

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #21

November 25, 2014

7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

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

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Secretary Wendy Spicer, Trustee Aaron N. Mason, Trustee Ryan Philbeck, and Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Board Members Absent: Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March

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 7:03 p.m.

### **Red Cross Award**

Monroe Middle School swim class teacher Chuck Kern presented a Certificate of Merit Award from the American Red Cross to Jett Swihart for rescuing a struggling swimmer during class at the end of last school year. This is the highest award given by the American Red Cross.

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

Selma Rankins expressed his concern about hiring another white teacher. He had the opportunity to talk to her and believes she is a good person. He hopes to be invited to her classroom because he believes black kids are not learning.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- November 11, 2014, Board Meeting #20
- November 11, 2014, Closed Meeting

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote. Mrs. Taylor abstained.

### **Reports and Update**

The October 20 and November 17, 2014, Board Curriculum Committee Minutes; the November 13, 2014, Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes; and the Informational Report – Contracted Services and Contracted Coaches were received.

### **Teacher Appointment**

Motion by Mr. Philbeck; support by Mr. VanWasshenova to approve the appointment of Rachel Kowalczyk as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective December 1, 2014, and place on the appropriate salary level as contained in the Master Agreement, and upon completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Discussion: Ms. Kowalczyk worked at MHS as an interventionist and she is an advocate for all students. Because she was working as an interventionist, we know the quality of her work and feel confident she

will serve all of our students very well.

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

### **Staff Resignation**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Taylor to approve the resignation from Monroe Public Schools of Tracy DeBlair effective December 1, 2014.

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

### **Board Policy Section 6000 – First Reading**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Ms. Spicer to approve Board Policy Section 6000 Negotiations as a first reading.

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

### **Reinstatement Committee Recommendation**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the recommendation of Monroe Public Schools Reinstatement Committee that Student #1 be reinstated to Orchard Center High School and student #2 be reinstated. If approved, this will be effective immediately.

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

### **Superintendent Comments**

I had a chance to stop in to the new school store that will soon be opening at Monroe High School. The store is being set up by the Monroe High School MOCI class under the direction of teacher Lauren Rhoades. The store looks great and should be a real positive addition to the activities offered at Monroe High School.

Orchard students have now taken two trips to MCCC; one for an event that was put on by the college called XTECH and another during college week where they participated in an informational meeting about the college. DTE paid for their transportation for X-Tech and Monroe County Community College paid for dinner. As a culmination to their field trips to the community college, they celebrated college week as well. A counselor from MCCC came to Orchard as a guest speaker for our seniors. All seniors filled out a college application for MCCC, and they learned about and are scheduled to take the Compass Test in the spring. All of our OCHS students logged into Career Cruising and took the inventory tests to find out about potential careers and college possibilities. They also have the counselors from MCCC scheduled to come and help parents with the FASFA application in February. Orchard is really making strides in connecting students with a plan beyond their diploma. They have a trip planned next month to a trade school as well. Dr. Kojo Quartey, president of MCCC, and Peter, the director of the Technology Center came to eat lunch with Orchard students on Thursday of last week. He gave out certificates to all of the students that participated in XTECH, spoke to our students about creating a positive plan for their future, and talked about certificate programs that could help our students get to work in a great job in a short amount of time. Before Dr. Quartey left, there was a wonderful conversation with him about creating an introductory course for Orchard students that would be offered in the evening, once a week at the college for the purpose of introducing students to technology tracks that lead to employment. Things are in the designing phase, but we are hoping that it will kick off in the spring, and that Orchard students might be able to receive a college credit for taking the course.

We just received word today that we will be receiving a \$4,000 grant from Chrysler Dundee Engine Manufacturing Plant to be used towards a Monroe High School STEM initiative in the CTE department.

A special thank you goes to Mr. Henry Smith, maintenance director at the Dundee plant, for his support of the grant process.

The GM foundation contributed the \$5,000 entry fee for the Monroe Trojan Robotics Team. This support is critical to the continued success of this popular program.

Finally, there was a very successful Regional Lego Tournament at the high school on Saturday. Over 40 teams participated. There will be a state level competition at Monroe High on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Old Business**

Mr. Yeo welcomed Matt Bunkelman and Floreine Mentel who will join the board in January.

#### **New Business**

Ms. Spicer is excited to be working with Jasmine for the positive behaviors at MMS, as well as the New York and Washington DC trips.

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

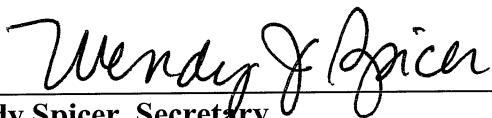
Selma Rankins compared Monroe Public Schools to Ferguson. He visited a school today and had a good conversation with a teacher. He thinks citizens should be given more time to address the board.

Mr. Mason noted that nine years ago public commentary time was doubled. Public commentary was added to the beginning of the meeting, which was in addition to public commentary at the end of the meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason that the November 25, 2014, Board Meeting #21 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 6-0 hand vote at 7:30 p.m.



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Wendy Spicer, Secretary