

The Board of School Trustees of Madison Consolidated Schools conducted a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 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
Dr. Katie Jenner, Senior Director of Learning and Title Program
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

Opening Statement by Board President:

“All school board meetings are open to the public and all discussions will be held in the open, with the exception of executive sessions. There is time on the meeting agenda for public comments. If you have questions about specific procedures, please check with us prior to the meeting. Involved and informed parents and citizens are our best guarantee of excellence in our public schools.

School board members receive a full agenda several days prior to the board meeting. The agenda may deal with curriculum, budget, hiring of personnel, facilities, school transportation, or long-range planning. The agenda usually includes written support material that helps us with our decision making. If it appears that we take quick action on an item, it may be because we have been studying the topic for several weeks or that we have had our questions answered in advance of the meeting.”

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MAY 25, 2016, SPECIAL MEETING

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Employment(s)

Lydia Middleton Elementary School

Lisa Reverman – Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016
Melissa Perry - Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016
Katrina Hanson - Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016
Lee Ann Cart - Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016

Madison Junior High School

Reenie Getz – Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016
Jackie Thurston – Summer School Teacher – effective June 6, 2016

Resignation(s)

Deputy Elementary School

Jill Banks – Co-Primary Spell Bowl Coach – effective May 31, 2016

Madison Junior High School

Terri Briddle – Custodian – effective May 27, 2016

Madison Consolidated High School

Sarah Neese – Secondary Teacher – effective May 31, 2016

Retirement

E.O. Muncie Elementary School

Judy Mundy – Instructional Support – effective May 27, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pat Dryden, Green Road, gave his view point regarding facilities:

5th grade move to the junior high school

- A decision needs to be made whether to move the 5th grade or keep at the elementary schools.
- Community was asked about the possible move with the majority of those attending the session were not for the move.
- Suggested having an open meeting inviting administrators, principals and counselors that have a 5-8 school.

Anderson Elementary School

- Experts have said there would be issues with parking, traffic and busing.

Mr. Dryden said there are no viable solutions to the issues. He said every student at E.O. Muncie would be displaced and would displace the preschool students.

Mr. Dryden thanked Mrs. L. Imel for posting the meeting on Facebook. He said he wished people would attend the meetings. Mr. Dryden said he was concerned about the lack of people in attendance.

Mr. Dryden stated concerns about the personnel reports not being available at the meetings or shared to employees. He said this affects trust.

Mr. Dryden said he feels for the Board. He said he supports facility improvements. He said facilities are important for students. Mr. Dryden said he wished the community would step up and do what is right for students.

ACTION

APPROVAL OF FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Mrs. J. Imel said that Jane Herdon, Ice Miller, would attend the June 1st meeting to discuss a petition remonstrance.

Mrs. J. Imel asked Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger to report on the cost of holding a special election. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said it will cost approximately \$33,000 to have a special election. Mrs. J. Imel said she was relieved to see the figures.

Mr. Kring asked Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger about a tax cap. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said a referendum is outside the tax cap whereas a remonstrance is not. She said our taxes are declining as we are paying off debt.

Mr. Glesing said he wants to hear about a petition remonstrance but it is critical to proceed with a special election or petition remonstrance.

Mr. Kring said he wanted to hear from Mrs. Herndon.

Mr. Glesing said the board cannot help with a remonstrance. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said Mrs. Herndon will be able to answer the Board's questions.

Mrs. J. Imel said the Board can establish the date for the special election.

A discussion ensued regarding variables about the cost of holding a special election.

Mrs. J. Imel said she has made up her mind regarding the 5th grade moving to the junior high school. She said this decision must be made in order to decide how much money for a referendum. Mrs. J. Imel said there is room at the junior high school to house 5th graders. Mrs. J. Imel said she has discussed with others about a 5-8 school and there were no negatives, all was positive. Mrs. laCour said she liked the idea of having educators from other schools that have a 5-8 school come to a board meeting. Mrs. laCour said she attended a meeting and 5th grade came up and said it works beautifully. She said she doesn't like 6th grade at the junior high school but 5th -6th would keep the students away from the 7th and 8th graders. Mrs. J. Imel said at the community meetings some in the audience came to her following the meeting and said they were willing to listen and even support the 5th grade move but were intimidated to speak because of the vocal opposition.

Mrs. J. Imel said there were 12 community conversations, surveys had been sent and parents were notified.

Mrs. L. Imel said she doesn't see a 5th-6th grade academy working. She said she doesn't see it separated. Mrs. L. Imel said she isn't saying the administrators and teachers won't make it work. She said she just doesn't want the 5th graders moved to the junior high school. Mrs. L. Imel said academics won't change with the move and won't be providing greater opportunities. She said band and swimming would be provided earlier, that's it. She said parents said this at meetings. Mrs. L. Imel said she loved the junior high school but if we don't have to move 5th grade, don't do it. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said the 5th grade teachers are supportive and are willing to move and yes some have personal feelings about the elementary school where they currently teach. Mrs. J. Imel said the 5th grade teachers would be able to collaborate, equalize class sizing and the classroom size. Mr. Glesing said it is critical to move forward as a sound plan can't be developed until a decision is made. He said he was ready to vote on the 5th grade. Mrs. J. Imel said the move has an effect on the amount of money needed. Mrs. laCour asked if people from another school could attend the June 1st meeting. Mrs. J. Imel said Mrs. Herndon would be addressing the board and not to pack too much into a meeting. Mr. Kring said the junior high school has a stigma of being a "D" school. He said grades mean a lot to people. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said one school went from an A to an F this year. Mr. Kring said that doesn't count. Mr. Kring asked if moving 5th graders to the junior high was best for students. He said he personally doesn't think it is best to move the 5th grade to the junior high school. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said Dr. Jenner did research on a 5th-8th building vs. 6th -8th building and the data fared better across the State for 5th-8th. Mrs. J. Imel said moving the 5th grade would help the junior high grade. Mrs. J. Imel said during her talks with elementary administrators they said grades would drop if the 5th grade was removed from the elementary level.

Mrs. laCour said she was concerned about two different referendums. Mrs. L. Imel suggested one big amount.

Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said there is a 1 ½ - 2 year wait on a failed referendum.

Mrs. J. Imel said something must be done with the high school infrastructure. She said a decision will need to be made if the Board chooses one or two referendums. She said students may have to be moved.

Mr. Glesing said to give the community options to support and also let them know what will happen if a referendum doesn't pass. He said there is no choice at the high school. He said if a referendum doesn't pass at the elementary level the 5th grade will be moved to the junior high school and the rest of the E.O. Muncie students will be dispersed at Lydia Middleton, Rykers' Ridge and Anderson Elementary.

Mrs. laCour aired concerns regarding split referendums.

Mrs. J. Imel said a petition remonstrance is labor intensive.

Mrs. J. Imel asked the Board if they were ready to vote. Mr. Kring said to wait.

Mrs. J. Imel said the Board could decide at the June 1st meeting on a petition remonstrance or referendum.

Mrs. L. Imel said she can't decide whether to support one or two referendums.

Mr. Glesing said a decision must be made regarding the 5th grade.

Mrs. J. Imel said she hopes the Board decides by the end of June.

Mr. Kring said Board meetings aren't so much public input but the Board wanting to be heard. He said Facebook is often opinion vs. fact. Mr. Kring thanked Mr. Dryden.

Mr. Kring asked the reason for the personnel issue. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said the personnel report is no longer available at the board meeting as the board hasn't approved the list until the meeting begins. She said personnel reports are available through a records request.

Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger asked about posters that were requested by the Board. Mrs. L. Imel said to wait until the Board decides on a plan.

Mrs. L. Imel thanked Mr. Dryden for attending the meeting.

Mrs. laCour said she doesn't want a referendum. Mrs. J. Imel asked her how she proposes to fix the high school. Mrs. laCour said the public told us at the last referendum vote to do with what we have. She said she isn't convinced this is the time. She said she didn't have any solutions.

Mrs. L. Imel said the Board needs to decide about the 5th grade move. She said the Board needs to decide what to do with the elementary buildings. Mr. Glesing said he was ready to vote on the 5th grade. Mrs. laCour said she would like to hear from a speaker. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said she needed to know who the Board would like her to contact to speak. Dr. Stuebaker-Bolinger said she would send the Board a list of names and schools. Mrs. J. Imel said the Board needs a little more input. Mr. Glesing said he was frustrated with no progress. He said he didn't think a petition remonstrance was the way to go.

Mrs. J. Imel said she feels several in the community are becoming negative. She said the negative approach is hard to fight.

Mrs. J. Imel said these are not easy decisions but the Board must do what is best for students.

Mrs. J. Imel said we need community leadership. She asked for assistance regarding helping stop the negativity.

ADJOURNMENT

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

BY: ps

ATTEST:

