

SYNOPSIS OF MAY 4, 2010, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Board President Dr. Donna Neal Thomas. Six Board Members were present, and a quorum was established. Also present were Dr. James Branscum, Superintendent; Dr. Elaine Stith, Associate Superintendent of Student and Instructional Services; Mr. Bob Parrish, Associate Superintendent of Business and Operational Services; other staff members and guests.

Dr. Branscum explained that Dr. Danene Vincent was unable to attend the meeting because of a family commitment. He then called attention to the recent death of Mrs. Karen Leveridge, wife of former Metro Tech Board Member Lloyd Leveridge. He also shared that Dr. Sid Carter, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources and Mr. Dennis Portis, Full Service Community Schools Director, lost a nephew and uncle, respectively. In addition, Mr. Alan Plemons, ITC/CCTC/PSA Director, lost his father.

Dr. Branscum called attention to information presented to Board Members, including an invitation to attend the MetroShare and eEquip graduation exercise on May 14, the monthly Character First! magazine, and a construction report from CMSWillowbrook. Dr. Branscum also asked Board Members to fill out a cap and gown size form so that these could be ordered for the upcoming Completion Ceremony.

Dr. Branscum presented Board Members with a copy of comparison data on completion/retention and related placement rates of Oklahoma Technology Centers. MTC had the highest completion/retention rate of the metropolitan service area and was within 0.3 points of the state average. He believed this was a phenomenal result, especially considering that MTC serves students from a large urban area for which the major school system has a much lower graduation rate than other areas and also 80% of the students are on free/reduced lunch. When MTC began the quality journey, the organizational goal was 82.5%, with stretch goals each year. The goal for 2015 will be 97%, and they believe this is achievable. MTC's secondary student related placement rate is 92.5% and 87.4%, one of the highest ratings in the state. He said these results are the result of the work on instructional staff, site directors, and Dr. Elaine Stith. He said the results are significant. The Board applauded the results.

Dr. Branscum said MTC's pre-enrollment for next school year was at 90% and pre-enrollment at the same time last year was 73% and was over 100% when the current school year began. He said that the increase in pre-enrollments this year might be a sign of the economic situation but also he believed it was because of the hard work of Mrs. Camilla Riley, Chief Officer, Guidance & Academic Services, and Ms. Laurice Butler, Director, Career Advisement, and their staff.

Mr. Huff asked if the projected MCA students were students who had been identified as potential dropouts. Dr. Branscum said the report reflected the number of students who were pre-enrolled from Oklahoma City and Crooked Oak Public Schools, and next year they plan to blend Renew and MCA. Mr. Huff asked if these were returning students, and Dr. Branscum said they were, with 30 of those from Crooked Oak. Mr. Huff asked if any of the students were 9th graders, and Dr. Branscum said yes, except the students from Crooked Oak unless they were over age. He said there would be 30 students from Crooked Oak but these students were not necessarily returning students. The 145 were returning students.

Dr. Stith said many activities were on-going because the school year was coming to a close. She participated in the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee meeting last week. Adult and secondary student representatives from each location serve on that committee. The students introduced themselves, announced their career major, and also shared how they heard about Metro Tech. She was amazed to learn that most students said they arrived at MTC because of a referral from another person.

Last Thursday she had the opportunity present MTC scholarships at the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce education banquet. There were two recipients, one from ACC and one from HCC.

Mr. Pete Lee, ACC Director, said it was not unthinkable that an ACC graduate would seek an engineering degree. A former ACC student, who was also the Superintendent's Student of the Year, was graduating this year with a degree in civil engineering and was enrolled in a master's program at MIT beginning in the fall. Dr. Branscum credited Mr. Lee, Mr. Herman Bounds, Lead Teacher/Assistant Director, and the ACC staff for the work they do with students.

Mr. Paul Howard, Chief Officer, Transition Services, reported on the 22nd Annual Career Options Job Fair, held through a partnership with OPUBCO and also by support from the community. Mrs. Stephanie Bills, Director, Career and Transitional Services, coordinated the event. In addition to students, 500 participants from the community participated. There were 60 vendors that took onsite job applications, with a number of students offered jobs on the spot. It was a wonderful event, and it is also good for MTC to be represented in the community.

Dr. Branscum said they had exciting news to share with the Board, and asked Mr. Steve Stockwell, Chief Officer, Business & Industry Services, to share the information. Mr. Stockwell said they have the opportunity to acquire all of the safety training for a large construction project, and the training would last two to two-and-one-half years. The request was the result of this potential client talking with a current client. Mr. Huff asked what kind of training would be provided, and Mr. Stockwell said there are 15 or 20. Initially the emphasis would be on fall risk, confined entry, and confined entry rescue.

Mr. Stockwell introduced Ms. Melanie Stinnett, Chief Officer, Environmental Safety & Regulatory Affairs, and said she, also, had some exciting news to share with the Board. Ms. Stinnett said MTC received EPA approval to provide training for lead based paint renovators. Ms. Stinnett said this was a big accomplishment. Prior to this approval, Oklahomans had to leave the state or bring in out-of-state trainers. They have already received 1,000 calls and are receiving emails from around the country. She said the accreditation was made possible because of the help of Mrs. Ruth Giddens, Assistant to the Superintendent, Curriculum & Instructional Support, and Mr. Stockwell. Dr. Branscum said it was significant that MTC was the only training center in the state of Oklahoma, and it was not easy to become EPA accredited.

Dr. Branscum said a few weeks ago Mrs. Denise Kennemer, Chief Officer, Institutional Learning, lead an initiative related to Technology Centers that Work (TCTW). It was a review of MTC's system. Currently, 16 of the 29 technology centers participate in TCTW. The program is about academic integration and student involvement and fits nicely with MTC's quality initiative. When the review was finished, they wanted to borrow from us. They were amazed at MTC's student involvement and the joy on the faces of MTC's students and the knowledge students had of quality tools. He thanked Mrs. Kennemer for all she did to cause this to occur, and they were proud of the awards students received from this process.

Mrs. Riley said the awards are very difficult to achieve. She believed there were only 300 awards throughout the state of Oklahoma. The award of education achievement is based on three criteria - reading, math, and science readiness goals – from assessments taken last February. The readiness goal indicates readiness to do college work. The students also had to complete a rigorous high school curriculum. MTC had three students honored, and she said it was a great privilege for her to present the awards to the students at this meeting. The students and their teachers came forward for the students to receive their awards.

Mr. Brian Ruttman, Chief Officer, Communications, and Ms. Shaun Dillehay, Marketing Coordinator, presented the Metro Tech Communications and Marketing Plan. Dr. Branscum informed the Board that staff has worked this year on developing an eNewsletter to help keep the public informed of MTC activities and to also help reduce costs. Ms. Dillehay said, in addition to MTC's external website, she and Ms. Bonnie James put stories on the internal website. They are noticing much better readership as a result of frequent updating of stories. Dr. Branscum said a recent article had an interesting statistic about cell phone use accounting for 2600 vehicle fatalities.

Mr. Casey Caldwell, CMSWillowbrook, provided a construction update.

Mr. Huff said he was able to participate in the OSSBA's recent meeting at the Capitol. He also said he had the opportunity to visit with OSSBA staff and to remind them about MCA and that it does include 9th graders.

Items approved by the Board:

- Minutes of April 6, 2010, Regular Board Meeting

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

- Continuation of a Cooperative Agreement with the Gooden Group for 2010-2011, as a part of the statewide marketing campaign

- Summer Bridge Program for Rising 9th Graders

Declared various equipment as excess and no longer of use to the District and instructed the Superintendent to dispose of the items in a legal manner

Personnel Report

Encumbrances # 1003304 - # 1003593

Purchase of tool kits and tool cabinets from Matco Tools for the Auto Service Technology programs at the South Bryant Campus

Encumbrance to OG&E for electric service at all district sites in FY2011

Encumbrance to Oklahoma Natural Gas Company for gas service at all district sites in FY2011

Encumbrance to the City of Oklahoma City for water service at all district sites in FY2011

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.