

Muncie Community Schools: Operation Dovetail—A History

MCS board appoints 21 business, community leaders, parents, administrators, and staff to a task force to identify issues facing the district and propose strategies to address challenges. Declining student enrollment and revenue challenges were identified. Among the proposed solutions was consolidation of Muncie’s two high schools into a single location.

2013

- *January:* MCS invites community members to serve on transition committees to provide input and feedback. BBF staff join sub-committee focused on athletics (oversight of integrating athletic teams, booster clubs, awards, equipment, coaching staff) and master committee overseeing work of all subcommittees; committees meet monthly
- *February:* MCS submits “rapid grant” proposal for \$5,000 to support early transition efforts, grant approved
- *February:* MCS submits letter of inquiry for \$350,268 “Operation Dovetail” grant to support transition efforts
- *March:* After receiving approval to proceed, MCS submits full grant proposal for \$350,268 to BBF
- *January-May:* BBF Chairman/CEO and board updated on merger process
- *May:* BBF board considers and approves MCS proposal with a grant of \$350,000
- *May:* Jud Fisher personally notifies MCS Superintendent of grant approval, MCS board announces grant, article in The Star Press follows

2009

- *November 18:* MCS board votes to merge Muncie Southside with Muncie Central High School
- *November:* BBF staff research school mergers from across the nation to identify characteristics of successful and unsuccessful mergers
- *December:* BBF President & COO, Jud Fisher, initiates conversations about merger process and needs with MCS Superintendent
- *December:* BBF issues “Operation Dovetail” RFP to MCS outlining potential areas for BBF support

2014-2023

Operation Dovetail Grant (2014)—\$350,000

Promoting supplemental transition efforts to blend faculty and students into the new system, promote unity, and create community pride

Operation Bearcat Grant (2015)—\$250,000

In May 2015, BBF’s board approved a grant for continuation of consolidation efforts.

Ball State University & MCS Better Together (2018)—\$1 million via BSU

BBF establishes MCS Superintendent/CEO Endowments at Community Foundation & BSU Foundation (2019)—\$150,000

Improvement & Innovation Supports Grants (2016-2023)—approximately \$150,000-\$450,000 annually

Support for “margins of excellence”