

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #1

January 14, 2014

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Roll Call and Call to Order

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Ryan Philbeck, and Trustee Wendy Spicer

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 7:14 p.m.

Board Member Appreciation Month

January is School Board Member Recognition Month across the state and Dr. Martin recognized the excellent work done by members of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education. These individuals have provided exceptional leadership over the years and have been instrumental in making policy, developing budget priorities, and monitoring student achievement in our district.

Being a board member is time consuming and sometimes difficult as there are many decisions that have to be made affecting many people. A board of education, however, is a truly democratic organization that represents the community and allows the community to have a say in how its schools are managed. Board members spend countless personal hours attending meetings, school functions and preparing for decisions that they have to make. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was no public commentary at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- December 10, 2013 Work Session
- December 10, 2013 Board Meeting #22
- December 12, 2013 Special Board Meeting (2 sets)
- January 7, 2014 Special Board Meeting

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

Reports and Update

There were none at this time.

Staff Resignation

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools for Lidia Talaba effective December 12, 2013.

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

Teacher Appointment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the appointment of Allison Kwasniak as a Teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective January 6, 2014 and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Discussion: This position is a replacement for the above resignation.

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

Dean of Students Recommendation

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Ms. Spicer to approve a recommendation to contract with Temporary School Staff, Inc. for the placement of Stephannie Cherry as the MHS Dean of Students in the Monroe Public Schools district upon completion of criminal history verifications.

Discussion: Because of Mr. Ferrara's shared position with the ISD (the ISD pays 50% of his salary), half of his salary will fund this full-time support position. This creates a cost savings between what we no longer pay towards Mr. Ferrara's salary and what the cost is of this new position. This position is a contracted service, which is a significant savings for the district.

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

Teacher Tenure Recognition

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to confirm and endorse the granting of tenure for Katie Collins and Kellie Skidmore-Baltrip on the appropriate anniversary dates.

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

Establish Dates, Times and Location of Board of Education Meetings

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mr. Mason to establish meetings for the Monroe Board of Education from January, 2014 to January, 2015 with workshops to begin at 5:30 p.m. and regular meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Administration Building, 1275 N. Macomb St., Monroe, MI 48162 as listed.

Discussion: Mr. Yeo commented that situations may arise where a Board member would miss a meeting due to an activity at their child's school. Board members don't typically miss meetings, but sometimes it cannot be avoided.

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

CTE Technology Purchase

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the low bid from Professional Plotter Technologies for a Canon IPF815 MFP 44 inch Multi-Function Color Copier, Scanner, and Printer for a total not to exceed \$9,995. Funds for this purchase will come from added cost funds.

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

Arborwood Elementary Campus Security Pilot

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the recommendation to move forward with a security pilot at Arborwood South Elementary. This pilot would include security equipment in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. These expenditures will be covered from the General Fund.

Discussion: The equipment for this pilot program will be purchased from different vendors, no purchase

will be more than \$4,000, and we do not have to buy everything at once. It will be very important to work closely with the administrators at Arborwood to see what they like and don't like, so adjustments can be made. Ms. Spicer suggested that Board members visit the building as well. The pilot will run at least until the end of this school year, and may even run through summer school, so we can gain the most information as to what will work best for the district. The goal is to have some level of security in place for the beginning of next school year. Ms. Spicer doesn't want staff to get a false sense of security and she's concerned about a contingency plan if the technology fails. Mr. Payne indicated that would be part of the pilot program; what procedure staff would follow in different scenarios. Arborwood was the best choice for this pilot due to the design of the building and the willingness of staff to try the pilot.

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

Superintendent Comments

- More than 700 people attended last night's parent meeting at Monroe High School to discuss course scheduling for 2014/15. Course description guides were distributed and parents received information about the new learning opportunities at MHS including online courses, the expanded elective options for freshmen, and the Direct College concept, which entails MHS students having the opportunity to enroll in MCCC courses during the school day at MHS.
- Because we were closed five days last week due to weather conditions, we have one day left where we can cancel classes without having to find further instructional time elsewhere in the schedule. Monroe Middle School extended its second quarter, which was to have concluded this Friday, until January 24. Dr. Martin thanked Operations personnel for their work in some terrible weather conditions to clean our driveways and walkways, and keep tabs on our buildings during very trying conditions.
- Target, in connection with First Book Marketplace, will provide Manor with \$500 worth of books for their library. The Books for School Award won by Manor is part of Target's plan to reach \$1 billion in giving for education by the end of 2015.
- Monroe High School teachers, Betsy Mason and Kelly Vandeginste, won a grant from the MEMIC foundation to purchase books for the Trojan Family Time libraries.
- In conjunction with National Engineer's week, which is in early February, DTE Energy will have engineers of various types visit our schools to talk about careers in engineering. Eleven teachers and more than 22 different classes requested a classroom visit. The classes requesting engineers range from our high school drafting classes, to physics classes, to various math classes, to third and fourth grade classrooms.
- Congratulations to Monroe High student Kyla Smith and her teacher Mr. Kevin Morris. Kyla won a United Nations writing contest, and she will receive an all-expense paid eight-day trip to New York to learn more about the UN. One of Kyla's teachers described her as "amazing, mature, intelligent, hard-working, and a true role model." In addition, one of Mr. Morris' peers said he "inspires students to think differently about history and Kyla's essay is one example of his impact."
- Two of our Board members, June Knabusch-Taylor and Larry VanWasshenova, are leading a literacy project which will be sponsored by the Education Foundation of Monroe Public Schools. They have enlisted the support of the Monroe County Library System. Stay tuned for more information.
- Monroe High School's Athletic Hall of Fame will induct eight new members on Friday, February 7, 2014.
- There will be a one-hour early release on Wednesday, January 15, and no school on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Old Business

Mr. Yeo distributed a packet of information to Board members for the review process.

Board of Education committee assignments will remain the same for 2014, unless someone informs Mr. Yeo that they would like to change. He encouraged everyone to participate.

New Business

There was none at this time.

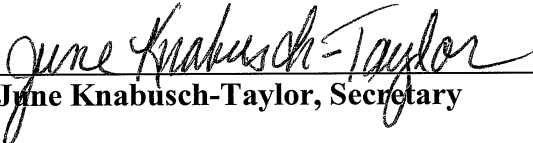
Public Commentary-Any Topic

Citizen Selma Rankins commented on a speaker that was at UT last week that discussed diversity and the achievement gap. He also commented on fair treatment for black students.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck that the January 14, 2014, Board Meeting #1 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 7:53 p.m.



June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary