

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #11

June 24, 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, and Trustee Ryan Philbeck

Board Members Absent: Trustee Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Wendy Spicer

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

Administrators Absent: None

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Public Commentary-Any Topic

Because there were several requests for public commentary, this item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

- Amy Pace shared Washington Local Schools' mission statement, along with the district being named the #1 Workplace in the Region by the Best of Toledo 2013.
- Julie Klemz, Manor teacher and parent, expressed concern with the current direction that Manor School is taking. She is concerned that parents weren't informed about changes before final decisions were made and she believes parents should have had input. She expressed concern with the multi-grade level leadership teams and the process taken to implement this at Manor School.
- Lynne Duncan, MPS parent and a teacher at a local school district, expressed concern with changes to Manor School. Because of the multi-grade level leadership teams that are being implemented next year, she is concerned that her daughter won't eat lunch or have recess with her peers. Academics are a top priority, but at the elementary level, socializing is also important. She is also disappointed with the changes to the counseling department.
- Nikki Klonaris read a letter prepared by the Monroe County Education Association regarding the elimination of school counselors and to replace most of the counselors with social workers. The letter detailed the training school counselors receive and the services they provide to students and parents. Social workers are dedicated also, but they lack the school related knowledge that is vital to working with students. The MCEA requests that the board reconsider this decision.
- Sandy Bonavero, former elementary counselor, read an article titled "Why Elementary School Counselors." The article talked about elementary students' developmental needs and how counseling programs provide education, prevention and intervention services.

- Kris Rossi, former MHS counselor, addressed the board in regards to eliminating the counseling department. The decision to eliminate the counseling department wasn't based on research or educational data, but instead on financial data. There won't be any counselors at the elementary level. There will be social workers in each elementary building, but because of how they're funded they can only work with at risk students. Ms. Rossi is concerned about the students that don't meet this requirement. At the high school level, students will now have to go to several different people for help and/or to get questions answered. Counselors advocate for all students, not just at risk students.
- Darren Pocs asked the Board to reconsider the decision to eliminate the counseling department. Even though the plan will place more people in the buildings and save the district money, there are pitfalls to this plan. Social workers provide a valuable service in and out of our schools, but they are not counselors, nor do they have the same training. Social workers will be hired as part-time employees with no benefits. A high degree of turnover can certainly be anticipated. The counselors that are hired will take on a more administrative role overseeing the new social workers. Counselors should be focused on one task – meeting the needs of students. Around this time of year, we rush to make cuts that affect the lives of employees and students. These decisions, including this one, have been made on projections. Mr. Pocs believes that the projection process needs refinement.
- Selma Rankins expressed concerned about the black 7th grade students who scored zero on the science test. He would like to see more black teachers in the schools. He shared information on Daniel James, who was rejected from the Navy, then ended up becoming a 4-star general.
- Lynn Colturi, former MMS counselor, discussed the intensive training each counselor received in order to become a school counselor, and how dedicated they are to their students. With these changes, she is concerned with how the public will perceive counselors; that counseling services are not a top priority of the district.

Mr. Yeo appreciates everyone's comments. These are emotional issues and the board takes them very seriously.

Dr. Martin understands that change is difficult, and we will work together to have better communication between Manor parents and staff. He believes these issues can be resolved amicably if we continue the discussion over the summer and come up with a plan that's going to be the most beneficial to Manor students. The student achievement levels in the district are not where they need to be. With this plan, we are trying to provide better services and learning opportunities for our kids. There is a district wide need for supporting the emotional and social needs of students in a comprehensive and effective way. By restructuring the counseling department, there will be more people available to meet the needs of students. While it is a financial benefit, we are increasing student services at the same time.

Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

There was none at this time.

Approval of Minutes

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

- June 3, 2014 Board Meeting #10 Minutes
- June 10, 2014 Special Work Session Minutes
- June 10, 2014 Closed Work Session Minutes

Discussion: The June 10, 2014 Closed Work Session Minutes will be changed to show Ryan Philbeck was in attendance.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Reports and Update

The June 2, 2014 Board Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes and the Informational Report – Contracted Coaches were received.

Discussion: Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor is concerned with coaches starting their positions and/or their names being announced in the press before board approval. Mr. Yeo agreed that we should make every effort to avoid announcements of hires before board approval. Dr. Martin stated that this is part of the recently implemented communication plan.

Final Amended 2013/14 Budget

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to adopt the final amended 2013/14 fund budgets for the General, Food Service and Building and Site Sinking funds as presented.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

2014/15 Proposed Budget

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to adopt the 2014/15 proposed budgets for General, Food Service, Sinking Fund and Building and Site funds as presented. Furthermore, the Board has determined that the non-homestead millage rate be established at 18 mills for operating purposes and an additional 1 mill be levied for Building and Site Sinking Fund on all property as approved by referendum in 2008.

Discussion: Mr. Philbeck expressed concern with taking funds from the fund balance to support the deficit of the general fund; we go below the state recommended percentages and against board policy.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

State Aid Note Program

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March that the Board of Education approve the District's participation in the Michigan Finance Authority 2014 State Aid Note Program as presented.

Discussion: This is identical to what is done every year. Dollar amounts change, but the procedure is the same.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Food Service Management Contract

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to award the food service management contract to Sodexo for the 2014/2015 school year. It should be noted that the State law allows the district to extend the food service management company contract up to four additional years without formally re-bidding the contract.

Discussion: Mrs. Eighmey commented that the district has been working with Sodexo since 2002 and we are very pleased with their service.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Staff Resignations

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools of Callie Preslan, Sharon Thomas, Cassidy Wodke and Kathleen Worth at the end of the 2013-14 school year; of Matthew Cortez effective June 25, 2014; of Kelly McMahon effective July 30, 2014 and of Dale DeSloover effective August 31, 2014.

Discussion: Miss Thomas was in the audience and Mrs. Everly commented that her services as an elementary counselor have been highly valued across the district.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Coaching Recommendations

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the coaches listed below for the 2014/15 school year, as per the MCEA master agreement.

Last Name	First Name	Title	Sport	School	Season
Scoles	Mark	Head Coach	Cross Country - Co Ed	MHS	Fall
Mydloski	James	Assistant Coach	Cross Country - Co Ed	MHS	Fall
Moytka	Ron	Assistant Coach	Football - 9th Grade	MHS	Fall
McCollum	Jody	Assistant Coach	Football - 9th Grade	MHS	Fall
Clark	John (Jay)	Assistant Coach	Football - Varsity	MHS	Fall
Reed	Kyle	Assistant Coach	Football - Varsity	MHS	Fall
Schade	Doug	Head Coach	Swimming - Varsity Girls	MHS	Fall
Matusik	Bob	Coach	Tennis - Varsity Boys	MHS	Fall
Hutchinson	Jason	Head Coach	Football - 7th Grade	Monroe Middle	Fall
Finnegan	Patrick	Asst. Coach	Football - 8th Grade	Monroe Middle	Fall
Columbus	Russ	Coach	Soccer Co-Ed - 7th & 8th	Monroe Middle	Fall
Pitcher	Debra	Coach	Volleyball - 7th Grade	Monroe Middle	Fall
Stefanski	Patricia	Coach	Volleyball - 8th Grade	Monroe Middle	Fall
Nocella	Larry	Head Coach	Basketball - Varsity Girls	MHS	Winter
Schade	Doug	Head Coach	Swimming - Varsity Boys	MHS	Winter
Pecora	Jackie	Head Coach	Swimming - 7/8 Co-Ed	Monroe Middle	Winter
Michael	Heather	Assistant Coach	Swimming - 7/8 Co-Ed	Monroe Middle	Winter
Rooney	Brian	Coach	Basketball - 7th Grade Girls	Monroe Middle	Winter II
Dessauer	Tara	Coach	Basketball - 7th Grade Girls	Monroe Middle	Winter II
Bomia	Amanda	Coach	Basketball - 8th Grade Girls	Monroe Middle	Winter II
Wood	Bobby	Monroe Middle School Sports Supervisor		Monroe Middle	All Year

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations Contract Extension

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve a contract renewal with Temporary School Staff, Inc. for the placement of Robert Vergiels as the Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations for the 2014/15 school year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015).

Discussion: Mr. Philbeck appreciated the update from Mr. Vergiels at the workshop earlier in the evening.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ratification of the Monroe City Educational Secretarial Association MEA/NEA Master Agreement

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to ratify the Master Agreement for June 24, 2014 to June 30, 2015 between the Monroe City Educational Secretarial Association MEA/NEA and the Monroe Board of Education effective June 24, 2014.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

MHS Marching Band Camp

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the Monroe High School Trojan Marching Band trip to Spring Arbor University for their annual band camp August 4-9, 2014; according

to the terms of Policy IICA Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: Last year was the first year at Spring Arbor and it worked out very well. Mr. Philbeck thanked Mr. Nuechterlein for attending tonight's meeting.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Upward Bound Students Year End Field Trip

Motion by Mr. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the Upward Bound Program overnight trip to New York City, New York. Students and chaperones will depart on Sunday, August 3, 2014, and return on Thursday, August 7, 2014; according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: Mr. Yeo thanked Ms. Lambert for attending tonight's meeting.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Wrestling Camp

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the Monroe High School Wrestling Team Camp at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Football Jerseys

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the purchase of football jerseys from Riddell not to exceed \$8,082.95, and reject all other quotes. Funds for this purchase will be taken from the 2014/15 Athletic Fund.

Discussion: Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor asked if this is the only sport that athletic funds are used to cover the cost of uniforms. Dr. Ray stated that the athletic department pays for every sport except hockey, competitive cheer and bowling, because they are considered clubs.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

MASB Membership

Motion by Dr. March; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the 2014/15 membership dues to the Michigan Association of School Boards in the amount of \$7,090.

Discussion: The board was hesitant to approve this request because MASB increased their dues revenue by 2.8%. Mr. Philbeck supports this because of the credit we receive each year. Mrs. Eighmey confirmed that we received \$37,490 last year.

Vote: Motion carried by a 4-1 roll call vote. Mr. VanWasshenova voted no.

Transportation Two-Way Radios

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the bid from Herkimer Radio Service of Monroe, Michigan, for \$81,590.00 for the purchase of digital Transportation Two-Way Radios. Money for this purchase will come from the general fund.

Discussion: These radios will give us the ability to communicate effectively with our bus drivers anywhere in the school district.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Gymnasium Floors – MHS and MMS

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to accept the low bid of \$8,840.00 from ALLCOURT, Inc. of Northville, Michigan, for the screening, refinishing and repair of the gymnasium floors at Monroe High School and Monroe Middle School, and reject all other bids. Money for this

purchase will come from the General and Site Sinking Funds.

Discussion: After ALLCOURT starts the project, they may discover that they're unable to repair the middle school floor. An alternate bid has been provided if a section of the floor needs to be replaced.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Raisinville Elementary Sign

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to accept the low bid of \$13,000.00 from Daktronic/Hardy & Sons Sign Service, Inc. for an electronic sign to be installed at Raisinville Elementary School. Funds for this purchase will come from the Raisinville PTO, the Raisinville Pop Account and the General Fund.

Discussion: Mr. VanWasshenova appreciates the PTO for helping with this purchase.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Mobile Device Purchase

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the purchase of 1,350 Dell Chromebooks and 39 Ava carts at a cost not to exceed \$440,505.50. This purchase will be funded by the General Fund and the Technology Millage.

Discussion: \$410,000 will come from the general fund and the rest will come from the technology millage. This was part of the plan last year, but it was decided to only do the elementary purchase at that time. Mr. Payne indicated that this purchase would constitute a rebate. We received a rebate of \$85,840 on the elementary devices purchased last year and that amount will go towards this purchase. About \$265,000 will come out of curriculum and Mrs. Eighmey stated that the curriculum budget has not increased because of this purchase. Mrs. Everly noted that Mr. Payne has worked very closely with teams of teachers on curriculum. Teachers have said that the connectivity of the Acers at the high school is very poor, and students have indicated there is a vast difference of access to technology between elementary and secondary. Technology purchases for elementary are supplemented with Title I funds so the student/device ratio is much higher than secondary. This purchase will help create a seamless transition for our students from elementary to secondary.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Summer Technology Purchase

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck to approve the technology purchases as listed and the software maintenance and renewals at a cost not to exceed \$410,588.57. This purchase will be funded by the General Fund and the Technology Millage.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Superintendent Comments

- The Summer Learning Academy will begin next Monday at Monroe High School for students in grades K-12.
- A group of Arborwood teachers will go to several neighborhoods throughout the summer to help students with their reading skills. This was set up by the school's Family Engagement Committee.
- The Knabusch Center is offering two summer programs – Survivor Camp and Science of the Outdoors Camp. These camps are being offered several times this summer and each session runs one week.
- The filing deadline to run for one of the three seats up for election on the Board of Education is July 22 at 4:00 p.m.
- Detroit Tigers bullpen catcher Jeff Kunkel surprised Arborwood students when he showed up on the last day of school to urge them to read over the summer.

- Congratulations to Riley Delben and Grace Stadler, who are recipients of two \$500 scholarships from the Monroe High School Alumni Association.
- The Waterloo STEAM program received kudos in an editorial by the Monroe Evening News.
- Monroe High School is the site of the First Robotics Michigan's Advanced Robotics Competition this weekend. More than 40 teams from at least 5 states will compete.

Old Business

There was none at this time.

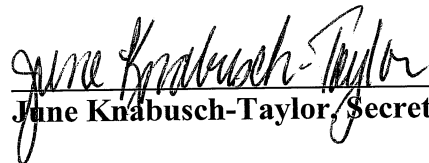
New Business

There was none at this time.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Philbeck that the June 24, 2014, Board Meeting #11 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 hand vote at 8:50 p.m.



June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary