

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #18

October 13, 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 7:05 p.m.

MHS Equestrian Team

The Monroe High School Equestrian team will compete in the state finals starting on Thursday, October 15. The Equestrian team is very dedicated, and in the last two years, have made remarkable strides to earn a spot in the state finals in Midland. Mrs. Kalenkiewicz, who coaches the team, shared the history of the club and introduced the riders.

I See Grey

The I See Grey program was inspired by C.L.A.S.S. (Communities Learning About Shared Space), which consists of leaders in the Monroe community. I See Grey encourages people not to judge others by their appearance. Orchard Center High School is leading this program with the rest of the district. Students from OCHS are speaking to students in other schools about I See Grey and what it means, and encouraging them to develop their own ideas to convey the I See Grey message.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

Selma Rankins expressed his belief that students are not learning and the need to hire more black teachers. He would like to see Monroe Public Schools as one of the greatest districts in the United States.

Michelle Nicolai commented on a social studies assignment her 7th grade son was given at the end of last school year involving Islamic faith. After meeting with the principal and deputy superintendent, and checking with the state board of education, she feels that she's getting conflicting reports and asked the Board for direction. Mr. Yeo assured Mrs. Nicolai that her concerns will be addressed.

Dr. John Ray commented on the windows that were installed at the administration building, and he commended administrators and board members for their work in Monroe Public Schools.

Approval of Minutes

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

- September 22, 2015, Board Work Session
- September 22, 2015, Board Meeting #17

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

Reports and Update

The following minutes were received: September 14 and October 5, 2015, Board Personnel Committee Meeting; September 21, 2015, Board Curriculum Committee Meeting; and October 8, 2015, Board Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. VanWasshenova would like more elaborate notes on the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes in the future.

Consent Agenda – Teacher Appointments

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel that Agenda Items C.4 – C.7 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.4 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Morgan Valentine as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective September 8, 2015, and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- C.5 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Danielle Jozwiak as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective October 14, 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 Lynn Calgie as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective October 14, 2015, and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- C.7 **Teacher Appointment** – Move to approve the appointment of Carlie Rzepa as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools tentatively effective October 26, 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.

Acceptance of 2014/15 Financial Audit

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the 2014/15 Financial Audit as prepared by the firm of Cooley, Hehl, Wohlgamuth & Carlton, of Monroe, Michigan.

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

MHS Pink Out Donation

Motion by Mrs. Mentel; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve a donation to the Cancer Connection of 50% of the ticket sales up to, but not exceeding, \$500.00 from the Pink Out basketball game.

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

MHS Softball Scoreboard Purchase

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of the Monroe High School softball scoreboard from Varsity Scoreboards at a cost not to exceed \$10,582.11. This project will be funded through revenue in advertisement sales with any remaining expenses taken from the 2015/16 Athletic budget.

Discussion: The advertisement that is being sold should cover the entire cost of the scoreboard. Mr. Bunkelman asked if there is an approval process for selling advertisement. Dr. Ray stated that in some cases, he discusses advertisement proposals with Dr. Martin. Mr. Bunkelman would like to see a policy developed for selling advertisement.

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

MHS CTE – Solar/Wind Combo Units

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel to approve the cost to repair, replace and refurbish three stationary solar/wind combo trainers at Monroe High School. This purchase will not exceed \$5,400.00 and will be funded utilizing the Chrysler Corporation STEM grant and Added Cost funds.

Discussion: These are home-grade windmills that are mounted inside the building; a small one will be mounted outside the building as well. Mr. Ferrara indicated there is still a very large windmill on the ground, and at one point, some local electricians were going to help, but unfortunately that didn't happen. Mr. Ferrara explained how students use the windmills in class.

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

Consent Agenda – Overnight Field Trips

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel that Agenda Items C.15 – C.18 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.15 **Manor – Camp Kimball** – Move to approve the Manor Elementary 6th grade trip to Camp Kimball in Reading, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.16 **MHS Varsity Volleyball Tournament** – Move to approve the attendance of the varsity volleyball team at the Mt. Morris High School Volleyball Tournament in Birch Run, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.17 **MMS Choir Mackinac Music Clinic** – Move to approve the attendance of the Monroe Middle School Choir at the Mackinac Music Clinic on Mackinac Island. This trip will be in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.18 **MHS Equestrian Club** – Move to approve the attendance of the Monroe High School Equestrian Club at the State Equestrian Meet in Midland, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.

Discussion: Mrs. Everly complimented the staff on the coordination of these trips.

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

2015/16 District and School Improvement Professional Development Plan

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the 2015-2016 Professional Development Plan at a cost not to exceed \$65,000.00. This expenditure will be funded utilizing the 2015-2016 Curriculum and Human Resource general fund budgets.

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

Letter of Intent – MCISD and MPS

Motion by Mrs. Mentel; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the letter of intent between MCISD and Monroe Public Schools to explore the feasibility of a shared purchasing arrangement for one or more medical benefit plans in order to stabilize or reduce current health premium costs.

Discussion: The letter of intent is for a feasibility study only; not a commitment from the Board. Mr. Philbeck expressed concern that the opt-out clause is a true opt-out. He feels MPS is continually put in a position where others can benefit from us, but we never see a benefit.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-2 roll call vote. Mr. Philbeck and Mr. Yeo voted no.

Superintendent Comments

The Monroe City Council and the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education will have a joint workshop at Monroe High School on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. The intent is to discuss a number of issues of importance to both bodies. The public is invited.

Monroe High School will hold its parent-teacher conferences tomorrow night, and then host a vocal music concert afterwards at 7:00 p.m. The choirs have only had 5 ½ weeks to prepare, but our director, Cate Windelborn, has put together a diverse selection of music ranging from pop to civil war music, to classical tunes, and barbershop music. Several choral groups will perform and the show will end with the combined choirs performing a piece by Joseph Haydn. The Instrumental Boosters will host an ice cream social following the show.

Manor Elementary has applied for Lighthouse Status, an honor provided by Franklin Covey to recognize a school which attains an exemplary model of leadership and serve as a model of leadership for other schools. There are hundreds of Leader in Me schools in Michigan, but only 15 of them have attained Lighthouse Status. Tara Oulette, our Leader in Me coach, will be working with the school to prepare for review day in March.

Tickets are still available for the upcoming Harvest Party on Saturday, October 24, at LaRoy's Hall in LaSalle. Tickets are only \$25 each. This event is very important in supporting the Trojan Pride incentive program for MHS scholars.

The Monroe High School Student Council is looking out for one of its fellow schoolmates. A freshman girl who has a severe vision impairment is looking to raise \$15,000 to buy a special pair of eyeglasses. The student council raised \$1,700 at last week's home soccer and football games, and one of our students, who is a Junior Exchangite, convinced the local Exchange Club to donate another \$500. That brought the total to \$2,200 raised by our students to support another student. The student for whom the money was raised told of her experience when she put on the glasses – that she could now see her mother's face.

The Education Foundation's next big scholarship fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2016. Detroit Tigers TV broadcaster Mario Impemba will be the featured speaker. This is the Foundation's biggest fundraiser with the money going to scholarships for graduating seniors and mini-grants for our classroom teachers.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo thanked the administrative team for participating in the bus tour of the district. They were unable to visit every building, but did make it to several. He appreciates the time and effort put in by everyone.

Mrs. Mentel mentioned the art that was on display and how it was judged at the Monroe County Fair.

New Business

There was none at this time.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Mr. Lavendar stated that he was disappointed by public comments that were made earlier. He reiterated the need for the I See Grey program.

Closed Session

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mrs. Mentel to convene in closed session to consult written advice of counsel, Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:26 p.m.

Adjourn and Reconvene

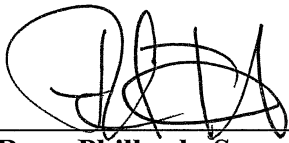
Motion by Mr. Yeo; support by Mrs. Mentel that the closed session be adjourned and Board Meeting #18 be reconvened into open session.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:47 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mrs. Taylor that the October 13, 2015, Board Meeting #18 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:47 p.m.



Ryan Philbeck, Secretary