

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #18

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

7:00 PM

MINUTES

Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Dave Vensel, Vice President Ken McNamee, 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, Kathy Eighmey

Administrators Absent: None

President Vensel called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

MHS Homecoming Preparations

Representatives from the MHS student senate distributed homecoming t-shirts to board members and administrators. A video, Pure MHS, was shown followed by a power point presentation of the upcoming homecoming events. The theme this year is "Nightmare on Herr Road" since it falls so close to Halloween.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was no public commentary at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- September 27, 2011 Board Meeting #17 Minutes
- October 4, 2011 Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

Reports and Updates

The September 20, 2011 Board Personnel Committee Minutes and the September 27, 2011 Board Finance Committee of the Whole Minutes were received without comments.

Approval of Audit Report

Motion by Dr. McNamee; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to accept the 2010/11 Financial Audit as prepared by the firm of Cooley, Hehl, Wohlgamuth & Carlton, Monroe, MI.

Discussion: Pete Carlton noted that the audit went very well and acknowledged the work by Kathy Eighmey.

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

Three Night Out-of-State Field Trip

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Benore to approve the Monroe Middle School three day fieldtrip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D. C., on May 3, 2012 to May 6, 2012 according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: The students' return trip will be traveling overnight, returning around 5:00 AM on May 6, 2012.

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

CTE Purchase – Solar Panels

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of the Alternative Energy curriculum materials as specified in the quote from Questech, Farmington Hills, Michigan, not to exceed \$11,640. Monies to be taken from the Perkins Grant.

Discussion: A handout with a more detailed description of the purchase was given to board members. There will be work stations where students can learn about solar and wind energy. The purchase includes wind turbines, solar panels, welding equipment and supporting electronics and monitoring equipment. The wind turbines are virtually silent and will not disturb other classrooms with noise.

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

Superintendent Comments

- MEAP testing began today for all students in Grades 3-9 and will continue for the next couple of weeks.
- Last Wednesday was the fall student count day. Our numbers are down by 88 students compared to last fall.
- MHS parent/teacher conferences and college information night will be held Thursday, October 13, from 4-7 PM.
- On our district website, we have added advertiser displays at the top of our page. This is done through our contract with ARD (Alternative Revenue Development.) Bobb Vergiels will continue to work to get more revenue through advertisers.
- Manor Elementary students listened to the President's speech in the school gym on September 28 utilizing their new screen and sound system purchased with technology millage money.
- Two delivery vehicles have been added to our fleet donated by Meijer. These vehicles were no longer in use by Meijer, but they were in good condition for us to continue to use.
- The Monroe Public Schools Education Foundation sponsored a fundraiser on Monday, October 10 at Buffalo Wild Wings where 20% of sales that day were donated to the foundation as long as the customer provided a coupon. That money will be used to support our mini grant program.
- The artwork displayed in the board room was provided by art teachers Steve Simon and Bonnie Ritsema. This artwork was on display at the Monroe County Fair during the summer. Soon, some of the pieces will be framed and put on display in the board room. Dr. McNamee is hopeful that some artwork can be displayed in the lobby at Mercy Memorial Hospital as well.

Old Business

- Mr. Benore would like to have the board send a resolution to Lansing regarding the various pieces of legislation affecting schools across Michigan. Other board members agreed but also mentioned that timing is important as things were moving quickly in Lansing.
- Dr. McNamee asked why we are not promoting our virtual high school to attract students from other districts. Mr. Monday said there is a gentlemen's agreement among the Monroe County Superintendents that no one would try to recruit students from other districts. A suggestion was made that our virtual high school could be promoted at the probation department. Mr. Monday noted that we are considering different ways of promoting our virtual high school for students who are currently not in our high school.

- Some of our teachers are interested in creating their own online class. Students can take up to two online courses and the district can still receive a full FTE for them.

At this point, there was a motion by Dr. McNamee, support by Ms. Spicer to bring back the recommendation to approve the 2012 membership dues to the National School Boards Association in the amount of \$4,525.00.

Discussion: Mr. Vensel said the NSBA provides valuable information and resources to member school districts in regard to national legislation. Ms. Spicer gained a tremendous amount of information at the NSBA conference she attended last year as well as finding it to be a great source of networking. With the national assessment program and core curriculum expected to be implemented by 2014, it is more important than ever to have legislative information that NSBA can provide.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote. Mr. VanWasshenova voted no.

New Business

Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor spoke to the Tecumseh Public Schools board of education president who is interested in meeting and sharing ideas with Monroe Public Schools board members.

Dr. March read a copy of a resolution passed by Bedford Public Schools in opposition to House Bill #4929.

Motion by Mr. Benore; support by Dr. March to approve the resolution opposing house bill #4929.

Discussion: This bill would prohibit districts from collecting union/association dues by payroll deduction. It does not bring value or invest in student achievement. Already payroll departments use deduction procedures for philanthropic deductions, so it would not save the districts money in any way. This bill is viewed as a way for the legislature to take local control from districts.

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

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Mr. Selma Rankins noted that he recently visited the schools and everyone was very professional.

Mr. E. F. Myles asked the board not to raze Lincoln and Christiancy Schools. He said Lincoln and Christiancy are more than just buildings to the people of Monroe and we should find uses for them.

Mr. Bill Conner commended the board on passing the resolution opposing house bill #4929 and suggested they pass resolutions opposing senate bills 618-621 as well, as these bills will lead to dismantling the public school system.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the October 11, 2011, Board Meeting #18 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:21 PM.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary

Monroe Public Schools
County of Monroe, State of Michigan
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL #4929

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Monroe Public Schools (the "District") was held in the District on October 11, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by President David Vensel.

Present: President David Vensel, Vice-President Dr. Kenneth McNamee, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Ronald Benore, Jr., Trustee Wendy Spicer, and Trustee Lawrence VanWasshenova

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by member Ronald Benore, Jr., and supported by member Tedd March:

WHEREAS, House Bill 4929 is a bill that prohibits the collection of union/association dues by a school district; and

WHEREAS, this legislation does not bring value nor invest in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, there is a structure already in place for the school district to deduct from employee payroll union dues, investment opportunities, philanthropic donations, etc. and does not alleviate the district from cost; and

WHEREAS, this could be viewed as the State legislature taking local control away from our school system; now

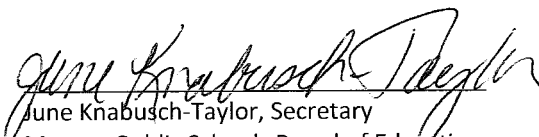
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education opposes HB 4929, which prohibits the collection of union and/or association dues; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Monroe Public Schools is hereby directed to forthwith send a copy of this Resolution to all State Legislators.

Ayes: President David Vensel, Vice-President Dr. Kenneth McNamee, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Ronald Benore, Jr., Trustee Wendy Spicer, and Trustee Lawrence VanWasshenova

Nays: None

Motion declared adopted.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary
Monroe Public Schools Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Monroe Public Schools, Monroe County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a Regular Meeting held on October 11, 2011, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes; and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA267, as amended.


June Knabusch-Taylor – Secretary
Monroe Public Schools Board of Education