

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #14

Tuesday, August 13, 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, and Trustee Dr. Tedd March

Board Members Absent: Trustee Ryan Philbeck, Trustee Wendy Spicer

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

The Board agreed to allow parent, Tara McBride, to speak regarding School of Choice. Mrs. McBride expressed concern that her son was denied School of Choice. She also put her concerns in writing, which Mr. Yeo will share with the Board.

Approval of Minutes

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

- July 23, 2013 Work Session
- July 23, 2013 Board Meeting #13
- July 31, 2013 Special Board Meeting

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Reports and Update

There were no reports or updates.

Teacher Appointment

Motion by Mr. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve the appointment of Nathan Nestor as a Teacher 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 5-0 roll call vote.

Administrator Appointment

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the appointment of Jessica Shultz as an Administrator with Monroe Public Schools effective August 14, 2013 and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Discussion: Mr. VanWasshenova was on the interview panel and was impressed with the quality of all the applicants. Mrs. Shultz was a candidate for principal and was qualified for that job as well.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Student Reinstatement

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to approve the one student under review be reinstated to Monroe High School for the 2013-2014 school year.

Discussion: This student was reinstated sooner than expected because of parental support. Because of this, the student will have every opportunity to be successful at the high school.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

MHS New York Choir Trip

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. Mason to approve the Monroe High School Vocal Music group trip to New York, New York from April 30, 2014 through May 4, 2014 according to the terms of Policy IICA Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: Dr. McLeod stated that this is a phenomenal learning experience for our vocal music students. He also thanked Mrs. Windelborn for giving our students an outstanding experience in the vocal music program, and for her commitment to the program and the students.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Professional Development Services of Kathleen Kryza

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the contracted professional development and coaching services from Kathleen Kryza for an amount not to exceed \$19,500.00. This expenditure will be covered using Secondary Curriculum Funds.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

CTE iPad Purchase

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Mason to approve the purchase of 40 Apple iPads and cases to be used by the Health Science students at MHS at a cost not to exceed \$17,120.00. This purchase will be funded by the Perkins Grant.

Discussion: The iPads will be used for online programs for the Health Occupations and Medical Terminology courses. The Certified Nursing Assistant class will use them for reference and exploratory activities. The iPads will be housed in the classroom.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Purchase of District Vehicles and Buses

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to accept the low bid from Midwest Transit for buses for a total of \$511,090.00 and sell twelve (12) of our current buses for amounts ranging from \$950.00 - \$1,850.00 to Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers; and to accept the bid from Stanford-Allen Chevrolet for maintenance vehicles for a total of \$182,446.00 and reject all other bids.

Discussion: Mr. Oley recommended three year financing to purchase the buses and maintenance vehicles. Mrs. Eighmey will request bids for financing and bring that information to the next Board meeting. Camera systems will be removed from the buses that are sold and reinstalled in the buses that are purchased. We currently have 73 buses on hand; 60 are needed for runs, and 10 or more for sub backups. Five to eight buses a day are taken off the road for some kind of service. We also maintain food service trucks and provide back up if needed. We exceed the recommended lifespan (10 years) of our buses because of preventative maintenance provided by First Vehicle. Mr. Mason commended Mr. Oley for

reducing the number of buses needed due to the reduction in bus routes. Each year, Mr. Oley and his staff look at bus routes for any possible reductions. Even though enrollment is down, bus ridership remains strong. The maintenance vehicles will have a rust prevention program which will increase their longevity. These will be general trucks without any extra options. The only additional items for these trucks will be a plow and a Tommy Lift in the back for heavy items. Mr. VanWasshenova expressed concern with financing this purchase. We cannot pay for this purchase in one lump sum because that would put us into deficit spending. One of the goals the Board discussed was that they were not going to finance purchases. Mr. Mason mentioned that rates are low and it's a good time to borrow; and not financing purchases is a goal the Board agreed to work towards. At this time, purchasing these buses and maintenance vehicles is a safety issue.

Vote: Motion carried by a 4-1 roll call vote. Mr. VanWasshenova voted no.

Superintendent Comments

- Dr. Martin thanked the Board for their support of the Administrative recommendations brought before them at this meeting.
- All administrators and administrative assistant personnel met at Monroe High School in the media center on Monday for a welcome back program. He was able to address the group for a few minutes regarding district goals and emphasize some of his priorities as we move into a new school year. Later in the morning, we had a presentation on building security from Thomas Mynsberge of Critical Incident Management. Mr. Mynsberge enlightened the group on several new thoughts and strategies when it comes to various emergency situations that could arise in school buildings and offered himself as a resource as we revisit some of our policies and practices with building security and emergency response.
- This past Sunday, Dr. Martin was a guest at the Christ Love Fellowship Church and was offered an opportunity to talk about programs offered at Monroe Public Schools. Dr. Quartey, the president of Monroe County Community College was also there. Dr. Quartey told the congregation about himself and how he overcame many challenges to become the administrator he is today. After the program, Dr. Quartey and Dr. Martin had the opportunity to talk about the need for Monroe Public Schools and Monroe County Community College to cooperate in efforts to encourage cultural understanding and awareness throughout both of their organizations.
- Mrs. Everly has been involved in discussions about issues in reference to dismissal times at Custer with buses arriving late to pick up students. In some cases, students were waiting in the building up to 25-30 minutes after dismissal. The Transportation staff studied this issue extensively, in collaboration with Mrs. Everly and Mrs. Bennett, and all are in agreement that the solution would be moving the Custer day eight minutes later. They expected a slight increase in cost due to driver time, but the team was able to minimize that. Mr. Vergiels and administrators will construct a communication plan to notify families.
- This week we welcomed five Japanese students aged 15 through 17 to Arborwood North on Monday as part of the Monroe International Friendship Association cultural exchange visit. The five came to see our Japanese doll which was an early gift from Hofu and enjoyed a tour of the school, which included a stop at Arborwood Peace Garden. Arborwood will receive a second doll this fall and one of the young visitors this week is the granddaughter of the woman who made the doll that will be coming to Arborwood. Two of our Monroe High students recently returned from their cultural exchange visit to Hofu. They are Claire Antrassian, one of our recent graduates who was a member of the Top 100 in her class, and Lexi Steve, who will be a sophomore at Monroe High this fall. There was also a reception at Monroe Bank & Trust for these students and their families.

- We reached an agreement with two local companies to sell the Kosa house and all its contents in an estate sale. Ed and Mary Kay Kosa left their home and contents to Monroe Public Schools with the intent that money from the sale of the home and contents be used for scholarships for graduating Monroe High School students. The house on Macomb St. will go on the market soon and for three days next week – Aug. 22-24, the contents sale will be held, giving potential home buyers a chance to thoroughly inspect the home during the sale. The home will be listed by Prudential Hudkins Realty and the sale of the contents will be conducted by Caring Transitions of Ida.
- Either late this week or early next week, the Michigan Department of Education will announce its Accountability Scorecard Summaries for schools across the state. We can't comment publicly on our scores until the state announces the overall outcome, but we are pleased with the progress we have seen so far in some of our schools. We are preparing information for our parents and for the public to coincide with the release of the information.
- With the vote tonight to hire Jessica Shultz, our administrative team is now in place for the 2013-2014 school year. However, we still have a few teaching positions to fill before school starts.
- Mr. Vergiels was very satisfied with our booth at the Monroe County Fair. The duck pond attracted about three times as many kids as was expected. He was very happy with the exposure of the CTE projects. We had over 60 volunteers, and he thanked them for working the 3-4 hour shifts during the week. He received a lot of comments from those who worked the booth and many suggested having the duck pond again next year, and try to emphasize some of the projects coming out of our schools.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo thanked Board members for their commitment to work with the administrative team during the last several weeks. Many have taken vacation days or days without pay to be part of the process of hiring new administrators. Mr. Oley updated the Board on the asphalt project at Monroe High School. He will be onsite tomorrow morning and will make phone calls this evening. Dr. March mentioned that we have a home football game on August 30. He also mentioned that there is a Red and White Scrimmage this weekend, and he is concerned about people walking through construction to get to the field. Mr. Oley assured the Board that a safe route will be provided to the field. Painting on the end-caps at Monroe High School is progressing well. We are using a specialized paint that is guaranteed not to flake or fade.

New Business

Dr. March suggested getting an automatic defibrillator for the football field. We have two in the school, but we need to have one available outside. Dr. Ray will address this immediately.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

There was none at this time.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason that the August 13, 2013, Board Meeting #14 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 hand vote at 8:24 p.m.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary