

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #16

Tuesday, September 10, 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

Administrators Absent: David Payne

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was no public commentary at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- August 27, 2013 Work Session
- August 27, 2013 Board Meeting #15
- September 5, 2013 Special Board Meeting

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

Reports and Update

The August 19, 2013 Board Curriculum Committee Minutes were received without comments.

Staff Resignation

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools for Jason King effective August 30, 2013.

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

Teacher Appointment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to table this motion in order to complete a second round of interviews.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote.

Superintendent Comments

- Our first week of school got off to a good start. During the week we welcomed a new principal and assistant principal at Monroe High School and initiated the new parking lot; kicked off the school year at Arborwood with a helicopter landing on the football field; officially “cut the ribbon” on the new Leader in Me program at Manor; launched the million acts of kindness program at Monroe Middle School; and announced in the Monroe Evening News that the Learning Bank would re-open

this week thanks to the support from Monroe Public Schools. There were a few transportation issues on Tuesday and Friday, but they have all been addressed and things have been going smoothly as students and staff gets used to the bus procedures for this school year.

- Mrs. Everly commented on the enthusiasm across the district about this opening. Principals and teachers expressed that this has been one of the smoothest openings they have experienced. Even with the transportation issues, it was a very small percentage of students that were affected. We have a lot to be proud of because of the way every department works together to solve these issues when they arise.
- Dr. McLeod expressed the high level of excitement, optimism and a new sense of hope across the district, particularly at the high school. The opening days for teachers at the high school set a nice tone, and he has heard a lot of positive feedback from high school staff, parents and students. Having his own children at each level in the district, feedback has been very positive about a lot of the initiatives including the Leader in Me, the Million Acts of Kindness at the middle school and the tremendous sense of optimism at the high school. This speaks volumes about the work that has been done over the last few years, which the board has supported, in terms of pushing the coaching model and the high level of expectations in school improvement efforts.
- Mr. Oley acknowledged the transportation department for all of their hard work for the opening of this school year. Parent phone calls have seemed light this year, along with parents showing up at transportation. The new radios really helped the buildings contact transportation, or if they needed to call back a bus. The Operations side of the new school year was one of the best starts he has experienced in a long time. He acknowledged his staff for completing a lot of work over the summer.
- Preschool money that the State has offered is part of the GSRP, which is the Discovery Preschool at Riverside. Now that the ISD oversees the GSRP grant, Monroe Public Schools has increased the number of slots we are able to offer. We have 150 slots, which is an increase of about 50. Another exciting development is the all-day preschool that we are now able to offer. With the grant changes and the state focusing on preschool, we're able to collect an FTE for the morning, and the same students staying in the afternoon, a new set of FTEs. We have three all day preschool classes at Riverside, and four sections of half day which is what we've had in the past. We have heard from parents that if transportation were provided for their preschooler, they would be more likely to participate. Mrs. Everly and Mrs. Malik are looking at the possibility of offering all day preschool in elementary buildings next year so transportation could be offered to those preschoolers living in that area. Because it is a county wide program now, we can pull from other districts if we need to fill slots. We currently have a waiting list of Monroe Public School students.
- We have 52 students enrolled in Monroe Virtual High School, which started September 3. Mrs. Shultz is now the administrator in charge, and things are running very smoothly.
- The Dick Waters pool is now closed and despite the weather, we still drew 2400 swimmers plus another 35 children for swimming lessons. Summer attendance was down somewhat from a little more than 2,900 the first year. The Monroe Family YMCA reports that year two went smoothly and was extremely successful. The YMCA is already hoping to partner with us and the city of Monroe to re-open the pool next summer.
- Dr. Martin met with the Monroe High School Student Council today. They had a very open and frank discussion about the high school; some of their concerns and expectations for the upcoming school year; and some of the projects and activities they will be working on. Dr. Martin will meet with them on a monthly basis throughout the school year.
- Monroe High School will host Monroe Pride Night on Thursday, September 26, 5:00-8:00 PM. There will be games and food for fundraising activities for literacy. The event is sponsored by Friendly Ford Lincoln of Monroe which will donate \$20 to Monroe High School for every Lincoln

test drive that night. There will be several Lincolns on site to test drive, and every test drive will buy a book. Dr. McLeod commented that Monroe Pride Night is directly aligned with their school improvement efforts. Monroe Middle School has an initiative that is similar. They are talking about building classroom libraries at the secondary level with increased focus on literacy and reading skills for our high school and middle school students. The idea of every test drive buys a book, is really about putting more books in our high school so that students have books of high interest available to them so we can increase the level of intervention and literacy.

- Monroe High School will have their Homecoming on Friday, October 11. Several students will be at the next Board meeting to tell us about preparations for Homecoming.
- Dr. McLeod extended an invitation to the Board for the MHS staff tailgate this Friday prior to the football game.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo commented on the positive changes happening at the high school. There is an expectation that is being set at the staff level and student level.

New Business

Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor questioned if the football game against Lansing-Sexton was part of our league; and she was concerned because of the distance that students had to travel. Dr. Ray stated that in order to make state finals in football, you must have six victories. In our conference we have six big schools and six small schools. We play five schools that are our size and one small school. Dr. Ray then has to find three other schools to play to have a complete season. This is very difficult, because teams don't want to play against someone if they don't feel they can win. Dr. Ray is constantly looking for teams to play. We are committed to Lansing-Sexton for another year.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

There was none at this time.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March that the September 10, 2013, Board Meeting #16 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 7:48 p.m.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary