

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #10

June 3, 2014

6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

### **Roll Call and Call to Order**

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary June Knabusch-Taylor (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Mr. Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Ryan Philbeck, and Trustee Wendy Spicer

Board Members Absent: None

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

Administrators Absent: Jerry Oley, David Payne

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Manor School Focus Update**

Mrs. McMahon highlighted the most recent Manor School Focus Committee work. This is an ongoing process and will continue into next year and beyond. Mrs. McMahon discussed data talking points, initiatives that support student growth, professional development and tools for improvement.

### **Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only**

Citizen Selma Rankins complimented Mr. Zillgitt, who is retiring, for the great job he has done for Monroe Public Schools and his commitment to students.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- May 20, 2014 Board Work Session
- May 20, 2014 Board Meeting #9
- May 27, 2014 Special Work Session
- May 27, 2014 Closed Meeting

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

### **Reports and Update**

The May 19, 2014 Board Curriculum Committee Minutes were received. Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor mentioned to board members that if they have any questions regarding curriculum, they are welcome to ask a member on the curriculum committee.

### **Staff Resignations**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to approve the resignations from Monroe Public Schools of Otto Zillgitt as of June 19, 2014 and of David Prenkert as of August 29, 2014.

Discussion: Mr. Yeo thanked Mr. Zillgitt and Mr. Prenkert for their many years of great service to the district.

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

**Teacher Tenure Recognition**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March to confirm and endorse the granting of tenure for Dawn Brodie, Christina Taft, and Bryan Zamorski on the appropriate anniversary dates.

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

**Lunch Price Increase**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. Mason to approve Option B to set prices for school lunches for the 2014/15 school year.

Discussion: Ms. Spicer asked if we could pick different options for each level. Mrs. Eighmey stated that based on how we've done increases in the past, it's best to keep them equal. Increases may be done a number of ways as long as the average increase is ten cents per meal.

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

**MASB Membership**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to table this motion in order to find out why there was an increase in dues when our enrollment declined.

Discussion: Ms. Spicer stated that we do get money back from MASB. Mrs. Eighmey confirmed that we received \$37,000 this year. Dr. McLeod thinks the cost is not done per pupil; rather in ranges. Dr. Martin will contact MASB regarding the increase.

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

**MHSAA 2014-15 Membership**

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Mason to adopt the Michigan High School Athletic Association membership resolution for the year August 1, 2014 through July 31, 2015 as presented.

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

**Connected Math for Grades 6, 7, and 8**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of Pearson Connected Mathematics for grades sixth, seventh, and eighth, which will support the mathematics curriculum alignment with the National Common Core at an estimated amount not to exceed \$181,617.83.

Discussion: Sixth, seventh and eighth grade math teachers piloted the program throughout this school year. The initial quote was for \$250,000, but through negotiations with Pearson and several quotes later, a price was agreed upon. This quote includes all of the textbooks, the technology component and all of the classroom manipulatives that would normally be purchased separately. As a result of the pilot, teachers saw good results from all students, but especially from special education students. Dr. McLeod stated that we would purchase this material even if we weren't trying to align with the Common Core. This program is a step forward for our mathematics instruction in grades six through eight, and it aligns very closely to what our students are currently doing up through grade five.

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

**Manor School LLI Purchase**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the purchase of the instructional resources from Heinemann Publishing. The total cost of the materials, plus shipping, will not exceed \$5,130.00. The entire amount will be paid through the 2013-2014 Title I funds in accordance with allowable expenditure guidelines for use of federal funds for supplemental instructional programming.

Discussion: The LLI program is used throughout the district in all of our elementary buildings. Through this LLI program, we have seen significant reading gains among our students who are below grade level.

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

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova that Agenda Items C.10 and C.11 be considered as a Consent Agenda, and that the consent agenda items be approved as recommended.

- C.10 Move to approve the purchase of ELA books for the Arborwood Elementary Campus for a total cost not to exceed \$14,300.00. The total amount of this purchase will be covered by 2013-2014 Arborwood Title I funds in accordance with allowable expenditure guidelines for use of federal funds for supplemental instructional programming.
- C.11 Move to approve the purchase of 2,100 student planners from School Datebooks in the amount of \$4345.10 plus shipping and handling.

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

**MHSAA State Golf Meet**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the Monroe High School student attendance at the MHSAA State Golf Meet in East Lansing, Michigan; according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

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

**Superintendent Comments**

- Congratulations to Principal Valerie Orr and her staff who worked to ensure a smooth graduation. More than 600 visits were made to the YouTube site during the live event. The production was watched by people in 28 states and four foreign countries – United Arab Emirates, Austria, Germany and Sweden.
- Some 400 Custer families are expected to participate in the Family Engineering Night tomorrow evening, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Families will work together to design structures, test their creations and make revisions once testing is done.
- Friday, June 13, Monroe Middle School's Team 7A will host a variety of culturally based events to help students get a first-hand look at people and places around the world. The team has enlisted a number of people from our community who were raised in, or are familiar with, foreign cultures to come in and share their experiences.
- English teacher, Carol Sliwka, and about 120 of her sophomores will be in downtown Monroe next Monday morning participating in a writing marathon. The students will be in groups of four and will stop at different downtown locations to write, reflect on their writing and then discuss it with their fellow students.
- Waterloo kicked off its STEAM initiative with a parent informational meeting last week. This new concept is receiving strong support from the parents of the children who will be affected. STEAM is STEM with an Arts concept and Principal Lisa McLaughlin and her staff are excited about launching it this fall. The mission of the program is to empower Waterloo students of all ages through the full infusion of science, technology, engineering, arts and math.
- Congratulations to Monroe High School Teacher Sue Sacks and her Positive Peer Influence students who this year are completing their 20<sup>th</sup> year of elementary school instruction in the six-part Hazards of Tobacco program. It reaches about 500 students per year by being presented to all sixth grade classrooms in the district. Over the years more than 400 MHS students have participated as peer educators. Among those "alumni" are people working today as doctors, nurses, engineers, business professionals, lawyers, social workers, teachers and counselors.
- Reminder that the last day of school is June 17 and will be a half day for students.

**Old Business**

There was none at this time.

**New Business**

Mrs. Eighmey issued an RFP for a food service company contract. When she receives approval from the state, she will bring it to the board for their approval. She requested bids on two different plans. Plan A would have the food service assistants remain Monroe Public School employees. Plan B would turn the employees over to the contractor which would privatize these positions. Mrs. Eighmey recommended Plan A to keep the assistants as Monroe Public School employees.

**Public Commentary-Any Topic**

Dr. Martin read the following statement: It is important to remind everyone that there are two sides to every situation of this nature and the school district has responsibilities to its students as well as to its staff. Because we are an organization that works under specific collective bargaining agreements, the school district cannot always share as much information as some would demand. When issues of this nature arise, there are specific procedures that must be followed to protect the rights of those involved, and it can be difficult to wait for the process to run its course. We understand that the timing of this issue makes it more difficult, and the availability of social media can act upon the emotions of many people. The Middle School teacher and administrator involved are valued members of the Monroe Public Schools staff and deserve to be treated with respect, as do all members of our staff. The district has a process in place to address issues brought to our attention, and, as always, we will continue to provide a safe and respectful environment for students to learn and teachers to teach.

Mary Ann Cyr, Raisinville principal and vice president of the MFSA, read a statement concerning the recent public commentaries that have been made through social media regarding the administrative paid leave of Mr. Alan Barron. She shared the importance of understanding our legal, ethical and contractual obligations. Following the proper procedures of due process, information gathered by administrators pertaining to a teacher's conduct is not released to the public during this process. The expectation is that teachers are held to an ethical code. This code exists to protect our students and employees. If an investigation is warranted, it is the MPS administrator's responsibility to follow the proper procedures. The MFSA executive board would like to reach out to the community and ask that our stakeholders trust our district and its leadership by refraining from an age-old peril of stone throwing. We would never treat our students and staff in that manner and we ask the same in kind.

Crystal Caldwell, MMS/MHS graduation coach discussed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. and New York City. There were five students who would not have been able to attend without the help of Ms. Spicer and her DTE colleagues along with other community organizations. Mrs. Caldwell thanked Ms. Spicer and presented her with a poster that included pictures of the five students who went on the trip.

Kelly McMahon, Manor principal, feels that the Monroe Evening News did not follow good principles of journalism by presenting only one side in the article that was printed on Friday, June 30. It included Mr. Vergiels statement that Monroe Public Schools could not comment any further, but it did not state that by due process Monroe Public Schools legally couldn't comment. The newspaper release was slanted and it encouraged our community to take a stand in support of Mr. Barron.

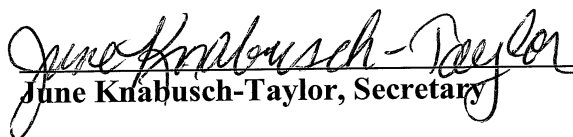
Selma Rankins, citizen, supports Mr. Barron for teaching black history and he feels Monroe Public Schools did the wrong thing. He stated that the Monroe Evening News goes out of their way to protect Monroe Public Schools.

Leon Bartley, citizen, asked Dr. Martin if the video that was shown in Mr. Barron's class would be allowed to be shown in the future. Dr. Martin stated that the intent of the film would have to be made very clear to the students. There would have to be proper preparation such as a lesson plan that had a specific purpose and tied to a specific curriculum goal. The maturity of the students would have to be at a level that they could understand why they were viewing the film.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Dr. March that the June 3, 2014, Board Meeting #10 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 hand vote at 6:53 p.m.

  
June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary