

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #1

January 13, 2015

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary Ryan Philbeck, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Matthew Bunkelman, Trustee Floreine Mentel, and Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Barry Martin, Julie Everly, Ryan McLeod, Katherine Eighmey, Jerry Oley,

Administrators Absent: David Payne

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

Board Member Recognition Month

Dr. Martin thanked our continuing board of education members for the time and effort they have contributed over the past year, and he welcomed our three new board members. In addition to the orientation that was held last Wednesday, new board members have participated in a number of other activities since the beginning of the month, and Dr. Martin is sure they will be very involved and supportive members of the board.

Each year brings its challenges and rewards. Having a board that works together with each member doing their homework to make sure they are able to make informed decisions, contributes to a smooth and productive school year where staff knows what is expected of them and everyone has a clear picture of district priorities and focus. This past year there has been a focus by the board on student achievement, student security, and the financial stability of the district. These will continue to be priorities of this board along with helping to establish a culture of acceptance, cooperation and support among staff, students, and parents of Monroe Public Schools.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was none at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the minutes of the following meetings as submitted:

- December 9, 2014, Board Meeting #22
- December 18, 2014, Special Board Meeting (2 sets)
- December 18, 2014, Closed Meeting (1)
- January 7, 2015, Special Work Session

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Reports and Update

The Informational Reports – Contracted Services Recommendations, Contracted Coaches, and Club Paid Coaches were received.

Reinstatement Committee Recommendation

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the recommendation of Monroe Public Schools Reinstatement Committee that Student #1 be reinstated to Orchard Center High School for the third trimester. He will finish his current classes in the Expelled Students Program.

Discussion: Mr. Philbeck appreciates the request for the student to complete his classes in ESP; it's a good precedent to set.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Title 1, Part D Funds

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mrs. Mentel to approve the relinquishment of \$13,485 in Title I, Part D funds to the Michigan Department of Education for the 2014-2015 school year for reasons stated in the background information for this action item and as contained in the attached communication from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

Discussion: Dr. Martin explained that he met with the sheriff and representatives of the ISD last year, and they were looking at a plan to offer our virtual program to school age inmates. Unfortunately, there was only one student who was eligible so they decided not to proceed with the program. Mrs. Mentel has been working with jail administrator Troy Goodnough to develop other options. There used to be a program at the jail that was ran by adult education which worked very well.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Establish Dates, Time and Location of Board of Education Meetings

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mr. Philbeck to establish meetings for the Monroe Board of Education from January, 2015 to January, 2016 with workshops to begin at 5:30 p.m. and regular meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Administration Building, 1275 North Macomb Street, Monroe, MI 48162 as listed.

Discussion: Dr. March stated that he still favors Monday night board meetings. The majority of districts in the county meet on Monday nights.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Superintendent Comments

Congratulations to three of our Monroe Middle School eighth grade singers who have been selected to sing with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Honors Choir at a concert January 22 in Grand Rapids. Madeline Longenbarger, Ashley Harris and Maddy Miller are part of the SSA Honors Choir. More than 400 students from across the state auditioned and only 100 were chosen. The three girls are students of Mrs. Elise Dinwoody and have been attending rehearsals across the state for several months.

This is Winterfest Week at Monroe High School. A talent show was held yesterday featuring all of the 32 contestants from the four classes and students voted today for this year's royalty. The announcement of the winners will come this Friday night when we host Bedford in basketball. The girls' team will play at 5:30, and the boys' team will play at 7 p.m. Freshman and sophomore royalty will be announced at halftime of the girls' game, and junior and senior royalty will be announced at half-time of the boys' game. The Winterfest Dance will be held Saturday night. This year's theme is Tropical Winterfest.

Raisinville third Grade teacher Pat McClain won a National Pets in the Classroom Grant and will soon be adding a 10-gallon fish tank with tropical fish to her classroom. This is a wonderful cross curricular connection since the students are currently learning about habitats.

A blog developed and maintained by Raisinville sixth graders as part of a school improvement writing initiative has received hits from all over the world, including Dubai, Hong Kong, Dublin, Manchester and London, England, France, and Ontario, Canada. In addition, the blog has received hits from 12 states, including 258 from Michigan. The most recent post was about the nearly 800 Chelsea Bruck flyers that were purchased with money raised by Raisinville students by selling purple ribbons, and placed on pizza boxes.

Monroe High School will host an open house for incoming 8th graders on Thursday, January 29, at 5:30 p.m. A number of special sessions will be held for parents and students to get to know more about Monroe High School, especially those programs that are unique to MHS that are not being offered at any other high school in Monroe County.

Kindergarten registration will take place March 31, April 1, and 2. We are putting together our advertising and communications plan, and the first ad for registration will appear in the Monroe Parent magazine which comes out in late February.

Our first program in the new series, "Get to Know Monroe...On the Radio," aired last Sunday on radio station WERW, 94.3 FM. The first show features Monroe High School Principal Valerie Orr discussing the MHS AIM program as well as direct college and the expanded availability of on-line learning at MHS. Each show will look at the background of a different school administrator – principal and assistant principal – so people will get to know the personal side of our school leaders. The show featuring Mrs. Orr is playing on YouTube so you can listen anytime you wish. The link for the show can be found on our Facebook page and on the MPS website, as we take advantage of social media in promoting our district.

The Education Foundation of Monroe Public Schools has awarded mini-grants totaling nearly \$4,000 to 13 of our classroom teachers to help support innovative classroom projects. Reflecting our district's constant attention to literacy, nearly half of the grants dealt directly with reading by providing money to establish or increase mini-libraries to help students gain a love of reading.

Tickets are on sale now for the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance to be held at Monroe High School on Saturday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available through Community Education at the Riverside Early Learning Center or the Monroe Recreation Department at Monroe City Hall.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo stated that the parent concern that Dr. Martin informed board members about is being addressed. Board members will be updated when new information is received.

New Business

Mr. Philbeck shared that the AIM program will be receiving \$7,500 from a local organization which will impact 30+ students. The program is fully funded for this year, but more mentors are needed. Mr. Philbeck gave full credit to Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Diven for developing and moving this program forward. The next banquet will be held in March and Mr. Philbeck encouraged board members to attend.

Mr. Bunkelman would like to open a dialog between Monroe City Council and our board, to explore the possibility of developing some programs together. He is planning to attend the City Council meeting on Monday, and will give an update at our next meeting.

Mr. Yeo is developing committee assignments and asked for input from the board.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Selma Rankins mentioned Martin Luther King's birthday is Monday and is disappointed that students won't be in school. In previous years, activities were planned in classrooms to teach children about Dr. King. Mr. Rankins thinks administrators and teachers attend too many meetings. He welcomed new school board members and hopes they join him in making MPS the best in the country. He thinks the athletic eligibility GPA should be raised. He commented on the amount of parents that drive their kids to school and thinks that we should eliminate five or six busses to save money.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck that the January 13, 2015, Board Meeting #1 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:05 p.m.



Ryan Philbeck, Secretary