

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #1

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

7:00 PM

## MINUTES

### Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Dave Vensel, Vice President Robert Yeo, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor, Parliamentarian Tedd March, Trustee Ronald Benore, Jr., Trustee Wendy Spicer, and Trustee Larry VanWasshenova

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Randy Monday, Julie Everly, Ryan McLeod, Katherine Eighmey

Administrators Absent: None

President Vensel called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM.

### Recognition – Foreign Exchange Students

MHS Assistant Principal, Otto Zillgitt, introduced four of our eleven foreign exchange students to the Board of Education. These students, Jackson Carey of Australia, Ohla Lovina of Ukraine, Marie Houben, Germany, and Lisa Steinbach, also of Germany, spoke to the board about their experiences at Monroe High School and some of the differences in education in the United States vs. education in their countries. All of these students felt welcomed by their peers, and had positive personal and educational experiences since they have come to the United States and the high school.

### Board Member Appreciation Month

Mr. Monday recognized board members for the time, energy and dedication it takes to be members of the Board of Education and thanked them for their service.

### Public Commentary

- Paul Howey – Would like to gain access to Lincoln and Christiancy so he can put a proposal together before the buildings are demolished.
- Carol Ratz – Does not want Christiancy or Lincoln razed due to their historical significance and is seeking the recall of Mr. VanWasshenova, Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor, Mr. Benore and Ms. Spicer.
- Randy Duvall – Would like to take possession of Lincoln school. He has spoken to many people who would be interested in starting small businesses in Lincoln.
- Andrea Livingston – Reported that people are upset about the decision to demolish the buildings. She said the Department of the Treasury needs to approve using sinking funds for demolition of buildings.
- Selma Rankins – Would like to see test scores improve.

### Approval of Minutes

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

- December 13, 2011 Board Work Session

- December 13, 2011 Board Meeting #22
- December 14, 2011 Special Board Meeting (four sets)

Discussion: Mr. Benore would like the following correction made to the Minutes of Board Meeting #22, dated December 13, 2011: On page 4, under the Discussion section of "Resolution Declaring that Monroe Public School District Will Comply with Section 3 of PA 152 of 2011, it will now read: "Mr. Benore does not support this motion because it will hit two-person households very hard since it is not calculated by the aggregate of the bargaining group, he feels the 80/20 option would be more fair under the circumstances."

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

### **Reports and Update**

The Informational Report – Contracted Coaches – was accepted. Although the basketball season is now over, one of the coaches listed was a replacement for a coach who was unable to finish the season.

### **Purchase of iPads**

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of iPADS from Apple, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$38,320. Purchase to be funded from the district funds.

Discussion: Ms. Spicer noted that the board had an extensive conversation at the work session as to why these iPads are so important to our teachers to assist with the achievement gap. Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor would like a report on the cost of training teachers to use the iPads.

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

### **Clerical Appointment**

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the appointment of Judy Harris as a secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective January 3, 2012 and place on the Class 2 10 month step 1 salary pro-rated for the 2011/12 school year as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.

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

### **Coaching Recommendations**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Yeo to approve coaches for the winter 2011/12 season as named above and as per the MCEA master agreement.

Discussion: Mr. McLeod informed the Board that the "TBA" coach in the motion is Amanda Bomia, a Monroe Middle School teacher. She will be sharing the responsibilities with Mary Howe.

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

### **Establish Dates, Time and Location of Board of Education Meetings**

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mr. Benore to establish meetings for the Monroe Board of Education from January, 2012 to January, 2013 with workshops to begin at 5:30 pm and regular meetings to begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays at the Administration Building, 1275 North Macomb Street, Monroe, MI 48162 as listed.

Discussion: Several meetings conflict with other commitments of some board members. The motion will be voted on and if adjustments need to be made to accommodate board members, this can be done at a later date.

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

**Resolution Adopting Amendment to Board of Education Policy**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve taking the resolution adopting amendment to Board of Education Policy BBB, attached as Exhibit A, to change the terms of office of School District Board member from 4 years to 6 years, from the agenda for future consideration. Motion carried by a majority hand vote.

**Superintendent Comments**

- Mr. Monday plans to highlight our top 100 MHS students in the near future. MPS has a lot to be proud of and we want to bring attention to all of our successful students.
- MHS teachers and administrators are tutoring students after school at Arthur Lesow Community Center every Monday and Thursday afternoons. This program is for students who need extra help, but who may have transportation issues otherwise.
- The MMS School Improvement Committee community survey is now on-line on their webpage.
- Beginning February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have a half-hour television show on Monroe Public Access Cable Television that will focus on Monroe Public Schools.
- February 10 will be the next Pink Out game to raise money for the Cancer Connection at Mercy Memorial Hospital. Both our boys and girls basketball teams will play against Bedford that night. Winterfest will also be held that weekend.
- On February 17, the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2012 into the hall during half-time of the basketball game.
- The next district newsletter will be sent to every house in our district and will also be available online.
- Our Facebook page has passed the 12,000 visits mark in our first month of operation.
- Six MHS students qualified to participate in the state finals of the BPA competition to be held in Grand Rapids in March.
- Be sure to look at the Community Education magazine sent to all homes in Monroe and LaSalle last week.

**Old Business**

Further discussion on the demolition of Christiancy and Lincoln was held. We have had some interest in the buildings. If someone would want to tour the buildings for the purpose of determining whether or not to buy them, it could be arranged through Mr. Monday or Mr. Vergiels to do so. These buildings had been up for sale since their closure, but there have been no offers to purchase. As a matter of clarification, the motion to seek bids for demolition was written with the intention that the buildings would be razed.

**New Business**

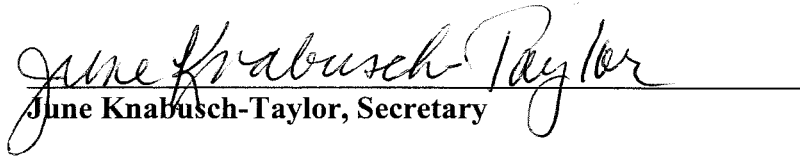
Over the past year, Mr. Benore has visited all MPS schools and principals. He would like to see more information brought to the public regarding all of the innovative and positive programs going on in our schools. This could help change negative perception of our schools we sometimes hear. This is a topic which will be discussed at our Community Relations Committee meetings which needs the efforts of all seven of our board members. Mr. Vensel suggested taking a portion of the Finance Committee of the Whole to devote to community relations.

Board members should email Mr. Vensel the committees they are interested in joining.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. VanWasshenova that the January 10, 2012, Board Meeting #1 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:45 PM.

  
June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary