trout explained that the Sponsor Agreement for the Federal Child Nutrition Program (see copy) allows us to participate in the school lunch program in Indiana. Mr. Trout is seeking approval to send this agreement to the State. This recommendation was approved upon a motion by Chambers with a second by Stanley.

Mr. Trout recommended approval of the personnel listings. He mentioned that administrative two-year contract renewals were being recommended as well as Mr. Mark Coleman as the new Building and Grounds Director. Mrs. Sickman made a motion to separate the transfer, resignation, and recommendations from the rest of the personnel page. Mr. Stanley seconded this motion. This motion was not approved with Sickman and Stanley voting in favor, Solms, Draper, and Chambers voting against, and Poore and Brobst abstaining. The following personnel items were then approved upon a motion by Chambers and a second by Brobst with two opposing – Sickman and Stanley.

Voluntary Transfer

1. Rebecca Freel- 2nd Grade Teacher at Park Elementary

Resignation

1. Beverly Doughty- MGHS National Honor Society Sponsor

Recommendations

1. Mark Coleman- Director of Buildings and Grounds
2. Cynthia Pugsley- Biology/Life Science Teacher for MGHS
3. Kirby (Gilliam) Cunningham- Choral Director for MGHS

Additional Compensation

1. Mike Brown - Additional Compensation of \$50.00 for the 2009-2010 School Year for services as First Aide Coordinator at the IHSAA Track Sectional held at Madison-Grant.

Administrators: renewal for additional year (10-11 and 11-12)

1. Steve Wilson
2. DeShawn Wert
3. Wendy Barr
4. Tom Daniel
5. Phil Nikirk

Mr. David Milliner asked Mrs. Wert a question about the rental fees. He stated that last year, he was charged for a high school math book that he said was not utilized. He wanted to know if that book would be utilized for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Solms explained that he was not sure Mrs. Wert can answer that as she took care of only K-8 charges. Mr. Trout suggested that Mr. Milliner check with Mr. Nikirk, the high school principal for an answer to his question. Although Mr. Daniel said he was at the Junior High, he did know that because of changing standards, teachers have had to supplement a lot, but when the book is needed it is available. Mr. Milliner said that he understood not using all the time, but he did not understand why you would not use it at all. Mr. Milliner also asked if the Director of Food Services was a new position. Mr. Bloomfield explained that it was not a new position, but it was an expanded position. Mr. Milliner then asked

if it was really worth the extra costs to change the housekeeper classification to a custodial classification. Mr. Solms explained that we have people in our buildings doing the same job, but being paid differently. Mr. Milliner stated that Mr. Bloomfield had said it was "almost" the same job. Mr. Trout said that the employees are doing the same job.

Mark Coleman said that he was excited to come on board and looking forward to starting. He then addressed Mr. Milliner's concern stating that he is going to need employees to help him and it would be a big help if they were being paid the same wages for the same job. He also stated that the REET committee's findings will certainly help him as he comes on board. He thanked the Board for their approval of his employment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the regular board session was made by Stanley, seconded by Draper, and approved by the Board. The Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

_____ Pres _____ Secty

