

The Board of School Trustees of Madison Consolidated Schools conducted a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at the Administration Building, 2421 Wilson Avenue, Madison, Indiana, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members of the Board of School Trustees were present:

Mrs. Joyce Imel, President
Mr. Carl Glesing, Vice-President
Mrs. Lee Ann Imel, Secretary
Mr. Rob Kring, Member
Mrs. Linda laCour, Member

The following Central Office Administrators were present:

Dr. Ginger Studebaker-Bolinger, Superintendent
Mr. Mike Frazier, Director of Systems, Operations, and Auxiliary Services
Mrs. Angela Vaughn, Director of Special Education and Student Services
Mrs. Bonnie Hensler, Director of Finance and Human Resources

**PRESENTATION BY NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY AND CLARKSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS
ON 5TH – 8TH GRADE CONFIGURATION**

Dr. Kimberly Knott, Superintendent, Clarksville School Corporation, addressed the Board. She said it was not an easy task five years ago to move to the 5th – 8th grade configuration. Dr. Knott said due to financial issues Clarksville closed an elementary school and moved the 5th graders to the middle school. She said their board conducted public conversations with parents. She said they had fears; safety concerns, keeping the 5th grade separate, lockers and the transition itself. Dr. Knott said they have a 5th grade wing at the middle school. She said at first they ate lunch separate. Dr. Knott said the 5th graders enter and exit a separate door from the other students, to assure the parents of the student's safety. Dr. Knott said the 5th graders love attending the middle school. She said the students are doing remarkable at the academic level and said the attendance rate for 5th graders was 97%. Dr. Knott said the middle school has evolved into a 5th-8th building. Dr. Knott said it was a good move for Clarksville Middle School.

Mrs. laCour asked how long did the 5th graders have separate activities? Dr. Knott said at the end of the second year 5th graders were invited to attend an all school dance. She said the third year lunches were combined. Dr. Knott said teachers did a great job keeping the 5th grade students separate.

Dr. Rhonda Roos, New Albany Floyd County Schools Middle School Director, said Clarksville and New Albany Floyd County went through the process together. She said she wasn't sure at the time if it was the best decision but New Albany Floyd County has to cut millions of dollars. She said the three middle schools had room to house the 5th graders. Dr. Roos said they would not go back.

Dr. Roos presented the following:

Three NAFC Middle Schools

- Hazelwood Middle School – 950 enrollment
Dr. Jessica Waters, principal
- Highland Hills Middle School – 1620 enrollment
Mr. Bill Krammes, principal
- Scribner Middle School – 850 enrollment

Academic Essential Components

- 5th and 6th graders on separate schedule
 - Two-teacher teams sharing students
 - 90 minutes of literacy instruction
 - 90 minutes of math instruction
 - 30-40 minutes of writing instruction
 - 30-50 minutes of acceleration time
 - One elective
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- Full-time Literacy Coaches
 - Full-time Math Coaches

Other Essential Components

- Fifth graders located in separate hallway
- Sixth graders located in separate hallway
- Students have separate “congregating area” before school begins
- Counselor offices located in those hallways with students
- Teachers escort students to/from elective and lunch
- Fifth & Sixth grade parent conferences continue at the middle school
- Middle School counselors visit each elementary school to meet students and give presentation to 4th graders
- Middle School principals meet with elementary principals to discuss specific needs in April
- Students come to middle schools at end of 4th grade for “during the day” visit (1 ½ hours)
- Parents come to middle school meeting in late April/early May for evening presentation and tour of the facility
- Students have a 5th grade orientation (“Be a Better Bullpup”) at each middle school the Friday morning before school begins

First Year Concerns from Parents!

- Horrible things will happen on the bus
- Fifth graders will be harassed by older students in the hallways
- No more recess
- Fifth graders will be with older students in restrooms and cafeteria
- Fifth graders will miss the culminating activities in their elementary schools

Dr. Roos said lunch won students over.

Dr. Roos said there are many extra-curricular opportunities at the middle school level.

Dr. Roos said NAFC has no choice; she said they closed four schools to save teachers.

Dr. Roos said this is the 5th year of the 5th grade at the middle school and would not go back.

Dr. Roos invited the Board and teachers to visit New Albany Floyd County to see how 5th – 8th grade does work.

Mrs. J. Imel said she found it interesting that the 5th grade move was a financial driven decision. Dr. Roos said there was room in the middle schools and their corporation is now in the black and financially grounded.

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Dr. Roos shared ISTEP data that showed 5th graders test scores improved when moved to the middle school.

Dr. Knott said the reason for the 5th grade move to Clarksville Middle school was financial as well. She said they had a failed referendum and looked at many options. She said school finances aren't getting better.

Dr. Roos said more time should have been given to teachers regarding curriculum the year before the move.

Dr. Knott said student safety was a key.

Dr. Roos said we must develop a trust with teachers and parents.

Dr. Knott said parents must be assured of the process.

Dr. Roos said of the 570 out of county transfers other than kindergarten 5th grade has the most requests.

Mrs. laCour asked about recess? Both schools have recess however at NAFC recess isn't in the schedule it is up to the classroom teacher. Both superintendents said there is no recess for 6th grade.

Mrs. J. Imel said when she met with 5th grade teachers they wanted recess.

Dr. Knott said the middle school setting allows 5th graders to participate in P.E., band and theatre.

Mrs. J. Imel thanked Dr. Roos and Dr. Knott for attending the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Studebaker-Bolinger and a motion by Mr. Glesing, seconded by Mrs. laCour, the Board voted, 5-0, and the motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – JUNE 15, 2016, SPECIAL MEETING

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Employment(s)

Administration

Diane Loudenback - Bus Aide - effective June 8, 2016

E.O. Muncie Elementary School

Vanessa Burns - Elementary Teacher - effective August 1, 2016

Madison Junior High School

Chuck Nunan - Team Leader - Social Studies - effective August 1, 2016

Janelle O'Brien - Special Olympics Coach - effective August 1, 2016

Kenton Mahoney - Student Council Sponsor - effective August 1, 2016

Kenton Mahoney - Academic Coach - Science - effective August 1, 2016

Emily Cotner - Band - effective August 1, 2016
Teresa Grayson - Choir - effective August 1, 2016
Jackie Thurston - Academic Coach - Mathematics - effective August 1, 2016
Jackie Thurston - Math Counts - effective August 1, 2016
Jackie Thurston - Spell Bowl - effective August 1, 2016
Julie Dwyer - Academic Coach - Social Studies - effective August 1, 2016

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Ruthie McGarry - Academic Coach - English - effective August 1, 2016
Ruthie McGarry - School Improvement Chair - effective August 1, 2016
Ruthie McGarry - Team Leader - English - effective August 1, 2016
Dariel Courtney - 6th Grade Leader - effective August 1, 2016
Maureen Getz - 6th Grade Leader - effective August 1, 2016
Kerri Bedingham - Team Leader - Science - effective August 1, 2016

Resignation

Madison Junior High School

Mark Stewart - Content Leader - effective June 5, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Smith, 4476 N SR 3, Deputy, addressed the Board about moving 5th graders to the Junior High School. She asked why the Board was still considering moving the 5th grade when the public has said no. She said she has bus concerns and is worried about enrollment numbers at Deputy if the 5th grade is moved. Ms. Smith said she appreciated the speakers but Madison isn't the size of NAFC or Clarksville. She said they didn't bring the negative and would like to hear from schools closer to our size. She had concerns about bullying at the Junior High. Mrs. J. Imel said Clarksville is smaller than Madison. Dr. Knott said Clarksville's enrollment is 1400 with 475 out of district. Dr. Knott said funding was an issue and their Board had to find a way to pay teachers and bills. She said parents have a choice where to send their children to school.

Erin Mitchell, 11239 N 700 W, Dupont, said she was employed by MCS as an ISP. She said there is not enough communication. She said support staff would like to know more. Mrs. Mitchell said when she worked at the Junior High there were fights in the cafeteria. She said staffing is a problem. She said she was concerned about bullying at the Junior High. Mrs. Mitchell said her oldest son was scared when he went to the Junior High. She said parents need to be reassured of their children's safety.

Mrs. Mitchell asked the speakers if they had public support. Dr. Knott said they had a failed referendum; therefore they had to close a school and it was very difficult for their community. She said they have a great community relationship now.

Dr. Roos said her parents were worried about safety. She said they had to prove to parents their children were safe.

Mrs. Mitchell said some 5th grade teachers she has talked to agree with the move and some don't.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if there is a decision about E.O. Muncie?

Mrs. Mitchell said some parents don't feel the 6th graders were kept separate when they moved to the Junior High.

Dr. Studebaker-Bolinger said there are 17 empty classrooms at the Junior High School. She said teachers and administrators need to be part of the planning process.

Mrs. laCour said separate drop offs and lunches had already been discussed.

Mrs. Jennifer Dew said there are so many unanswered questions. She said parents were told the 6th grade would be kept separate and weren't. Ms. Dew said the community has lost trust with the school board. She said she had attended many meetings. Mrs. Dew said she would love for parents to vote yes on a referendum.

Mrs. J. Imel said our enrollment is declining. She said the declining enrollment is due to many factors:

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Mrs. J. Imel said she was concerned about the lack of trust comment. She said she held 11 community meetings. She said decisions have not been made. Mrs. J. Imel said the referendum was totally rejected. She said the Board needs to do what is best for students. She said E.O. Muncie is in very serious condition.

Mrs. J. Imel thanked Dr. Knott and Dr. Roos for attending the meeting.

ACTION

APPROVAL OF FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kring said if we don't want to know quit asking. He said at the community meetings parents said no to moving 5th grade. He said if the Board votes yes the community will feel the Board isn't listening. Mr. Kring said Madison isn't Clarksville or NAFC. He said he wanted to hear how they made the 5th grade move work.

Mr. Kring encouraged the public to contact him.

Mrs. Sherry Chapo said she doesn't feel respected. She said the public wants to support the Board.

Dr. Knott said Clarksville was divided. She said the elementary school closed was in old Clarksville. She said the process wasn't all rosy and simple. Dr. Knott said board members lost their seats and she almost lost her job. Dr. Knott said Clarksville has 70% free and reduced lunch counts. She said they had to make it work. Dr. Knott said Clarksville isn't the same as Madison but it is a similar situation. She invited parents and teachers to visit. Dr. Knott said Clarksville is a stronger community today.

Mrs. laCour said the Board is committed to keeping Deputy open. She said students attend schools in varied areas.

Mrs. laCour thanked all for attending the meeting.

Mrs. L. Imel said the Junior High School is different now than it was when Mrs. Mitchell's oldest son attended there. She said she hasn't been a fan of moving the 5th grade but the Junior High is a lot different now. She said there are wonderful teachers and administrators at the Junior High School.

Mrs. L. Imel said students shouldn't be afraid to go to the Junior High School and if they are it is because of the adults. She said our Junior High is a wonderful school and is not full of bullying or terrible children. She said our Junior High School gets a bad rap as it is the only Junior High in the county.

Mrs. L. Imel said no decision has been made. Ms. Smith said she feels the decision has been made and wants more communication.

Mrs. Jill Banks said the negative comments sadden her. She said this Board has been very transparent and has held several special meetings. Mrs. Banks said the Board has already said the 5th grade would not move this school year. Mrs. Chapo said she hadn't heard about the board meetings but felt tonight was a step in the right direction.

Mr. Glesing explained regular board meetings and special board meetings are two different meetings. He said there are opportunities for the public to speak at regular meetings. He said the Board wants to be transparent. Mrs. Chapo said the Board isn't listening to the public.

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Mr. Glesing said a decision can't be made about E.O. Muncie until the decision is made regarding moving the 5th grade to the Junior High School. Mr. Glesing said he has talked to many people about the move and some have said it is a great idea and some have said no. Mr. Glesing said the negative side attended the meetings.

Mrs. Dew said she understands the financial piece but the community doesn't feel like they can be heard. She asked if there could be meetings prior to regular meetings. She said parents have stated they didn't know when the meetings were. Mrs. Chapo suggested meeting in the buildings. Mr. Glesing said that idea had been discussed. Mr. Glesing said he is always available for telephone calls. He said he doesn't always give answers especially those that need to be made by administrators.

Mrs. J. Imel said this is a very difficult situation but the Board is going to make decisions that are best for children. She said students are more flexible than parents.

Mrs. J. Imel said the Board has fiscal responsibilities and will make decisions that all aren't going to like. She said the Board can't please all in the Corporation.

Mrs. J. Imel said the Board would meet on June 29th to make decisions regarding facilities.

Mrs. Mitchell said the Junior High is different now. She said her previous comments were no reflection on Mrs. Mires. Mrs. Mitchell said she loved working at the Junior High. She said we have a very good school corporation and appreciates the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. L. Imel moved the Special Meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mrs. laCour, the Board voted, 5-0, and the Special Meeting was adjourned.

Secretary
BY: ps

ATTEST:
