

SYNOPSIS AUGUST 11, 2009, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by Board President Elaine Schuster. All board members were present, and Ms. Schuster announced that a quorum was present.

Dr. Branscum said that faculty/instructional staff have returned, and we are glad they are back. He said Mr. Huff attended the first day of inservice and said some gracious things about Metro Technology Centers. We appreciate his attendance. Dr. Branscum said he thinks inservice has been wonderful; sessions have focused on career clusters, career majors, Tech Centers That Work, and connectivities to those areas, including Quality in the Classroom. He commended Mrs. Denise Kennemer, Chief Officer, Instructional Learning, for the fine work she and her staff did. Mrs. Kennemer said it is easy to organize good people.

Dr. Branscum said the Executive Team has reviewed the results from the June strategy planning meeting and will soon bring updates to the Board.

Dr. Branscum said exciting things are happening at Metro Technology Centers. He hoped everyone enjoyed the groundbreaking ceremony. He also thanked Mrs. Phyllis Hall, former board member, and Mr. Don Wright, Board Member Emeritus, for attending the groundbreaking ceremony, for attending this board meeting, and for their continued interest and support. Dr. Branscum then introduced his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Branscum, who was also present at the groundbreaking ceremony and board meeting.

Dr. Branscum said the groundbreaking ceremony, certainly a celebration, provided the community with an overview of building and allowed them to see the board's solidarity. It also provided an opportunity for us to show continued support for our partnering schools and our community.

Mrs. Ruth Giddens, Assistant to the Superintendent, Curriculum and Instructional Support, said board members received a copy of the 2009-2010 catalog, which includes information about what is offered for full-time students. She explained that a catalog was not published last year because of the transition to career majors, a result of the ODCTE's (Oklahoma Department of CareerTech Education) adoption of and conversion to the national career cluster model framework two years ago.

Metro Tech's career clusters, which include 12 of the 16 career clusters, are included in the catalog along with course descriptions. The document was printed in-house this year because the information continues to be updated. Frontline staff have copies, and they can also make copies. Sixty copies were also provided to our partner schools.

Mrs. Giddens said board members also received a copy of the Student Employee Handbook and Employee Planner. The planner fulfills two functions. First, it provides calendar pages to enable students to keep track of their assignments, meetings, events, etc. Second, the planner includes handbook information, beginning on page 125. Character First! traits, beginning on page 112, and a summary of quality tools are also included.

Dr. Branscum said the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) summer project is complete, and Dr. Stith said it was an exciting summer. At the end of last school year, a grant application was submitted to WIA, and the application was approved and funded. She said one of the most exciting things to her about the program was that there were about 45 at-risk students who participated every day in 100 degree plus weather and not one student quit. She believes this supports the idea that students can be successful when they receive encouragement and have the opportunity to interact with a caring adult.

Ms. Mylissa Hall, Lead Teacher/Assistant Director, said the WIA students received a copy of a scrapbook that included pictures of what they had done during the program. The students had never handled a shovel and did not know what straw was. They hauled rock, dirt, and mulch, and also planted flowers and shrubs. She thanked Ms. Ikard Holman and Mrs. Joyce Austin, Instructional Specialist, for all their help. She said the instructors were wonderful and worked alongside the students. They and the students reworked flowerbeds at the Business Conference Center (BCC) and Health Careers Center (HCC) and prepared two mobile flowerbeds that will be moved to the MCA (Metro Career Academy) building when construction is complete. The students also built a compost pit. The students also participated in academic training. A classroom at the Information Technology Center (ITC) was

used because it was the closest place for students to get inside an air conditioned environment if they became overheated. She said she was impressed when the students took a trip around the building and named the plants and identified animal trails. She said none of the students quit, and some students offered to come back and work for free to continue the Springlake Urban Gardens and Trails of Character. She hopes the program can be continued next summer.

Over the weekend, Ms. Candice Lambert, Computer Repair and Networking Instructor, who had watched the students work, prepared a short video about the program. The video was shown to the board and those present.

Dr. Branscum thanked Ms. Lambert for taking time to prepare the video. He said that the WIA program is an offshoot from the former CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program. Dr. Branscum said when they presented the students with a copy of the scrapbook, the students acted as though the scrapbooks were yearbooks and began signing each other's scrapbook. He said they talked with students each day about a character trait. He agrees with one of the MCA parents when he said to help youth, it takes desire, dedication, perseverance, and endurance. You can be successful and overcome obstacles.

Dr. Thomas asked if this was the students' first Metro Tech experience. Mrs. Barbara Loudermilk, Director, said three of the students had previous Metro Tech experience. Ms. Hall said one student, 19 years old, survived Hurricane Katrina by swimming for one hour. He had not been in school since the eighth grade. He felt welcome at Metro Tech and said he was interested and wanted to come back. He also said that he did not trust anyone but did trust us.

Ms. McKinney said she had an opportunity to meet one of the students. The student was very excited and said she had not known anything about outdoor work and gardening before participating in the program. She said she was learning and was really enjoying herself.

Dr. Branscum said it was a wonderful time for the students and us. We hope to get an extension to the grant to allow 15 students to continue to work on the gardens. We have not heard from the WIA office at this time; however, the grant was originally approved for \$83,000, and the program started one month late.

Mr. Pete Lee, Director, reported that the next group of apprentices, a total of 37 students, will report to Tinker on Monday. This is the second round of apprentices since the program was reinstated. Dr. Branscum asked if Mr. Lee knew how many students had become employed at Tinker. Mr. Lee said that close to 800 students have participated in the apprenticeship program, and over 1,000 graduates had been hired.

Dr. Branscum said he thought this year's Summer Conference was wonderful. He saw all of the board members and said he hoped they enjoyed attending the conference. In meetings he attended, concern was expressed about state tax collections. An August 2, 2009, memorandum indicated there was a \$190 million dollar shortfall, thus far, in Oklahoma.

Dr. Branscum said that during Metro Tech's inservice he informed faculty and staff that our number one goal is to provide quality service to students. Employees are our internal customers, and our goal is to protect our employees. When there has been a budget shortfall, Oklahoma has seemed to lag about one year behind. The good news is that during times of budget shortfalls, enrollment increases.

Dr. Branscum said Dr. Phil Berkenbile, ODCTE State Director, did a really good job outlining the facts and goals of ODCTE. Dr. Branscum was pleased that Metro Tech received an 8th Gold Star. He said we sometimes look at this as common place, but it really is not. It requires a great amount of work by faculty and staff. We were happy that Mrs. Sarah Collins' (Early Childhood Development Teacher) reading program won a Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Huff was on stage during that presentation. Mr. Spencer Cluff, Health Careers Certification Teacher, also received an award for renewed efforts for the Kids for Troops program. Over 350,000 letters have been received from students from schools in 33 states. The letters are reviewed and then forwarded to servicemen and women serving overseas. Ms. Schuster said that one of Metro Tech's former employees, Mrs. Janette Capshaw, also received an award.

Dr. Stith said she is always proud when employees and Metro Tech are recognized at Summer Conference. Mr. Derek Lollis, Lead Teacher/Assistant Director, was on stage as the outgoing OkACTE (Oklahoma Association of

Career and Technology Education) president. Mr. Ed Melott, Director and also ACTE (Association for Career and Technical Education) President, presented information related to the national level, and he did a tremendous job. Dr. Stith thanked Mr. Melott and said we really appreciate and are proud of him.

Dr. Branscum thanked Dr. Stith. He said that Mr. Melott makes wonderful presentations. He is very factual when he presents information. He said that Mr. Lollis is also a wonderful presenter and is very personable during his presentations. These two employees represent Metro Tech very well.

Dr. Branscum said he mentioned to the board about three months ago that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is looking at schools nationwide, and Metro Tech is in the process of completing an IRS audit. They are especially looking at two items in Oklahoma: the relationship between schools and limited liability corporations (LLCs), sometimes referred to as contractor vs. common law employment, and also teachers' retirement offset funds. He said he will provide information to the board as soon as the IRS completes its process.

Ms. Ikard Holman reviewed with the board information regarding Summer Conference and the Oklahoma State Schools Boards Association annual meeting.

Items approved:

Minutes of July 7, 2009, Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of July 10, 2009, Special Board Meeting

Transfer of funds from the school activity accounts to the general fund

Submission of a General Fund supplemental appropriation for FY 2009 to the Oklahoma County Excise Board

Declare equipment as excess and no longer of us to the District and instruct the Superintendent to sell it via on-line auction

Add a Wind Energy Technician teaching position effective August 2009

Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Technology Centers School District #22 and Oklahoma City Public Schools Independent District #89 for an Alternative Education Program

Personnel Items

Encumbrances and Purchasing items

Encumbrance to Bill's Pavement for repair of Economic Development Center (EDC) parking lot drainage

Encumbrance to Katom for two sandwich units True Model 598-TSSUU48-8, one refrigerated merchandiser Tru Model GDM-72, five Rubbermaid food carts Model 452088, and three food warming equipment Model UHS-12, for use at Metro Downtown

Encumbrance to Market Source for three warmer cabinets Model DWE E-1500 for use at the Metro Downtown

Encumbrance to Oswalt for four combo cart Cambro Model 144-CMB-1826, and one convection oven Garland Model MCO-ED-20 for use at Metro Downtown

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.