

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #7
Tuesday, April 17, 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, Jerry Oley

Administrators Absent: None

President Vensel called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was no public commentary at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- March 27, 2012 Board Work Session
- March 27, 2012 Board Meeting #6

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

Reports and Update

There were none at this time.

Staff Resignations

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Dr. March to approve the resignations of Karen Zillgitt, Jean Green, Kathleen Liebner, Francetta Rayce, Maryanne Hooper, Lynne Zabawa, and Martha Whiting effective at the end of the 2011/12 school year, from Monroe Public Schools.

Discussion: Board members thanked the retiring teachers for their nearly 200 years of service to students. According to the teachers' contract, retirement letters were to be submitted by April 1st, but the administration can extend that deadline if necessary due to the possible legislative changes.

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

In State – Overnight Field Trip

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mr. Benore to approve the Monroe High School students' attendance at the MITES competition being held in Saginaw, Michigan according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: In the future, the Board would prefer field trip forms be filled out electronically, rather than in handwritten form. Mr. Ferrara explained that this trip is covered by added cost funds. Three teachers

are sending projects to the competition, but no students. Mr. Zamorski is taking two students for the automotive repair competition; Mr. Miller will take four students to participate in the shed building competition. Mr. McLeod and Mrs. Everly will work to adjust this process to improve turn-around time and the quality of the packets.

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

Purchase of Playground Mulch

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of 450 cubic yards of playground mulch from Jack's Lawn Service, Monroe, Michigan at a delivered cost not to exceed \$7,920 with money to come from the general fund.

Discussion: Material is used under the playground equipment as a safety measure for students. Jerry Oley is researching alternative materials to use but it is extremely expensive. It was suggested that the administration pursue partnerships with local businesses who may be interested in donating some materials for use on our playgrounds. Wendy Spicer will investigate possible assistance from DTE with this project.

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

In State – Overnight Field Trip

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the Monroe Middle School students' attendance at the Great Lakes Regional MATE ROV Competition being held in Alpena, Michigan according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: There will be no cost to the district for this trip. Fundraisers have been held for this trip and students will also contribute \$50 to cover food and lodging. There are five students and one teacher, Chuck Kern, attending this competition which is held annually.

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

Superintendent Comments

- Asbestos abatement has begun at both the Lincoln and Christiancy buildings. Over the last week, our Operations group has been removing reusable items from each building. We have recovered over \$100,000 worth of materials we can use in other buildings. In addition, June Knabusch-Taylor and Larry VanWasshenova have worked diligently to salvage items which can be auctioned to raise funds for student scholarships. Jerry Oley will meet with city officials this week to finalize plans for the buildings' demolition.
- The Monroe County Earth Day Expo will take place at Loranger Square on April 21 from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM. Waterloo and Raisinville Elementary schools will be publicly introduced as "green schools", the third year each of them have had that distinction.
- Kindergarten registration was held right before spring break. We have registered 147 young five students and 304 kindergarten students. This represents 64 students less than a year ago at this time, but we anticipate more enrollments over the summer. Registration was held for Head Start students at South Monroe Townsite. Also, a separate registration date was offered at the Riverside Early Learning Center, as well as four days of registration at the Administration Building. Julie Everly noted that during registration, we collected academic screening data on the incoming students and targeted those children who would benefit from a summer school experience.
- On Wednesday, May 16, Mayor Matsuura of Hofu Japan, Monroe's sister city, will be touring the city, and Monroe Public Schools will be helping to welcome him.
- The house built by our construction technology class for Habitat for Humanity will be dedicated at a ceremony on Thursday, May 17.

- The All-City Orchestra concert will be held Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 PM in the MHS auditorium.
- Thursday, April 26 from 5:00-7:00 PM, MHS will hold its final parent-teacher conferences of the school year.
- 150 MMS eighth graders will take a four-day trip to Washington D. C., from May 3-6.
- Noreen Monhollen, who for a quarter of a century was the piano accompanist for vocal music at Monroe High School, and who formerly taught in our system, passed away last week. We are thankful to Noreen for her contributions to our schools and to the students in our music program.

Old Business

Mr. Vensel reported that we are making progress on possibly opening Cantrick pool. More information will be provided at the next board meeting.

New Business

At this time, Mr. Benore resigned as trustee effective immediately. He has accepted a position to serve as the assistant prosecutor for the county of Monroe and cannot sit on the school board in this position. Mr. Benore spoke highly of his tenure on the school board and thanked administrators, teachers and other staff members who "educated" him while on the board.

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Yeo to accept the resignation of Ronald Benore, Jr., from the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education.

Discussion: Board members wished Mr. Benore success in his new position and thanked him for his time served as a board member.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote; Mr. Benore abstained.

A letter given to board members with a complaint has been addressed.

Mr. Vensel received a letter from Bay City Public Schools noting their passage of a resolution asking the state of Michigan to help districts with money needed to keep the district going. He asked that Monroe adopt a similar resolution and it will be a topic at the May 8, 2012 board meeting.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Selma Rankins was pleased to see that Monroe Middle School teachers worked on closing the achievement gap during their recent school improvement workday.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the April 17, 2012, Board Meeting #7 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 8:26 PM.



June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary