

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #22

Tuesday, December 13, 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

Administrators Absent: None

President Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.

Student Art Projects

Elementary student artwork is on display in the boardroom for a year. The students stood by their art project and then were recognized with a certificate and congratulations for a job well done. Special thanks were given to art teachers Melissa Cramer, Christine Jarrait, Pam Mathews, Bonnie Ritsema and Steve Simon, as well as Mary Ann Cyr who oversees the art teachers. A short recess for refreshments was held; the meeting resumed at 7:20 PM.

Board Member Recognition

As this was Dr. McNamee's last meeting as a member of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education, he was recognized with a plaque by Mr. Monday for his four years' service as a board member, 23 years as the football team doctor, as well as his continuous support of the Monroe Public Schools district. The other board members also applauded Dr. McNamee's efforts and the talents he offered to the district. Bobb Vergiels introduced Michelle Beaver, Dr. McNamee's assistant basketball coach, and Jamal Dickerson, a player on the basketball team. They, too, thanked Dr. McNamee for all he has done and presented him with a basketball signed by all the players on his team.

MPS Foundation Mini-Grant Recipients

Dr. David Yentz, President of the Monroe Public Schools Education Foundation, briefly explained the mini-grant program offered by the foundation. The Education Foundation recognizes that teachers give countless hours of time and effort to make education interesting for students, so it distributes mini-grants twice a year to teachers who submit an application detailing their program and how it can reach students. This fall, twenty applications were received; ten were awarded mini-grants for a total of nearly \$4,000. Several recipients of these mini-grants were in the audience and were introduced by Dr. Yentz.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

- Jonathon Short – When Christiancy closed, he was unhappy with Arborwood so he moved his children to a charter school. Would like to see Christiancy re-opened.
- Richard Sieb – Volunteered to “mothball” both Christiancy and Lincoln at no charge. Keeping schools open is very expensive, as is tearing them down.

- Todd Riggs – Trains kids for the ALCC boxing program which is housed at Lincoln School. Asked the board to help him find a facility to keep this valuable program running to keep students off the streets.
- Reverend Heather Boone (HUG ministry) – Would like Lincoln to remain open to house programs for education, boxing, career wraparound services, elderly assistance, housing education programs, etc. Has a proposal and they are waiting for grant funding.
- Julie DeSloover - The destruction of the schools is a travesty.
- Chessi Oetjens – We do not need a particular building to celebrate diversity and prepare all students for the world. The board's decision should only be about students.
- Dale DeSloover – Misinformation regarding Christiancy – an ad hoc committee member did not suggest it be opened for a talented and gifted building. He also said a 4-3 vote is not a consensus.
- Sarah Thomas – Would like a magnet school and would bring her child back from charter school if Christiancy was turned into a magnet.
- Derek DeSloover – Made an analogy of board members with characters in a movie. Board President Vensel requested that he not be disrespectful.
- Andrea Livingston – The Ad Hoc Committee was a waste of time and insulting for the community members to be a part of it, as board members had already made up their minds regarding their decision.
- Ian Cooke – We should not knock down historic buildings. Right now, MPS has large elementary schools rather than small neighborhood ones.
- Vonya Steel – Teachers provide enrichment and intervention for all students. We are able to meet the needs of all students on campus.
- Linda Benson – Encouraged the board to table the decision to raze schools.
- Selma Rankins – Buildings don't matter; we should concentrate on the achievement gap.
- Scott Hudkins – There are buyers out there for the buildings. Only three lots were sold in the city of Monroe last year.
- Charles Kennon – We need to bring our children home from Triumph. Class size needs to be lower. Save Christiancy School and better service our kids.
- JoAnn Lambert – In favor of keeping both buildings to keep for the people in the community.
- Al Jagutis – We need to brainstorm to find a solution. This is an historic community; don't lose a couple of historic sites.
- Scott Jagutis – Closing Christiancy did not help students academically. Tearing a school down is forever.
- Noelle Duvall – Don't make this decision tonight; you can't take the decision back if you tear the buildings down.
- Lisa Grimsley – Would like to see her children perform better. Concerned about the level of education the kids are getting.

Christiancy School Re-Opening

Motion by Dr. McNamee; support by Dr. March to retain and re-open Christiancy School at the start of trimester 3 of the 2011/12 school year to facilitate student programs and learning opportunities.

Discussion: Dr. McNamee pointed out the district is different than when he became a member of the board four years ago. The district has downsized, we have new and fewer administrators, and our board members are committed to the success of the school district. We did not save money closing Christiancy; rather, we had to spend money to enhance the buildings where we sent the children. Mr. Benore questioned having money to spend demolishing buildings yet still having twenty teachers on layoff. Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor pointed out that we have had many people look at Christiancy over the past three years

and no one is interested in buying it. A month ago, Ms. Spicer did not feel she had enough information to vote on re-opening Christiancy and she has not heard a strong argument to keep Christiancy open. Dr. March said an open lot is better for a neighborhood than a dilapidated building. He does have a problem with five year old Head Start children occupying the same building as virtual high school students. Mr. Vensel thinks the best use of Christiancy and Lincoln has not been discovered yet and would like to see the maximum use for these buildings utilized.

Vote: Motion failed by a 3-4 roll call vote. Ms. Spicer, Mr. VanWasshenova, Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor and Mr. Benore voted no.

Christiancy Demolition

Motion by Mr. Benore; support by Ms. Spicer to seek bids for the demolition of Christiancy School.

Discussion: If the motion passes, a park could be established there.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-2 roll call vote. Mr. Vensel and Dr. McNamee voted no.

Lincoln School Re-Opening

Motion by Ms. Spicer; support by Mr. Vensel to retain and re-open Lincoln School at the start of trimester 3 of the 2011/12 school year to facilitate student programs and learning opportunities.

Discussion: If the use of the building is changed from school to faith-based ministry or stores, it would have to be updated to all the fire codes which would be cost prohibitive.

Vote: Motion failed by a 1-6 roll call vote. Mr. VanWasshenova, Dr. March, Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor, Mr. Benore, Ms. Spicer and Dr. McNamee voted no.

Lincoln Demolition

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to seek bids for the demolition of Lincoln School.

Vote: Motion carried by a 4-3 roll call vote. Mr. Vensel, Dr. McNamee and Ms. Spicer voted no.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Benore to approve the following minutes:

- November 22, 2011 Board Work Session
- November 22, 2011 Board Meeting #21

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

Break: A break was called and the meeting reconvened at 9:40 PM.

Teacher Tenure Recognition

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to confirm and endorse the granting of tenure for Angelina Roberts on the appropriate anniversary date.

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

Reports and Update

The Board Personnel Committee Minutes (November 14, 2011) and Informational Report – Contracted Coaches were received without comments.

Administrator Appointment

Motion by Ms. Spicer; support by Mr. Benore to approve the appointment of Shelley Cormier as Transportation Supervisor with Monroe Public Schools effective January 3, 2012 and place on the

appropriate salary level 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 Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve coaches for the spring 2011/12 season as named above and as per the MCEA master agreement.

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

Administrator Contract Ratification

Motion by Dr. March; support by Dr. McNamee to ratify the Master Agreement for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 between the Monroe Federation of School Administrators Local 59 and the Monroe Board of Education effective December 14, 2011.

Discussion: Several board members asked that they receive future agreements in advance so they have more time to review the contracts.

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

Approval for Staff Training

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$7,500, for staff training on bully prevention and awareness. The money for this expense will come from Federal Title IIA grant funds.

Discussion: This will be a trainer of trainers program for K-12 staff.

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

Resolution Declaring that Monroe Public School District Will Comply with Section 3 of PA 152 of 2011

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the resolution that the Monroe Public School District elects by majority vote to comply with Section 3 of PA 152, the hard cap, for medical benefit coverage years beginning on or after January 1, 2012.

Discussion: 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 6-1 hand vote. Mr. Benore voted no.

Resolution Changing Board Election Dates

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Benore to approve the resolution changing the regular election date for the office of school board member to the bi-annual November election date, meaning each even-year November election date.

Discussion: Mr. Vensel noted that this legislation is not in the best interest of Monroe Public Schools.

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

Resolution Adopting Amendment to Board of Education Policy

Motion by Dr. March; support by Dr. McNamee to table the motion to approve the amendment to Board Policy BBB, attached as Exhibit A, to change the terms of office of School District Board member from 4 years to 6 years.

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

Naming of MHS Weight Room

Motion by Dr. McNamee; support by Dr. March to approve the naming of the MHS Weight Room to the "The Lawrence Cooley Fitness Center."

Discussion: Mr. Vensel asked the board members to skip the final readings on this motion and move ahead with the vote. Mrs. Everly pointed out that two students were included as members of the committee to name the weight room and they were excited to have the room named for a former Monroe High School student.

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

Superintendent Comments

- Mr. Monday reminded everyone to look at the Monroe Public Schools website for upcoming events.
- Christmas and New Year's vacation for students is December 22-January 2, 2012. School will resume January 3, 2012.
- Everyone at Monroe Public Schools sends wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Old Business

The results have not yet been released regarding whether or not Arborwood or any other Monroe Public Schools have made AYP.

New Business

The Board Policy committee will look at language regarding renaming facilities after 15-20 years.

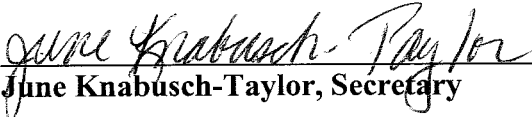
Public Commentary-Any Topic

Mr. Rankins commended the school board for the actions taken this evening.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the December 13, 2011, Board Meeting #22 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 10:10 PM.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary

**MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF MONROE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL
COMPLY WITH SECTION 3 OF PA 152 OF 2011**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Monroe Public School District, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, was held in the School District on the 13th day of December, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President David Vensel.

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

Absent:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member March and supported by Member Knabusch-Taylor.

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has adopted PA 152 of 2011 to force public employers to limit health care expenditures by either complying with a defined cost cap ("hard cap") or by complying with a percentage contribution cap ("80/20"); and

WHEREAS, PA 152 Section 3 provides that:

Except as otherwise provided in this act, a public employer that offers or contributes to a medical benefit plan for its employees or elected public officials shall pay no more of the annual costs or illustrative rate and any payments for reimbursement of co-pays, deductibles, or payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care costs, than a total amount equal to \$5,500.00 times the number of employees with single person coverage, \$11,000.00 times the number of employees with individual and spouse coverage, plus \$15,000.00 times the number of employees with family coverage, for a medical benefit plan coverage year beginning on or after January 1, 2012. A public employer may allocate its payments for medical benefit plan costs among its employees and elected public officials as it sees fit.

and

WHEREAS, Section 4(1) of PA 152 provides that:

By a majority vote of its governing body, a public employer, excluding this state, may elect to comply with this section for a medical benefit plan coverage year instead of the requirements in section 3.

and

WHEREAS, Section 4(2) of PA 152 provides that:

For medical benefit plan coverage years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, a public employer shall pay not more than 80% of the total annual costs of all of the medical benefit plans it offers or contributes to for its employees and elected public officials. For purposes of this subsection, total annual costs includes the premium or illustrative rate of the medical benefit plan and all employer payments for reimbursement of co-pays, deductibles, and payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care but does not include beneficiary-paid copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, other out-of-pocket expenses, other service-related fees that are assessed to the coverage beneficiary, or beneficiary payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care.

and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Monroe Public School District believes that compliance with the hard cap for the medical benefit coverage years beginning on or after January 1, 2012 is preferable to compliance with the 80/20 cap for the same period; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Monroe Public School District recognizes that compliance with the hard cap is a default provision of that law, but desires to explicitly clarify its selection of compliance with the hard cap, rather than the 80/20 cap; and

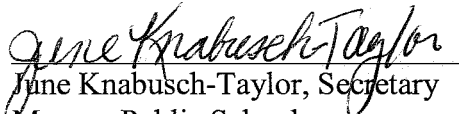
WHEREAS, the Board of the Monroe Public School District is the governing body of the Monroe Public School District, a public employer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Monroe Public School District hereby elects by majority vote to comply with Section 3 of PA 152, the hard cap, for medical benefit coverage years beginning on or after January 1, 2012.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 1 (member Benore)

Resolution 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 the Monroe Public School District, County of Monroe, State of 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 December 13, 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 PA 267, as amended.

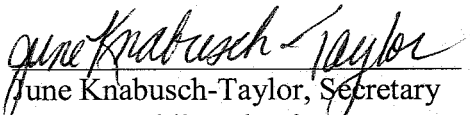

June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary
Monroe Public Schools
Board of Education

EXHIBIT A

**COUNTY OF MONROE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION CHANGING ELECTION DATE

A regular/special meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Monroe Public Schools (the "School District"), was held in the District, on December 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President David Vensel.

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

Absent: n/a

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member VanWasshenova and supported by Member Benore.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has recently enacted amendments to the Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.1 *et seq.* (the "Act"), whereby a Michigan school district is mandated to hold its election for the office of school board member on the November general election date.

WHEREAS, the School District currently holds its elections for the office of school board member on the November general election date.

WHEREAS, in compliance with the amended Act, the Board of the School District desires to change its regular election date for the office of school board member from the annual November general election date to the bi-annual November general election date, meaning each even-year November election date;

WHEREAS, the Board of the School District is directed and authorized by MCL 168.642c to adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of the School District desires to change its regular election date for the office of school board member from the annual November general election date to the bi-annual November general election date, meaning each even-year November election date.

2. Establishment of the November general election date, commencing in November 2012, will result in the term of office of current school board members being extended to fit the new election cycle.

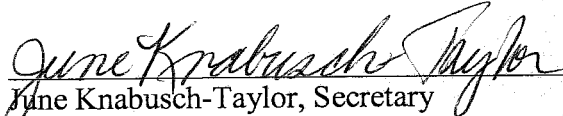
3. The Board of the School District authorizes and directs its Secretary to file this resolution with the office of the Michigan Secretary of State and with Monroe County.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

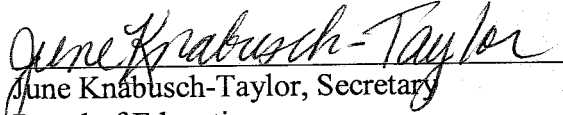
Ayes: _____ 7 _____

Nays: _____ 0 _____

Resolution adopted.


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

The undersigned duly qualified and acting secretary of the Board of Education of Monroe Public Schools, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular/special meeting held on December 13, 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 PA 267, as amended.


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