

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #16

September 9, 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 (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Trustee Aaron N. Mason, and Trustee Wendy Spicer

Board Members Absent: Trustee Ryan Philbeck

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

Administrators Absent: Jerry Oley

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

### Public Commentary-Agenda Items Only

Selma Rankins commented on the resignations of Melissa Provo and Melinda Carr. They are both outstanding employees and will be missed.

### Approval of Minutes

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

- August 26, 2014, Board Work Session
- August 26, 2014, Board Meeting #15
- September 4, 2014, Special Work Session

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

### Reports and Update

The August 18, 2014, Board Curriculum Committee Minutes and the Informational Reports – Contracted Services and Contracted Coaches were received.

### Clerical Appointment

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason to approve the appointment of Shonna Wener as part-time secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 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 5-0 roll call vote.

### Clerical Appointment

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the appointment of Lori Sieler as secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 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 6-0 roll call vote.

**Clerical Appointment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the appointment of Jessica Maniaci as secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 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 6-0 roll call vote.

**Staff Resignations**

Motion by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor; support by Mr. Mason to approve the resignations from Monroe Public Schools of Melissa Provo effective August 26, 2014; James Seelhoff effective August 27, 2014; and Melinda Carr effective September 15, 2014.

Discussion: Dr. McLeod noted that these employees are leaving for opportunities that are beneficial to them.

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

**Washington D.C. and New York City Field Trip - MMS**

Motion by Ms. Spicer; support by Mr. Mason to approve Monroe Middle School's field trip request to Washington D.C. and New York City, April 23 through April 26, 2015, according to the terms of Policy IICA, Field Trips and Excursions.

Discussion: Monroe Middle School teachers Kevin Pilgrim and James Drew informed the board that students can choose to participate in fund raising to offset the cost of the trip. Mr. Drew thanked Ms. Spicer and Mrs. Flynn for their generosity last year for helping several students. Without their help, these students wouldn't have been able to participate in the field trip.

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

**Food Service Equipment Purchase**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor to approve the purchase of two mobile heated pan cabinets and a walk-in freezer from Burkett Restaurant Equipment and one convection oven from Zesco for a total cost not to exceed \$19,856.49. Cost for the equipment will be taken from the 2014/15 Food Service Fund.

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

**Superintendent Comments**

The first week of school seemed to go smoothly. There were a few glitches here and there, but for the most part, students got to school, teachers were prepared, learning proceeded, and routines began to be set. Everyone on the staff did an outstanding job to make sure we were ready for students on September 2, and Dr. Martin commended each and every one for their hard work and contributions to having a smooth start to the school year.

Some highlights from each building include:

- From Mrs. Orr: We are very pleased that our college-going culture continues this year at MHS. With almost 100 students enrolled first trimester in the Direct College Program, we know we are continuing to hold high expectations for our students. Our new support staff have jumped in full force and are helping students with any issues or concerns that arise.
- From Mr. Pollzzie: We had a great start to the year at Arborwood Campus. At our school family meeting on Thursday, I challenged our students to read or be read to for 30 min/day. They will be

electronically logging their hours. Each student who reaches the goal of reading for 15 hours in 1 month will be recognized at our Community of Learners meeting and throughout the school. Also, if the campus reaches the trimester goal of 30,000 hours, I will do something crazy for the school (students will also be choosing the crazy thing).

- From Dr. Cyr: Raisinville is pleased to report a seamless return to school this 2014-15 school year. We are housing 428 students, 10 of whom are new to us from the parochial system. The typical response from parents is that once they realize everything we have to offer, they wished they would have come to us earlier. We are also excited about our exploration of the International Baccalaureate program. On September 24th, nine teachers and I will visit Oxford IB school in Bloomfield Hill, Michigan, to observe IB teaching in action. The staff is very excited about this endeavor as it is in keeping with our work, our curriculum and our best practices. I am amazed with the fact that we are already in full swing. Routines are in place, students are engaged and from the outside looking in, it appears like we have been in school for a month! We are ready for another great year at Raisinville.
- From Mrs. McLaughlin: Waterloo Elementary is Full STEAM Ahead. The “Dress for Success” policy started on the first day of school with all of the students entering Waterloo School sporting the new dress policy. We have committed to a 1:1 electronic device in every classroom and LEGO robotics has been added as our new encore at every grade level. The Scientific Method and the Engineering Design process is implemented throughout every classroom as the teachers are integrating curriculum using problem based experiences as we prepare our students for their post-secondary endeavors.
- From Mrs. Henry: Our enrollment at OCHS is up by about 24% from the third trimester of last year. Currently we have 151 students on our enrollment list, and we finished last year with 116. One of our students commented yesterday that our school is getting big! We have enrolled an average of seven new students a day since our fall opening. We hope the word is getting out in the community already that OCHS is a great school to attend. Next week, our students vote for their school officers and Knights United representatives and we will begin to plan with the students our best year yet. We also kicked off our Habits of Mind curriculum in our Knights United class where students are embracing the chance to be their own self-manager, self-monitor, and self-modifier. One of our students made a comment about the new expectations that sums our curriculum up well, “I am finally being expected to behave as the young adult I am supposed to be. It is a lot to expect of me, but when you only expect for me to behave as a child and the adults in the school try to manage me, I lower my standards and take the easy way out. If they are going to do the work, why should I do it? It feels good to be counted on for more. I feel respected that I can be trusted to manage myself. I am up for the challenge.” If there are any board members, who would like to help us design a learning lab where our students can go during lunch and after school for a quiet place to study, work and relax, and our teachers can take their classes to a different location other than their classroom during a given hour, please contact Chantele Henry through email.

Our enrollment in our Monroe Virtual High School is also growing. We believe it is because there are more students who are beginning to understand that there are multiple options for finishing their high school diploma at Monroe Public Schools. Some students who struggle with anxiety about school in particular are so relieved to discover the smaller learning environment at Orchard as well as the independence of our virtual high school. On the other hand, we have a few students

that also realize that the high school is better for them and they have returned. We are so glad they have wiggle room to create an option that works best for them inside of their home school district. We are so proud of what we have to offer them at Monroe Public Schools.

Our adult GED enrollment is at about 35 students at the Learning Bank and 20 in our evening Orchard program. We are looking forward to getting approved as a GED testing site and technology will be finishing up the details of the lab at OCHS over the month of September so that our students can take the GED here in Monroe very soon.

- From Mrs. Flynn: Monroe Middle School began the school year with many new faces joining our staff. All of our students entered the building through the front doors, with staff donning the Monroe Middle School "Grit" theme T-shirts as they greeted our students. All students were in their classes by 7:53 and at the end of the day only five students missed their bus. The second day of school we conducted our state of the school assemblies in enrichment by welcoming our students and setting the expectations for students this school year. We have reached our goal of becoming a school wide building using Inquiry and staff and students are extremely excited to begin their IPT projects this week. We are so pleased with the fabulous start to the 2014-2015 school year!
- From Mrs. Bennett: Custer Elementary will offer extended day learning opportunities before and after school that integrate math, science, reading and writing. These programs include: Young Engineers, Lego Movie Makers, and Coders Club. As Custer continues to create a state-of-the-art learning environment, we have added an outdoor science lab site with the help of a Lowe's grant and large screen monitors in the Custer 1 cafeteria that will run student produced broadcasts.
- From Mrs. Joseph: Manor Elementary is embarking on its second year as a Leader in Me school. For the 2014-2015 school year this initiative will include students setting academic goals for themselves, the development of a Parent Lighthouse team, and opportunities for students to strengthen their personal leadership skills within the structure of Manor's three Y5-6 leadership teams.

### **Old Business**

There was none at this time.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Everly provided information on the assistants' contract ratification in Board Briefs this past Friday. If board members have any questions, please contact her.

Mr. Yeo received a call from a parent who transferred their son from SMCC to MHS. They were very pleased with the treatment they received from the entire MHS team. Their son was apprehensive about transferring, but they are thrilled as a family how well he's been received and treated by everyone, including the students.

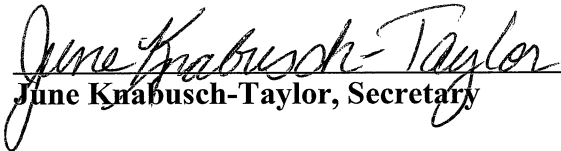
### **Public Commentary-Any Topic**

There was none at this time.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor that the September 9, 2014, Board Meeting #16 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 7:37 p.m.

  
June Knabusch-Taylor, Secretary