

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #3

February 9, 2016

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), 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 7:00 p.m.

Student Art Awards

Art teachers Steve Simon, Bonnie Ritsema, Melanie Castellese, Melissa Cramer and Pam Mathews were present to introduce elementary art students whose work is on display for an entire year on the walls of the board room. These works of art have also been on display at the Mall of Monroe Art Show as well as at the Monroe County Fair. Each student received a certificate of merit.

Recess

A short recess was called to enjoy refreshments at 7:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.

Sale of Property

Dr. Martin stated that Monroe Public Schools currently has 27.5 acres of property, which are not being used for instructional purposes. At this time, the Board does not have a specific plan for any of the property. Some people have expressed interest in a couple pieces of property, but no decisions have been made. The Board would like to give the public an opportunity to comment on the sale of the property.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

Dr. Ken McNamee stated that his property is directly behind the Christiancy property. Even though the school no longer exists, the property is still used for recreation. There is not another field in close proximity for kids to play. He believes the property is valuable to the community, because it provides an area for kids to play.

Dale DeSloover commented that he would like to see the Christiancy and Lincoln properties become parks. The Lincoln property is adjacent to St. Joseph Church, which Pastor Heather Boone of Oaks of Righteousness Church is trying to purchase. He would like for Pastor Boone to have the opportunity to use the Lincoln property for an urban farming project.

Dan Furstenberg, chairman of the board of education at Zion Lutheran School, explained that they have been discussing a 3-5 year plan for expanding their school, and they may be interested in purchasing the property north of the administration building.

Approval of Minutes

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

- January 26, 2016, Board Work Session
- January 26, 2016, Board Meeting #2

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

Reports and Update

The January 25, 2016, Board Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes; the February 1, 2016, Board Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes; and the Contracted Services Recommendations were received.

Teacher Appointment

Motion by Mr. Bunkelman; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the appointment of Katie Hemelgarn as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective February 10, 2016, 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.

Relocation of the Head Start Preschool Program

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Mentel to approve the relocation of the Head Start preschool program from South Monroe Townsite to Arborwood North.

Discussion: Dr. Stephen McNew, ISD Superintendent, appreciates the relationship the ISD has with Monroe Public Schools and they support moving the Head Start program to Arborwood North. Michelle Brahaney assured the Board the Head Start program would be in place at Arborwood North by the beginning of next school year.

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

Resolution in Support of the Countywide Educational Technology Millage Renewal

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the Countywide Educational Technology Millage Renewal resolution as presented.

Discussion: Dr. McNew commented that the technology millage is crucial to what we do in our classrooms for students and teachers. Mr. Payne stated that funds from the technology millage are mainly used for student instruction, but along with that comes the infrastructure to support the wireless network, mobile devices, laptops and printers. These funds are used for any kind of technology used by students and teachers. We would not be able to function the way we do without this millage. Technology is so ingrained in the curriculum that you can't really separate the technology from the curriculum.

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.8 – C.10 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.8 **State Swim Meet** - Move to approve the attendance of eight Monroe High School students at the Division 1 State Swim Meet in Holland, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.9 **State Individual Wrestling Meet** – Move to approve the attendance of six Monroe High School students at the State Individual Wrestling Meet in Auburn Hills, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.
- C.10 **MASC State Leadership Conference** – Move to approve the attendance of eight Monroe High School students at the Michigan Association of Student Councils State Leadership

Conference in Acme, Michigan, in accordance with board policies for field trips and excursions.

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

Title I Technology Purchase

Motion by Mrs. Mentel; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the purchase of 6 iPad mini carts and 12 iPad Pros for Arborwood; two class sets of Dell Chromebooks and bags for Manor; six iPad Air carts and two Mac PowerBook pros for Monroe Middle School; one class set of iPad Airs and bags for Raisinville; and one set of iPad Air Cases for Waterloo. The total cost of this purchase will not exceed \$206,089.33 and will be funded by the Title I Grant.

Discussion: Mr. Payne said the technology millage allows us to leverage purchases such as these by having the infrastructure in place to support additional mobile devices. On any given day, we average 6,000-8,000 devices on our network; so without the proper infrastructure, we might have to turn down additional purchases that are funded via other sources. Mrs. Everly thanked Mr. Payne and his team in technology. There is an outstanding partnership between the curriculum and the technology departments.

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

Superintendent Comments

Last week, nearly 20 Monroe High School musicians earned Division 1 or Division 2 ratings in the district solo and ensemble contest, and nine of them qualified to move on to the state solo and ensemble competition in March. On the same day, Monroe Middle School hosted a district solo and ensemble contest for middle school singers. Eight of our student singers earned Division 1 or Division 2 ratings for their performances.

Recently, Waterloo held its Martin Luther King Day related career day. Students paid \$1 to dress up like what they wanted to be when they became adults. Money raised from this event was donated to the Learning Bank, which will be used to buy bus tokens for students studying to earn their GED, but who have no transportation to get to class.

The Raisinville School blog, which features items written by the students, has achieved a major milestone and has amassed 5,950 hits. Among those hits are readers in several foreign countries.

A team of administrators and students were at Triumph Academy this evening, providing information to 8th graders and their families about the many advantages of attending Monroe High School as a freshman.

Next Tuesday, February 16, Monroe High will host the annual open house for eighth graders and their families. This is open to Monroe Middle School eighth graders as well as students from charter schools, parochial schools, and homeschooled children and their parents.

The Monroe High School National Honor Society will grow by 86 students this Thursday night when the NHS has its induction ceremonies in the Monroe High School auditorium. Congratulations to those students who are being inducted.

Waterloo Elementary and Monroe High School are collecting bottled water for Flint. The students will deliver the water to Flint on Monday.

The seventh annual Pink Out girls' basketball game raised nearly \$4,100 for the Promedica Monroe Regional Hospital Cancer Connection. Congratulations to the Monroe High School Student Council, which has coordinated this event over the years, for raising thousands of dollars for the Cancer Connection.

Old Business

There was none at this time.

New Business

Mr. Bunkelman suggested the Board reach out once again to the City of Monroe to continue the relationship that was built at the joint meeting that was held this past fall. The city might offer unique insights and some direction regarding the property in the city of Monroe. Mr. Yeo said that he recently spoke with the mayor and they agree with Mr. Bunkelman's comments; however, the mayor suggested that we wait for a while since he's in the process of working with new council members.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Jack Schwab stated that he supports Mr. DeSloover's recommendation for the use of the Lincoln School property. Mr. Schwab is a member of the St. Joseph Church task force that has been working on the utilization of that property. He thinks Mr. DeSloover's comments are right on target and in the future there could be some discussion between the task force and Monroe Public Schools on the use of the property.


Dale DeSloover commented on a virtual welding machine he recently observed. He also mentioned that he's the chairperson for the education block of SEMCOG and will be advocating for education. Mr. DeSloover shared his knowledge of the roof over the pool at Monroe High School.

Mike Kieslbach, representing the Monroe Instrumental Music Boosters Club, asked if anyone has expressed an interest in purchasing Navarre Field. Dr. Martin stated there were conversations last year with SMCC, but nothing ever happened after that.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck that the February 9, 2016, Board Meeting #3 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 8:05 p.m.



Ryan Philbeck, Secretary