

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

**MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

**OCTOBER 19, 2015**

**The Board of School Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015. Attending were Board members Gregory Lewis, Timothy Tuttle, Edward Amberger, Michael Brandes, and Jason Honeycutt. Also attending was Superintendent Paul Ketcham. President Gregory Lewis presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve the minutes from the public hearing and regular meeting on September 21, 2015 and the special meeting and executive session on October 7, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Honeycutt. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Comments from Patrons/Staff:**

**Linda Baker asked about the new earlier release time and Mr. Ketcham answered her questions.**

**Mr. Ketcham asked Mr. Lewis to proceed to Item A of personnel concerning Steven Gutzwiller's retirement request, effective December 11, 2015. He stated Mr. Gutzwiller had thirty plus years at Milan, but due to a catastrophic health event, he was planning to retire. Mr. Brandes motioned to approve the retirement. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Ketcham then presented Mr. Gutzwiller with a card and a token of appreciation from the Board. Mr. Gutzwiller addressed the Board and patrons and showed them the plaque he had recently received from the State for his part in getting trees planted at the Milan Park. Mr. Gutzwiller stated he had read an article fifteen to twenty years ago about a farmer who had planted trees at his son's baseball playing field because the sun was unbearable and there had been no shade. When the town of Milan developed their baseball, softball and soccer fields, they did not plant shade trees. Mr. Gutzwiller wrote grants to obtain free trees, but was unsuccessful in his attempts. He was persistent and stated his cause to community members. He was given fifty small tree starts by a local patron, but they were inadvertently mowed over by the town's groundskeeper. During a career day event at the high school, he was telling a patron, Jeff Meinders, about his dream. Mr. Meinders stated he had forty nice size trees he would give to Mr. Gutzwiller if he**

could find someone to move them to the park. Mr. Gutzwiller talked to Tim Schwipps of the DNR, and he contacted Joe Brewington, who said he would dig up, transport and replant the trees for \$40.00 per tree. The town donated \$1200.00 for the cause, and the other \$400.00 came from fund raising by students. Mr. Gutzwiller stated on the day the tree event was to take place, he had a stroke at school, and was incapacitated. He noted high school principal, Ryan Langferman, took charge to assure the project was completed. He thanked Mr. Schwipps, Mr. Meinders and his sons, Joe and Bob Brewington, Mr. Langferman, and John Ingram, for fulfilling his dream and getting the trees transplanted. The Milan Park now has shade trees at the ball fields.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Ketcham stated the county schools had been awarded a \$30,000 grant to fund the RCATS (Ripley County Alternative to Suspension) program. He noted the program will begin January 1, 2016 and run until the end of the school year. At that time, the program will be evaluated by all four schools and they will decide whether to continue to fund it. He reiterated the features of the program and noted South Ripley will be the LEA since the program will take place at Tyson Hall in Versailles. He requested approval of the program and the posting of a classified position for program director. Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Honeycutt. Motion carried 5-0.

**New Business:**

Mr. Amberger motioned to accept the following five grant monies: 1. \$1000 from Ripley County Drug Awareness Coalition towards speaker presentation; 2. \$450.00 from RCCF towards the purchase of calculators for a high school special needs classroom; 3. \$500.00 from RCCF towards a drug awareness speaker presentation; 4. \$1311.00 from RCCF for the purchase of items for AP chemistry class; and 5. \$2500.00 from RCCF for the purchase of items for the AP physics class. Seconded by Mr. Brandes. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Ketcham stated we had been awarded a \$200,000 STARS grant from One Community One Family to fund a social worker position for the next two years. He requested permission to accept the grant, create a position and develop a job description, post the position, and recommend a candidate at the November meeting. He noted if the grant monies were not renewed, the position would be eliminated.

When questioned by the Board, he stated while this position is mainly for the high school, the candidate could be helpful in the other schools. Mr. Brandes motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Tuttle motioned to accept the snow removal rate quote from Patterson's Nursery for the 2015-16 school season. Seconded by Mr. Honeycutt. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Brandes motioned to approve the following fundraisers: (1) A request from Rob Page and Jessica Small-Summers to permit the senior class to hold a bake sale on October 9<sup>th</sup> to raise money for their senior trip; (2) A request from Dawn Lewis to permit the middle school students to sell products from Great American Opportunities from November 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> to raise money for a guest speaker and end of the year activities; (3) A request from Josh Blankinship and Bob Bressert to permit the boys' and girls' basketball teams to hold their annual mattress sales on November 15<sup>th</sup>; and (4) A request from Anita Boggs to permit the FFA to hold their annual fruit sale from November 1-20. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Honeycutt motioned to approve the following lease agreements: (1) Request from Donna Pitts on behalf of Dollars for Scholars to hold their annual turkey dinner at the elementary school on November 1<sup>st</sup>; there will be no charge; (2) Request from Rob Morehead to permit the South Ripley swim teams to use the pool from October through February from 7:40 – 9:30 p.m. There will be a fee of \$2000.00; and (3) A request from David Baugh to use the pool on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., for a Special Olympics Unified Day, there will be no charge. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Amberger motioned to approve a conference request from Anita Boggs to attend the NAAE conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from November 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>; cost to the corporation would be \$350.00. Seconded by Mr. Brandes. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Honeycutt motioned to approve a field trip request from Rob Page and Jessica Small-Summers to take 30-40 members of the senior class to New York City, New York from March 17-20, 2016. Student cost for the trip is \$665.00 and the students would not miss any school (Spring Break) unless these days are used as snow make up days. Seconded by Mr. Tuttle. Motion carried 5-0.

**Mr. Ketcham recommended the replacement of the football/track lighting that was installed in 1983, stating the poles are leaning and present a danger. He presented a proposal from Custer Electric Inc. from Rushville, Indiana to complete this project for a cost of \$129,564.00. He then introduced Linda Meyer from United Community Bank who explained UCB would lend the money on a flexible plan, whereby we could make payments of \$2400 per month for the next five years to pay off the 1½% interest loan. There would be no penalty for paying the loan off early, and Mr. Ketcham stated Rainy Day Fund money could be used so there would be no financial burden on the corporation. Mr. Honeycutt motioned to accept the recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Brandes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Mr. Ketcham reported he will bring a 2016-17 school calendar proposal to the November meeting after he discusses it with the administrative team and teachers' association representatives.**

**Personnel:**

**Mr. Ketcham stated he had accepted the resignation of Kristy Sams as a middle school cheer coach effective the end of the 2015-16 basketball season.**

**Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve the recommendation of Dr. Reale to employ Richard Seals as a substitute bus driver. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Claims and Financial Report:**

**Mr. Tuttle motioned to approve vendor checks #38508 through #38588, deposit advice #52147 through #52518, and the financial report. Seconded by Mr. Brandes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**President's Prerogative:**

**Mr. Ketcham congratulated Mr. Gutzwiller on his retirement, gave kudos for the grant contributions for student education, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.**

**Mr. Brandes thanked Mr. Gutzwiller for his many years of service, stating he was an asset to the corporation.**

**Mr. Honeycutt thanked Mr. Gutzwiller for his service and the Ripley County Community Foundation and the Rising Sun Foundations for their generous donations.**

**Mr. Tuttle dittoed what everyone said, stating it was great to have Mr. Gutzwiller at the meeting, and congratulated him for the award from the State. He also thanked the RCCF for the monetary contributions, and UCB for the creative financing.**

**Mr. Lewis thanked everyone for attending. He wished Mr. Gutzwiller a long and happy retirement, and thanked the Foundations for their grant monies.**

**Mr. Tuttle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Amberger. Motion carried 5-0.  
Meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.**