

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #10

June 9, 2015

7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

### **Roll Call and Call to Order**

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary Ryan Philbeck (arrived at 7:14 p.m.), Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Matthew Bunkelman, Trustee Floreine Mentel, and Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Barry Martin, Julie Everly, Ryan McLeod, Katherine Eighmey, David Payne

Administrators Absent: Jerry Oley

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

### **Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only**

Karole Matthews, parent of an incoming freshman, expressed her concern with the turnover of principals at Monroe High School. Her daughter graduated in 2012, and during her high school years, she had three different principals. Having such a large turnover, she wonders if that has interfered with, and/or disrupted, students' learning. With new principals, come new ideas; how have they been implemented and followed through? She understands that some of the turnover has been due to retirement, but she implores the board to find out why there is such a high turnover at the high school, especially in recent years.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- May 26, 2015, Board Work Session
- May 26, 2015, Board Meeting #9

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

### **Reports and Update**

The May 28, 2015, Board Policy Committee Minutes were received.

### **Staff Resignations**

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools of Loren Hayes at the end of the 2014-15 school year; of Kim Diven and Valerie Orr as of June 30, 2015; and of Shannon Collum as of August 14, 2015.

Discussion: The board and central administration share the community's concern with the high turnover of principals at the high school, and this will be discussed over the summer. Dr. Martin met with the high school staff and assured them that the board and central administration supports the initiatives that have taken place over the last few years. No matter who is principal, we will move forward with what has taken place at the high school, and not divert in another direction with new ideas.

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

### **Consent Agenda – Teacher Appointment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel that Agenda Items C.5 – C.12 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.5 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Kaitlynn Arnholt as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.6 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Rachel Dyer as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.7 **Teacher Appointment** – Move approve the appointment of Travis Trombley as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.8 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Keith Hanlon as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.9 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Alleena Meeks as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.10 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Carolyn Kruger as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.11 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Frances Valdez as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- C.12 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Emily Kressbach as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

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

### **Consent Agenda – Field Trips**

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mrs. Mentel that Agenda Items C.14 – C.16 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.14 **Girls' Basketball Camp** – Move to approve the attendance of Monroe High School girls' basketball team at Saginaw Valley State University Women's Basketball Camp, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.15 **MHS Competitive Cheer Camp** – Move to approve the attendance of approximately 80 Monroe High School athletes at the MHS Wing-T football camp in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.16 **Football Camp** – Move to approve the attendance of approximately 80 Monroe High School athletes at the MHS Wing-T football camp in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.

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

### **Engineering is Elementary Purchase - Waterloo**

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the Waterloo Elementary School Engineering is Elementary for STEAM integrated units of study for a total cost not to exceed \$13,000.00. The total amount of this purchase will be covered by the 2014-2015 Title I funds in accordance with allowable expenditure guidelines for use of federal funds for supplemental instructional programming.

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

### **Superintendent Comments**

Both of our high school graduations were memorable this year.

- Orchard Center High School's graduation ceremony was held at MHS on June 2. This ceremony was highlighted by students being escorted to the main door of the high school in Model A Ford

vehicles. This was planned by Principal Chantele Henry and made the event memorable for all students who participated. The ceremony itself was highlighted with a video of students talking about their plans for the future after graduation.

- At Monroe High School, the weather held off for a beautiful night and we were serenaded by senior Sydney Stewart who wrote and sang the senior farewell. For the second straight year, we live-streamed the graduation on YouTube and despite some technical difficulties at first, graduation exercises were watched nearly 1,000 times, including 360 times by people who watched the proceedings live. Among the countries in which people watched our ceremonies were Germany, Vietnam, Peru, the United Kingdom and Italy where 18 logons were recorded.

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20. That's when high school robotics teams representing 40 high schools in several states will converge on Monroe High School for the annual Michigan's Advanced Robotics Competition or MARC. MHS has hosted this event for about the last five years. The gym is transformed into a large robotics field. The qualifying matches run from about noon to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, and from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The championship round runs from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and our MHS robotics team is one of four teams hosting the event.

Our Girl Power Camp, which has been directed by MHS teacher Sue Sacks for nearly 20 years, has a new home this year. It will be held at Monroe High School after being held at Arborwood in recent years. The camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 29 through July 24. The camp is designed for girls entering grades 5-7 in the fall. The change was made because MHS has access to so many more facilities, including a pool, and the switch will allow the campers to have a free lunch at school each day.

The week of June 22 will be big for our District, not only will the Summer Learning Academy start at Monroe High School, but our second SurvivorKids Day Camp will start at the Knabusch Math and Science Center the week of June 22. SurvivorKids Camp teaches skills to kids that they may need to survive in the wild, such as tracking, fishing, boating, campfire cooking, wetlands, identification and – for the older kids – archery. Camps are broken up into morning sessions for the younger campers, grades 1-3, and afternoons for grades 4-6.

Congratulations to the individual school winners of scholarships for our graduates. Several schools provide scholarships to graduating seniors who once attended that elementary school. The former Lincoln school awarded two scholarships even though the school has been closed for six school years. Enough money was set aside to give up to two scholarships per year to former Lincoln students. This year Jonathon Brown, who will attend MIT, and George Vasquez, who will attend a school in Florida to study to be a pharmacist's assistant, are winners of the two \$500 scholarships. At Waterloo, they presented a \$500 scholarship to Matthew Evans, who will attend Central Michigan University to study meteorology. At Raisinville, Kyla Smith, who will attend Eckerd College to study international relations and global affairs, won the \$500 Robert Worden Scholarship.

Finally, I want to comment on the end of the school year here in Monroe Public Schools. It was a very smooth ending with no extra days to be made up, and we are all thankful for that. However, I do want to mention what a challenge it has been for administrators and teachers to have to deal with the M-STEP state assessment this late in the school year. The final day of testing across the state was June 5<sup>th</sup>, our last day of school. Though most testing was completed prior to this last week of school in our district, having students involved in this type of activity this late in the school year, placed a real burden on everyone to meet various curriculum goals, do teacher evaluations, carry-out the normal end of year celebrations, plan

for next year, and simply wind down. I believe the M-STEP is a vast improvement over previous state assessments as it provides more ways for students to show what they have learned, but the cost to the district in staff time to prepare for the online delivery of the test, actual added costs of technical materials, and the amount of instructional time needed to administer the test made this a very costly endeavor in both time and resources. I wanted to make sure the Board and the public were aware that Monroe Public Schools staff did a great job making sure the M-STEP was administered in the best possible way, and we hope for good results, but it was not without considerable sacrifice and effort. This was the first year for M-STEP, and it will be in place for several more years. Hopefully, the Michigan Department of Education will continue to work on enhancements to the way it is administered so it will not be as time consuming and burdensome as it was this school year, and it will become a reliable and valid tool for assessing student learning in this district and across the state.

### **Old Business**

The Board is in the final stages of Dr. Martin's review, and documentation will be available to the public when complete.

### **New Business**

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve up to \$30,000.00 in matching funds to the Instrumental Band Boosters towards the purchase of band uniforms.

Discussion: The current uniforms are over 25 years old, and we are looking at ways to repurpose them for future fundraising efforts. Dr. Martin commended the Band Boosters for raising \$35,000.00 on their own, which is 55% of the cost.

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

### **Public Commentary-Any Topic**

Selma Rankins disagreed with 95% of what was said this evening. He didn't like the fact that all of the new hires this evening were white. He really liked Monroe High School's graduation. He compared Monroe Public Schools to Detroit Public Schools.

Travis Trombley shared his experience working with MACTE (Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) and the initiative they're pushing in relation to teacher evaluations. Instead of teacher evaluations being so fact based, they're pushing towards a more positive form of evaluation. He commented on his teaching experience this last trimester at Monroe High School, as well as his interview. During his interview, administration didn't offer to pay for a master's degree or provide additional certifications, but they did offer to provide the best internal training program possible, because they have the staff and the resources to do it.

Dr. McLeod commented that when the state passed legislation regarding teacher evaluations, it created fear and concern among teachers across the State of Michigan. At that time, Monroe Public Schools made a conscientious decision to create an evaluation system that would adhere to the law, but was focused on helping people become the best teacher or administrator they can be. The design of the structure is built around support and trying to grow our staff.

Mr. Bunkelman stated that one of the reasons he wanted to be on the Board was because of an attitude of positivity he saw within the framework of Monroe Public Schools.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel that the June 9, 2015, Board Meeting #10 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 7:58 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Philbeck', written over a horizontal line.

**Ryan Philbeck, Secretary**