

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #13  
Tuesday, July 23, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

### Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor, Parliamentarian Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Ryan Philbeck, and Trustee Wendy Spicer

Board Members Absent: None

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

Administrators Absent: None

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

Selma Rankins, citizen, would like to see the district hire more African-American teachers.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the minutes of the following meeting as submitted:

- July 9, 2013 Board Meeting #12

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

### Reports and Update

The June 3 and July 1, 2013 Board Personnel Committee Minutes, and the July 15, 2013 Board Curriculum Committee Minutes were received without comments.

### Contract Extension – Robert Vergiels

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mr. Mason to approve a contract renewal with Temporary School Staff, Inc. for the placement of Robert Vergiels as the Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations for the 2013/14 school year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

Discussion: Mr. Mason commented that renewing Mr. Vergiels contract is beneficial to the district over the course of this year. With a new superintendent and the needs of the district, it's important to have consistency in this area. To plan ahead, Ms. Spicer would like to see estimated costs from TSSI and the district, and also prepare a third cost estimate where duties would be incorporated within the administration.

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

### LLI Kits for Manor Elementary

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Ms. Spicer to approve purchase of one (1) LLI kit to support the achievement of grade level competency for a cost not to exceed \$4,860.

Discussion: This is a reading program used in all buildings, and we have received national recognition on the progress our students have made. Funds for this purchase will be taken out of Manor's Title I budget.

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

### **Elementary School Planners**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of 2,175 student planners from School Datebooks in the amount of \$4273.09 plus shipping and handling.

Discussion: We have a school piloting a planner that our print shop is producing. If this is successful, our print shop can produce the planners for much less than an outside vendor.

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

### **Teacher Appointments**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason to make items C.6 - C.10 Consent Agenda Items, and to approve the appointments of Daniel Fuerstenberg, Stephen Reau, Chelsie Wolons, Morgan Kottke, and Patricia Stefanski as Teachers with Monroe Public Schools effective August 28, 2013 and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.

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

### **Staff Resignation**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools for Ryan Kunzelman effective August 2, 2013.

Discussion: The Board wished Mr. Kunzelman all the best.

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

### **MHS Cross Country Team Camp**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the Monroe High School Cross Country Team Camp according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

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

### **Mobile Device Purchase Summer 2013**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the purchase of Mobile Devices at a total cost not to exceed \$410,288.50. Money for this purchase will be funded by the General Fund, which includes a carryover from the 2012-13 Technology Millage of \$185,000.

Discussion: The balance of this purchase will come out of the Curriculum Budget. This amount will be reduced by a rebate of up to \$100 per device. Rebate money will go back into the Curriculum Budget.

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

### **Resolution in Support of the Michigan Common Core State Standards**

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Yeo to adopt the Resolution in Support of the Michigan Common Core State Standards.

Discussion: The ISD would like local Boards to adopt the resolution to help support the efforts to continue the work done over the last three years. All of our curriculum that has been adopted in the last two years reflects our alignment with the Common Core. Should efforts to block this progress be successful, it would push us back 2-3 years. We have spent a significant amount of money to align the district with the Common Core. Mr. Philbeck supports the Districts School Improvement Plan, but feels this is a political decision. His vote does not reflect anything other than the fact that he does support our School Improvement Plan and the direction that the district is going.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote. Mr. Philbeck voted no.

**Elementary Social Studies Split Grade Curriculum**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason to approve the contracted services from Carol Bacak-Egbo for an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00. This expenditure will be covered using the 2013-2014 Curriculum Budget.

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

**Superintendent Comments**

- Dr. Martin will visit community leaders as part of a familiarization tour over two consecutive afternoons. The meetings will run from 1:00-4:00 p.m. each day, and he will travel to the offices of each organization for a short meet and greet. He will meet with representatives of Monroe Bank & Trust, La-Z-Boy, Monroe Evening News, Salvation Army, Monroe Police and Fire, Monroe County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police, Monroe Township and the Monroe County Library. He already met with representatives from DTE Energy and the Monroe County Administrator. He will meet with Mercy Memorial's administrator in the near future. Dr. Martin thanked Mr. Vergiels for setting up the meetings.
- Summer School comes to an end on Thursday at Arborwood, and for Monroe Middle School students that attended. Summer School at Monroe High School ends on August 1. The Arborwood Summer Learning Academy is in the process of doing post assessments on students. In addition, students will have a celebration of their learning called Go Public. They will invite family members in to showcase their research projects. Mrs. Everly is looking forward to sharing results and data gathered in regards to student achievement at a Curriculum Committee meeting. This information will also be shared with the Board. Mrs. Everly, on behalf of students and teachers, thanked Mr. Payne and his department for their support with the K-8 Summer Learning Academy. Dr. Ray stated several students have received their diplomas by completing their E2020 courses. Progress reports have been sent to keep parents informed of their student's progress.
- Next week, we will have a presence at the Monroe County Fair in the Monroe Bank & Trust Expo Center. More than 60 people, including teachers, administrators, students and parents, will spend time in the booth representing our schools. Our booth is in a premium spot in the second aisle, right next to the MB&T exhibit. All kids will have a chance to receive a wrist band by picking a rubber duck from a pond. Adults will receive a discount card from Office Depot with our logo printed on the card. We will also be giving away MPS notepads and featuring student work from the CTE program.

**Old Business**

Mr. VanWasshenova is interested in starting the Transportation Committee again to look at cost savings, and Mr. Yeo asked for input from the Board. There has been no indication that the Board is considering privatization or removing busing, so before moving forward, a goal would need to be set.

Mr. Oley suggested looking at the study that was conducted through the ISD. He is not opposed to looking at other opportunities, but we need to be upfront with our employees. There are a lot of options we can do to reduce costs, such as increasing mileage; not transporting students within a mile and a half of school. We would have to look at how this would impact families, especially when both parents work.

Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor asked Mr. Oley if it is getting more difficult to hire drivers. Mr. Oley said it is challenging to hire the best drivers because of what we offer them. Along with other groups, this group has made many concessions. Their base pay has been reduced significantly. This makes it difficult to hire quality candidates and to retain employees. We have hired six drivers and they're all in training. We

will start the school year with 12 subs, which will work well. We encourage our employees to be there every day, because subs aren't familiar with the routes or the kids.

Mr. VanWasshenova is concerned with the cost of maintaining transportation. Our budget for transportation is 3.3% and with other expenses, the budget is in excess of 5%, closer to 10%. He feels we need to look at all expenses to see if there's anything we can do to reduce cost. Mr. Oley said his department has reduced multiple drivers over the last three years, including five positions last year. Even with these reductions, we were able to transport the same amount of students utilizing Transfinder and the talent of the people in his department.

Mr. Yeo feels the committee shouldn't move forward until the Board decides on a goal. The bus drivers as a group have given up a lot of things, and we don't want to put them through the exercise of an RFP if we have no intention of making a change.

Dr. Martin commented that the custodial maintenance and transportation departments are constantly looking for ways to save money. Mr. Oley is continually looking for cost savings.

#### **New Business**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to authorize the expense for repairs to the fueling system at Operations and the contract be awarded to the Oscar Larson Company for a total not to exceed \$92,625.

Discussion: Mr. Oley will look at having our current contractor complete the concrete work. He will look at other areas of the contract to see if there could be any other potential savings. Funds for the repairs will be taken from Building and Site Sinking funds.

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

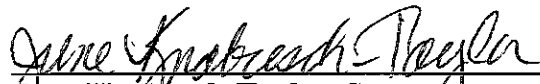
#### **Public Commentary-Any Topic**

There was none at this time.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the July 23, 2013 Board Meeting #13 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:31 p.m.

  
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June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary