

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #6

March 25, 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, Trustee Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Ryan Philbeck, and Trustee Wendy Spicer

Board Members Absent: Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March

Administrators Present: Barry Martin, Julie Everly, Ryan McLeod, Katherine Eighmey, Jerry Oley

Administrators Absent: David Payne

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

National Life Saving Award Recipient – Don Morgan

Sodexo employee Don Morgan was recognized for his heroic act of saving a co-worker's life at Manor School by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Mr. Morgan has been nominated for the presidential lifesaving award.

Custer Enrichment

Custer staff shared several learning opportunities that they provide to students not only to close the achievement gap, but to challenge them as well. School improvement coach Kari Tackett and iTeam members described exactly how they help other students learn to use iPad apps, or how to use the iPad in general.

This year saw the start of a robotics team at Custer. Sixth grade teacher Sherry Hunt and fifth grade teacher Marcie Boyce are the advisors. Members of the robotics team shared examples of projects they created and described how iPads were invaluable in the process.

Sixth grade teacher Emily Bundon has been working with her students on an enrichment project to make daily announcements more exciting. Not only will daily announcements be made over the PA, but her students will create videos using iMovie.

Second grade teacher Tara Pafford shared information on a summer learning opportunity. Imagination Station is planning a weeklong pilot program this summer at Custer School in engineering. The program will take place July 7-11, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Book club members meet during their IE time to talk about the books they read on their own time. They shared the process and technology used to make a trailer about one of the books they read. The book trailer was very similar to a movie trailer.

Manor School Focus Update

Teacher Cassidy Wodke and Manor students invited Board members to an upcoming event at Manor School. On April 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m. they will have a family night celebrating the Seven Habits of the Leader in Me program.

Principal Kelly McMahon shared a power point presentation of the recently released MEAP scores. The power point displayed the improvements they have made, as well as the achievement gaps. This is the first time trends have been looked at closely. Having the opportunity to identify these students has made this year very different. Applying targeted intervention and examining trends will allow us to meet the needs of all our students.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was none at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- February 25, 2014 Board Work Session
- February 25, 2014 Board Meeting #4
- March 4, 2014 Special Board Meeting
- March 13, 2014 Special Board Meeting (4 sets)

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

Reports and Update

The February 11 and February 24, 2014 Board Curriculum Committee Minutes; March 3, 2014 Board Personnel Committee Minutes; and March 20, 2014 Board Policy Committee Minutes were received without comment.

Coaching Recommendation

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve Ronald Motyka as the Assistant Coach for Track at Monroe Middle School for the 2013-14 school year; as per the MCEA master agreement

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

Staff Resignations

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the resignations from Monroe Public Schools for Richard Carveth, Kathleen DeSloover, Kathryn Heller, Margie Lake, Erin Otter, and Lorene Reed effective on the last working day for teachers of the 2013/14 school year; and Deborah Scheich effective September 30, 2014.

Discussion: Dr. McLeod stated that these resignations represent almost 150 years of teaching experience with Monroe Public Schools.

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

Superintendent's Review

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to acknowledge that the Board of Education completed the Superintendent's review.

Discussion: The Board of Education is pleased with Dr. Martin's work and progress.

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

Resolution – Autism Awareness Month

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve April as Autism Awareness Month as presented.

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

Skills USA State Finals

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the request for a Monroe High School student to attend the Skills USA State Finals in Grand Rapids, Michigan according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

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

Elementary Math Curriculum: Technology Component Renewal

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the 2-year purchase of the Dreambox Learning site license subscription for the purpose of school and home access for every elementary student for a cost of \$52,500.00. The cost of this program will be taken out of the curriculum budget for the corresponding year.

Discussion: Mrs. Everly is very pleased with the increased usage of Dreambox this school year, which is double to triple over last year.

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

LLI Kit Purchase – Raisinville Elementary

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Ms. Spicer to approve the purchase of instructional resources from Heinemann Publishing at a cost not to exceed \$10,260. Money for this purchase will come from 2013-2014 Title I funds in accordance with allowable expenditure guidelines for use of federal funds for supplemental instructional programming.

Discussion: Raisinville recently completed a 12-week extended day program targeting 1st and 2nd grade struggling readers. The LLI program was used exclusively and the average reading growth was two reading levels. There were jumps up to and including five reading levels. Mrs. Cyr recognized two retired teachers, Lynne Zabawa and Rozann Defrain, who were helpful in setting up the room and assisting in the extended day program.

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

Water Damage Repair at Monroe Middle School

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the bid of \$12,710 from Gratton Construction Co., Inc. of Monroe, Michigan, to replace additional ceiling tile due to water pipe leak. Money for this purchase will come from the Site Sinking Fund.

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

Replacement of Portable Generator Transfer Switch

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the low bid of \$4,890 from Geal Electric Company, of Monroe, Michigan, to replace the portable generator transfer switch and to provide an emergency backup power at Monroe High School to the district server and reject all other bids. Money for this purchase will come from the Site Sinking Fund.

Discussion: Dr. Martin commented that the entire backup for the administration building servers is at the high school, and without the generator working properly we would be in danger of losing a large amount of data.

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

Asbestos Abatement at Arborwood South

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to accept the low bid of \$42,165 from Total Environmental, of Toledo, Ohio, to remove and dispose of the AC thermal system insulation (TSI) in the boiler room, crawlspace, and exposed heating piping and reject all other bids. Money for this purchase will come from the Site Sinking Fund.

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

Asbestos Abatement at AWS – Domestic Water Alternate

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to accept the alternate bid of \$6,175 from Total Environmental, of Toledo, Ohio, to remove and dispose of an additional 650 linear feet of asbestos containing domestic water pipe insulation at Arborwood South. Money for this purchase will come from the Site Sinking Fund.

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

Asbestos Air Monitoring at Arborwood South

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to accept the bid of \$14,000 from DMD Environmental Inc. of Toledo, Ohio, for air monitoring during asbestos removal. Money for this purchase will come from the Site Sinking Fund.

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

Board Policies First Reading – Section 5000 – Personnel

Dr. Martin informed the Board that Section 5000 – Personnel is available for a first reading. The policy was sent to them via email. He asked the board to take note of the smoking policy that was inserted into section 5345. New regulations regarding teacher evaluations that the board voted on last year are included.

Superintendent Comments

- Congratulations to one of our student teachers at Monroe Middle School, Nick Knezevich, who learned that he is one of the recipients of the Siena Heights Outstanding Student Teacher Award. He will be recognized in ceremonies on April 25 at Siena Heights. Nick teaches with Doug Knight at MMS. Mr. Knight described his student teacher as someone who “has a great connection to our students, delivers intriguing lessons and always tells a good story about himself or current events when making connections to history.”
- The Monroe Middle School Orchestra under the direction of Ann Felder received a superior rating at the regional competition recently when they got all 1s. All three judges who reviewed the orchestra’s prepared performance gave them superior ratings and the orchestra received a “1” in sight-reading, too. It was the only group at the festival to receive straight 1s, and the first time in Ann’s career that one of her groups had achieved that.
- Our Monroe High choirs—under the direction of Cate Windelborn—had quite a week. All three choirs competed at the district festival recently and Expressions and Generations of Sound both achieved excellent ratings and were invited to the state choir festival. Concert choir earned a good rating and missed a perfect score in sight reading by just one point. At the state solo and ensemble festival last week, two of our choir students – Sarah Guy and Michaela Foulkrod – earned excellent ratings and freshman Christian Guy earned a good rating.
- We had several students compete and earn Division 1 ratings at the state solo and ensemble contest for instrumentalists. Earning 1s were Mary Stehulak (twice), Kristine Castellese, Grant Prater, Abigail Snow and Emilee Ickes. We also had three students earn Division 2 ratings. Earlier this school year, 8,000 band and orchestra students in Michigan participated in the contest and to have eight from Monroe High take such top honors is quite a tribute to these musicians, our musical program and to Mr. Nuechterlein, their teacher.
- To help support our instrumental music program, please consider stopping by Monroe High School this Saturday for a craft and vendor show. Nearly 50 crafters and vendors will be present, which is very good for a first-time event. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- For the fifth time in five years, Waterloo Elementary has been honored for its environmental work by being named a Michigan Green School. The school earned the Evergreen Award, which is the highest environmental award given to schools across the state, and for Waterloo it is the third time it has gotten the top state award. Waterloo will have a display at the Monroe County Earth Day Expo April 5 at the county fairgrounds.
- Also on April 5, we want to invite all of you to the Mall of Monroe to participate in Celebrate Children, an event where a number of child-service agencies come together at the mall to recognize and celebrate the uniqueness and the importance of children. Monroe Public Schools has a booth at the event and the activities for the children will be science related. These activities have been developed by our lower elementary grade science teachers under the direction of Kim Burkey.
- Monroe High School students continue their campus visits at various regional colleges. Last week 55 students toured the campus at the University of Toledo. Coming up soon are visits to Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The programs are part of the school's push toward a college-going culture in which students seriously think about their educational and career options and goals after they've completed high school. Mrs. Orr and her staff are continuing with their planning for Decision Day on May 1. This is a time when seniors will declare their selection of a college, university or trade school to attend after high school is complete. We will have more for you as we get closer to that date.
- This morning we had our second in a series of two education-business breakfasts at Monroe High School where we had breakfast with business leaders and then took them on a tour of our educational facilities. We were pleased with the progress we made in talks with representatives of Gerdau Specialty Steel, Ventower, DTE Energy, TWB (Tailor Welded Blanks), Midway Products, Mercy-Memorial Hospital and the Dundee Chrysler Engine Plant.

Old Business

There was none at this time.

New Business

- Ms. Spicer indicated that on Friday over 60 middle school students will tour the Monroe Power Plant.
- Mr. Yeo commented that the administration and the entire staff are doing a great job reaching out to community leaders and building partnerships.

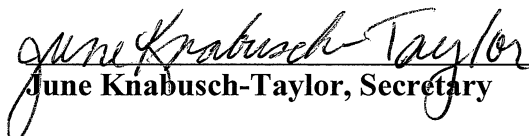
Public Commentary-Any Topic

Citizen Selma Rankins commented on the amount of work that needs to be done in order to improve test scores and close the achievement gap. Mr. Rankins acknowledged Milan for winning the state championship in basketball.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Ms. Spicer that the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting #6 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 8:40 p.m.


June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary