

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #20

Tuesday, November 12, 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 7:10 p.m.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was no public commentary at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- October 22, 2013 Board Work Session
- October 22, 2013 Board Meeting #19
- November 12, 2013 Special Board Meeting (two sets)

Discussion: Ms. Spicer appreciates the effort of everyone involved in getting minutes to the Board in a timely manner.

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

Reports and Update

The October 21, 2013 Curriculum Committee Minutes, October 23, 2013 Physical Resources Committee Minutes and October 24, 2013 Policy Committee Minutes were received without comments.

Ceiling Plaster Repair at Monroe Middle School

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the low bid of \$4,250 from Hoffman Plastering of Saline, Michigan for plaster repair at Monroe Middle School and reject all other bids. Cost to be taken from the Site Sinking Fund.

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

Transfer MPS Scholarship Funds to Education Foundation of Monroe

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to table the motion to approve the transfer of the Monroe Public Schools Scholarship funds to the Education Foundation of Monroe.

Discussion: Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor recommends that a Monroe Public School administrator be a part of the advisory committee within the Education Foundation for the Scholarship fund. There should be a way for Monroe Public Schools to withdraw from the Foundation if they're not happy with procedures. The Education Foundation understands that the Scholarship fund is separate and is to be used for scholarships

only. Concern was expressed exactly how income from fundraising would be divided between the Foundation and the Scholarship fund; and individuals should have the option for their donation to go to the Scholarship fund exclusively.

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

MPS Professional Development Plan

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Ms. Spicer to approve the MPS professional development plan for the 2013-14 school year and the associated contracted professional development not to exceed \$45,000. This expenditure will be paid for using curriculum professional development budget.

Discussion: The initial data shows the achievement gap being closed. This is an early indication that the professional development and culture of our district is making an impact on the learning of our students.

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

Superintendent Comments

- Congratulations to Monroe Middle School teacher Jennifer Barker who has been nominated as a 2013-2014 Life Changer of the Year in the program sponsored by National Life Group. The program recognizes and rewards K-12 school district employees and educators who make a positive difference in the lives of students. She is the only Monroe County nominee and expects to hear whether she is a finalist in February.
- On November 19 at Monroe High School, we will host a number of local business leaders – mostly from the HR departments – from among 25 of Monroe County's largest businesses. Our education-business forum will focus on showing these employers what we are doing to prepare our students for the world of work. We also plan to solicit their input on what types of additional ways we can help prepare our students. It is the start of what we intend to be an ongoing dialogue that will be valuable for the employers and for the school system and our students.
- On November 7 and 8 at Monroe High, we offered student shadowing for eighth graders who are not attending Monroe Public Schools. Twenty-five students representing three schools participated and were matched with 18 of our student Ignition mentors and some siblings. Our students provided a building tour, class visits in the second and third hours and then lunch in the commons. We also sent home registration packets and bracelets proclaiming them members of the Monroe High School Class of 2018. Each filled out a comment sheet and indicated they all had positive experiences at Monroe High.
- Approximately 20 of our MHS Interact Club members spent Saturday night sleeping outside to bring attention to homelessness in Monroe County and to raise money for groups that deal with homelessness. Advisor, Sue Jones, said the activity has raised \$700 so far and that amount is expected to climb. Two TV stations and a daily newspaper covered the event making it the most publicized activity at MHS so far this year. Also this weekend, five of our MHS students will attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event in Livonia. This is an event that teaches students leadership skills and provides them opportunities to network with fellow students from three counties and one Canadian province as well as with Rotary Club members.
- This is Homeless Awareness Week and at Monroe Middle School, the National Junior Honor Society is hosting a personal hygiene products drive to collect such items as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant and related items to be turned over to the Monroe County Opportunity Program.
- Waterloo Elementary School collected more than 1,200 pounds of phone books for recycling in the recent drive which ended in mid-October. That was the second most pounds collected, behind only Summerfield Elementary School. Throughout Monroe County, ten schools participated collecting more than nine tons of old phone books.

- Monroe High School will host a First Lego League robotics meet on Saturday, November 23. The event begins at 8 a.m. and involves numerous schools from around the region. Two first-year teams from Custer will participate in this event for the very first time.
- The Monroe High Unify Club wants to show how thankful it is for the friendships the students have developed, so on November 26 at 2:15 the group is going to pack about 25 gift boxes to take to children residing in shelters, including Paula's House and Sunrise House. The group has really grown this year and last month had its biggest event ever when 60 students attended the Halloween party.
- Custer held its annual Young Readers Day event at the school yesterday and attracted some 30 community members to come in and read to 41 classes. The list of readers is pretty much a Who's Who of Monroe and Betsy Cole does a great job of lining up a large number of readers to come in each year. This was the 14th year the school hosted such an event.
- This Saturday is the annual turkey trot at Custer School. This is an event that was first held in 1959. The last few years it was held for Custer students and an adult family member to run with them. This year it has been opened up to every one of our MPS elementary schools. Twenty people will win turkeys and the event starts at 11:00 a.m.
- Our friends at the Dundee Chrysler Engine plant will be delivering more than 200 winter coats to three of our schools – Waterloo, Raisinville and Monroe High School. These are new or gently worn coats and with the onslaught of the recent cold weather, the timing could not be better. Last week, the Lincoln School Alumni delivered a van load of coats, socks, hats, gloves and underwear to Arborwood School.
- A second doll from Hofu, Japan, was dedicated marking the friendship between the two cities and the special ties between Arborwood and its counterpart school in Hofu. The new doll will reside in Arborwood South so now each school has one special doll from our friends in Hofu.
- In late October, the class of Ms. DeAn Wuelfing at Manor Elementary spearheaded a breakfast event to raise money to help pay the medical bills of a former U.S. Marine who is the sister of one of our Manor custodians. It featured a great breakfast, tremendous entertainment by the Manor choir and five members of the Monroe City Council and a District Judge who helped serve. So far, the event has raised around \$3,700, as more donations continue to come in. The event was part of Make a Difference Day and it is obvious that our students did make a difference.
- Sue Sacks and the Theater Company of Monroe High School will present Seussical the Musical November 22-24. The show will be staged at 7:00 p.m. on November 22 and 23 with a matinee performance at 3:00 p.m., November 24.
- We are continuing to work on the Monroe Public Schools branding statement. Currently we are working on developing what we call evidence points to support the statement and will be working to align this statement with our current district mission and vision statements.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo informed the Board that he, Ms. Spicer, Dr. Martin, Dr. McLeod and Mrs. Everly had a conversation about the positive things happening around the district and how to do a better job of getting the message out. Mr. Yeo, Ms. Spicer and others have agreed to work on that. There will always be room for improvement, but we have to keep in mind all the great things that are happening in the district.

The Board will meet in the near future to follow up on Superintendent Goals.

New Business

The Policy Committee is examining the smoking policy in the Personnel section of Board Policies. The question was raised whether we want to become a total smoke free environment 24/7. A model policy from the state was provided. We currently have signage stating that our buildings are smoke free zones, but it is difficult to police outside of the buildings. Parents are usually receptive when asked not to smoke on school grounds and some already assume we are smoke free.

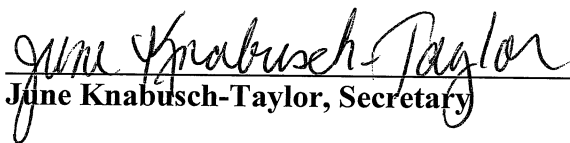
Public Commentary-Any Topic

Selma Rankins, citizen, expressed concern about achievement gap for future generations. We need to come together as a community to improve Monroe Public Schools.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the November 12, 2013, Board Meeting #20 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:01 p.m.



June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary