

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #17

September 22, 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, and Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Board Members Absent: None

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

Administrators Absent: None

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was none at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- September 8, 2015, Board Meeting #16

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

Reports and Update

The Informational Reports (Contracted Services Recommendations, Contracted Coaches, and Club Paid Coaches) were received.

Staff Resignations

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mr. Bunkelman to approve the resignations from Monroe Public Schools of Sonya Kalasho effective September 4, 2015; Daniel Fuerstenberg effective September 25, 2015; Mark Pitcher effective September 21, 2015; Sue Sacks effective September 30, 2015; and Mary Dolores Gagne effective November 25, 2015.

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mr. VanWasshenova that Agenda Items C.5 – C.6 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 Jessica Harmon as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective September 28, 2015, and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- C.6 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Emily Owens as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective September 23, 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 7-0 roll call vote.

Clerical Appointment

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mr. Bunkelman to approve the appointment of Melinda Carr as a secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective September 28, 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 7-0 roll call vote.

DreamBox Learning - MMS

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the purchase of the one year DreamBox Learning site license for Monroe Middle School at the cost of \$6,000.00. This purchase will be funded from the 2015-16 general fund curriculum budget.

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

Superintendent Comments

Congratulations to Manor Elementary School art teacher Melissa Cramer who has been invited to display her art creations at the very prestigious 2015 Art Prize in Grand Rapids. Only 1,500 artists in the world were invited to display their creations. Melissa's display is called "Women at Work: Viewing with an open mind inspires truth" and includes 25 tool belts which she made entirely from clay.

Homecoming week starts Monday at Monroe High School. The Homecoming game is Friday, October 2, against Bedford, and the Homecoming Dance is on Saturday, October 3. The Homecoming Parade will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2.

Congratulations to the Monroe First Downers and the Monroe Football Mothers working with the Athletic Department for last Friday's Military Tribute night. It was a very moving pre-game show with a moment of silence for those soldiers who were killed in action since 9-11, including several who were Monroe High School students.

This weekend, we will have a booth at the Liberation of Michigan festival at Hellenberg Field. With Monroe High School dating back to the 1860s, our schools have played a part in Michigan's history. Our booth will feature some historic artifacts from our schools.

Over the weekend following the 9-11 observance, we had a Facebook posting which produced more than 45,000 visits, nearly 400 "shares" and more than 100 positive comments, including one from a woman in New York City who escaped from the north tower when the World Trade Center was destroyed. The piece which produced all of the interest was the message that MHS Principal Sandy Kreps shared over the PA system with her students near the end of the school day. It talked about the importance of 9-11 and what it meant for us as Americans.

This is an important night for our instrumental music program. Parents and their fifth grade students met at Monroe Middle School to sign up to participate in the band or orchestra program. Last week, all 500 fifth graders were treated to a short concert at Monroe Middle School as Mr. Chris Morelli and Mrs. Ann Felder explained each instrument and what is involved in playing in the band and orchestra. Our MHS band and orchestra also visited all of the elementary schools last week and played some short concerts to encourage students to take up an instrument when they get to the 5th grade.

There will be a special board meeting with the Monroe City Council to discuss matters of mutual interest on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Monroe High School.

You may have heard of the I See Grey movement which is an effort to get people to see others as human first and to extend love, respect and unity to inspire change to others. One of the persons who is a driving force in this movement is our Orchard Center High School Principal Chantele Henry. On Friday, several activities are planned in our schools in connection with I See Grey. First, students will be encouraged to wear grey clothing and they will be urged to change their profile pictures on social media to a grey version. They also are being urged to use social media to explain what I See Grey means to them. A special 30-minute podcast also has been developed featuring Mrs. Henry and others talking about I See Grey and what the movement is all about.

There will be a real treat at Monroe High School this Friday when our friends at Sodexo offer a crepes bar at lunch time. Lunch will include two made-to-order crepes with fresh fruit topping, a choice of fruit or vegetable and milk.

The first student count day for this school year is Wednesday, October 7.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Lynn Mitosinka asked for the Board's assistance in obtaining a release for her sons who are 7th graders at MMS. She expressed her concerns with student/teacher ratio, quality of education, abilities of some of the teachers, safety, and classroom behavior. Dr. Martin said he would like to meet with Mrs. Mitosinka to discuss some other options at the middle school.

Wendy Barth asked for an update on the mini-libraries. Mr. Oley is working with Mr. Nestor at the high school to construct the mini-libraries. Mr. Oley will contact Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor's family to confirm the plans that were originally developed.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo complimented Mrs. Kreps on the 9/11 message she delivered to staff and students.

New Business

Mr. Yeo summarized the Board's concern with some student's ability to pay the fee to participate in athletics. The administrative team met and came up with some ideas to increase player participation, particularly at the middle school. Dr. Martin agrees that this should be explored, but we need to make sure we look at it within the constraints of our financial responsibility to the district. Dr. Martin suggested forming a committee to develop recommendations and discuss again at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March that the September 22, 2015, Board Meeting #17 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:01 p.m.



Ryan Philbeck, Secretary