

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #12

July 14, 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, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Matthew Bunkelman, Trustee Floreine Mentel

Board Members Absent: Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Administrators Present: Barry Martin, Julie Everly, Katherine Eighmey, Jerry Oley, David Payne

Administrators Absent: None

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

Selma Rankins commented on the administrative appointment, flags in Monroe, and how many black students are in Monroe Public Schools.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- June 23, 2015, Special Board Meeting (2 sets)
- June 23, 2015, Closed Meeting (2 sets)
- June 23, 2015, Board Work Session
- June 23, 2015, Budget Hearing
- June 23, 2015, Board Meeting #11 (with correction)

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Reports and Update**

The June 17, 2015, Board Physical Resource Committee Meeting Minutes, and the June 22 and July 6, 2015, Board Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes were received.

### **Staff Resignations**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel to approve the resignations from Monroe Public Schools of Jennifer Bennett effective July 1, 2015; Mary Ciotta effective July 9, 2015; Margaret Delmotte effective August 1, 2015; Morgan Kottke effective August 14, 2015; and Van Hammack effective September 18, 2015.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Administrator Appointment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the appointment of Nicole Shaughnessy as an administrator with Monroe Public Schools effective August 17, 2015, 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 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Wrestling Team Camp - MHS**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Bunkelman to approve the Monroe High School Wrestling Team Camp at Monroe High School in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.

Discussion: Dr. March asked if the problems that occurred a couple years ago with a football camp have been addressed with the wrestling team.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Seat Time Waiver**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the use of Michigan Virtual University and University of Nebraska Online High School courses in addition to certain other selected online course providers as monitored through GenNet in our Monroe Virtual High School program to comply with the requirements as stated.

Discussion: This is something we do annually even though it isn't required by the state of Michigan. Dr. Martin believes it's important to get board approval on the ability of the virtual high school to award credits through these two organizations.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Naming of the MHS Varsity Softball Field**

Last spring, some parents and coaching staff approached Dr. Martin in regards to naming the Monroe High School varsity softball field. We formed a committee and recently met to discuss naming the field. According to board policy, three names must be presented to the board at three consecutive meetings to give the public and board members an opportunity to comment on the suggested names before approval of any one name. The three names suggested by the committee are Rossi Field, Vince Rossi Field, and Coach Rossi Field.

Mrs. Mentel, who was part of the committee, wants to sell the naming rights for the field as a way to raise funds for students whose parents can't afford the pay to play fee of \$150 per student for each sport. The committee is very sincere about naming the field; however Mrs. Mentel would like to see how we can tie it in to raise money for students who can't afford to pay. She would like all kids in Monroe Public Schools who are interested in playing a sport, have the opportunity to do so.

Dr. Ray is more concerned about the kids that we ask to pay \$75; these are the free and reduced lunch kids. In an effort to raise money, he shared how his office, with the help of others, is planning to work a concession stand at a Michigan State game. All of the money raised, which could be up to \$2,000, will be used to provide scholarships for students who struggle to pay the fee. Dr. Ray stated that Vince Rossi molded the softball program; 33 years as head coach and never finished out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He was such a great teacher, there was a waiting list to get into his class. Not only was he a great coach, but he was a great mentor to other coaches. There's not a kinder person to impact our kids.

Dr. March asked about an MHSAA rule that says we cannot provide money to an individual. Dr. Ray stated that's a guideline, not a rule, and we will accept all donations.

Mr. Yeo asked if there are a lot of students not able to play due to lack of funds. Dr. Ray replied that only 10% of our free and reduced kids are playing. Mr. Yeo is in support of the fundraising and encouraged Dr. Ray to call when help is needed.

Mr. Rankins doesn't think there's a problem with kids playing sports; he believes the problem is that our kids aren't learning. He doesn't feel we should be concerned about kids playing sports; we should be concerned about our kids learning.

Mr. Bunkelman said pay to participate is more of a systemic issue that we've seen develop over the last couple of decades, and we haven't really seen increases in funding from the state or national level. He appreciates Mrs. Mentel's sentiment, however, he doesn't think it's a good idea to sell naming rights to anybody; some things shouldn't be for sale. Also, when money is involved, we have less control. In line with what Dr. Ray stated, it's more of a legacy issue. It would be a true honor to Vince, even though he doesn't necessarily want it, to name the field after him. Then we can obtain scoreboard advertisements, and there is plenty of fencing for advertisements as well. Another way to raise money for students who can't pay to participate would be to accept donations for parking or even charge for parking. He prefers Rossi Field to keep in line with the way things have been named in the past.

Mr. Philbeck asked if the rights were sold, what kind of revenue could be expected. Mrs. Mentel said you can go up to 25% of the value of the field, and depending upon who wants to buy the rights, you would negotiate with them. Mrs. Mentel said if we can acquire extra money to put into the budget for sports, then we would have more money for educational programs. She mentioned Bedford Public Schools who sold the naming rights of their stadium to an automobile dealer to pay off their bill. She's also gathering information from other schools who are selling naming rights. She has a problem naming a field after someone because the next generation may change the name. She referred to Cantrick being renamed Arborwood. It would be less of a problem if funding wasn't an issue. Things aren't done the way they were 10-40 years ago; we need to think outside the box and bring in new ideas.

Mr. Bunkelman is concerned with selling ourselves when the money should be coming from public coffers. He stated that we're not seeing any increase from the state or federal level, but then we'll reach out to the corporations that are getting tax breaks from the state and federal governments and ask them to buy certain sections of what is a public sector, and allow them to put their corporate slogans/logos on our public buildings.

### **Fire Alarm Testing and Inspections**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mentel to accept the bid of \$4,304.00 from Simplex Grinnell of Maumee, Ohio, to provide fire alarm testing and inspections throughout the district. Money for this purchase will come from the Operations Budget.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

### **Superintendent Comments**

We're considering offering all-day, tuition-based Kid's Club for preschoolers at Custer Elementary starting in the fall. We are polling Custer families to see if there is enough interest to offer the program. If we decide to open an all-day Custer Kid's Club this fall, we will announce it to our families no later than July 31.

For the second consecutive year, we are offering a summer outdoors program at the Knabusch Center. Camp director, Nicole Shaughnessy, indicated that the program is going great. They are in week three of the five week program and there are a few open spots for the last two weeks.

Also using the Knabusch Center on four Monday nights this summer is the Waterloo Summer Camps and Family Fun Program. Last night families gathered for Family Geocaching Night where participants

learned about Global Positioning Systems. They also start the night with a hot dog roast, and last night was a wonderful night for outdoor activities. During the next several weeks before school starts up again, Waterloo is hosting several interesting camps at the school. This week, Super Scientist Camp is being offered, which is a day-long camp for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Other camps this summer include robotics camp, reader's theater camp, engineering camp, video and wild wind camp presented by the ISD, and a 4-H day to prepare students for Waterloo's 4-H activities coming up in the fall. Congratulations to Principal Lisa McLaughlin and her staff for putting together this innovative camp. It has proven so popular that some classes have a waiting list of 20 children.

Part of the Waterloo program this year includes a free lunch which is being offered to all of our students from pre-school up through age 18. Lunch is also being offered at Monroe High School for the Summer Learning Academy students and their siblings and at several other locations. It is not our program; however it is one that our students and their families are benefitting from in a major way.

Our new emergency phone alert system was put to the test in a real-life situation last week when we had a gas leak at the parking lot construction project at Monroe High School during our Summer Learning Academy, and we wanted to alert parents. The School Messenger program, which is replacing Honeywell, is not totally implemented yet, but we were able to use its connection with PowerSchool to send a message just to the parents of the Summer Learning Academy students, which was not easily possible with the Honeywell system. We were also able to verify that the message was delivered to every recipient within eight seconds. Under Honeywell, that would take several minutes longer. Throughout the summer, more staff is being trained on how to use the system. The School Messenger system actually cost less than the Honeywell system, and it has more options.

There have been a number of major building and property improvement projects going on all summer long, but more new projects came online after the fourth of July. Mr. Oley indicated that the rain has substantially backed up some of the roof projects. We are monitoring the projects and may have to shut one or two down because of time constraints. Mr. Oley gave an update on the gas line that the contractor broke at Monroe High School, and the pipe issues at Orchard High School.

#### **Old Business**

There was none at this time.

#### **New Business**

There was none at this time.

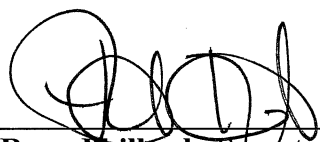
#### **Public Commentary-Any Topic**

There was none at this time.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel that the July 14, 2015, Board Meeting #12 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 8:28 p.m.



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**Ryan Philbeck, Secretary**