

# MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting #22

December 9, 2014

7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

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

Board Members Present: President Robert Yeo, Vice President Lawrence VanWasshenova, Parliamentarian Dr. Tedd March, Trustee Aaron N. Mason, and Trustee Cynthia Taylor

Board Members Absent: Secretary Wendy Spicer, Trustee Ryan Philbeck

Administrators Present: Barry Martin, Katherine Eighmey, Jerry Oley, David Payne

Administrators Absent: Julie Everly, Ryan McLeod

President Yeo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **Recognition of Board Members**

Dr. Martin presented Aaron Mason and Wendy Spicer with plaques thanking them for their years of service to Monroe Public Schools Board of Education. Ms. Spicer was a member of the board for four years, and Mr. Mason was a member for over six years. Mr. Yeo accepted a special award for Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor who served the board for 24 years.

### **Student Art Projects**

Mary Ann Cyr, Raisinville principal, and art teachers Steve Simon, Bonnie Ritsema, Melanie Castellese, Melissa Cramer and Pam Mathews were present to introduce elementary art students whose work is on display for an entire year on the walls of the board room. These works of art have also been on display at the Mall of Monroe Art Show as well as at the Monroe County Fair. Each student received a certificate of merit.

### **Sodexo**

Mrs. Eighmey introduced Mark Haveraciak who is our onsite general manager for Sodexo Foodservice.

### **Recess**

A short recess was called to enjoy refreshments at 7:18 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:33 p.m.

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

There was none at this time.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- November 25, 2014, Board Work Session
- November 25, 2014, Board Meeting #21
- December 2, 2014, Special Board Meeting
- December 2, 2014, Closed Meeting

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

**Reports and Update**

The Informational Report – Contracted Services Recommendations and Contracted Coaches; and the December 1, 2014 Board Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes were received.

**Clerical Appointment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mrs. Taylor to approve the appointment of Susan Alston as secretary with Monroe Public Schools effective Monday, December 15, 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.

**Teacher Appointment**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the appointment of Loren Hayes as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools effective Monday, December 15, 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.

**District/Community Engagement Coordinator**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Dr. March to approve the appointment of Bobb Vergiels as the District/Community Engagement Coordinator through TSSI beginning immediately and continuing for twelve months ending in December of 2015 upon which time contract extension will be considered based on performance and continued need for the position.

Discussion: Mr. Yeo appreciates the discussions he and Dr. Martin have had regarding this position. Mr. Mason didn't support the position when it was created several years ago, but was part of the interview panel and supported hiring Mr. Vergiels. He thinks there's still a need for the position, but there are other things being discussed on an administrative level such as the HR position. Mrs. Taylor would like to see the big picture of curriculum and staffing before supporting this position. Mr. VanWasshenova would also like to see the big picture for staffing, but he thinks there is a need for this position. Mrs. Taylor thinks the superintendent should be the spokesperson for Monroe Public Schools. Dr. Martin stated that since we haven't had anyone in this position since school started, there have been a number of missed opportunities with the press for promoting the district, which is something that Mr. Vergiels did very well. In his role, Mr. Vergiels was able to be in the buildings, taking pictures and communicating with staff. He was key in organizing certain events. We didn't lose as many students as projected this year and Dr. Martin contributes that to the staff and the work that's being done in the buildings; but he also contributes it to that information getting out to the public. Dr. March stated that it's not uncommon for a district our size to have a person in this position. Mr. Mason thinks that Mr. Vergiels did a great job putting a story together for the newspaper to promote the district. His concern is where that duty belongs; does it need to be a separate role.

Vote: Motion carried by a 3-2 roll call vote. Mr. Mason and Mrs. Taylor voted no.

**Textbook Purchase – Orchard Center High School**

Motion by Mr. VanWasshenova; support by Mr. Mason to approve the purchase of the Prentice Hall World History textbooks from Follett School Solutions for OCHS in the amount of \$5,968.80. This purchase will be paid from the Orchard Center High School textbook account.

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

**Adoption of Board Policy 6000 – Negotiations**

Motion by Mrs. Taylor; support by Mr. Mason to adopt Board Policy 6000 – Negotiations as written effective December 9, 2014.

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

**Superintendent Comments**

Waterloo School was highlighted in Dr. Martin's comments.

Kindergarten students in Ellen Perkins' and Jennifer Reed's classrooms will be meeting at Fountain View Nursing Home on Saturday, December 13, to sing Christmas Carols with the residents. The residents of Fountain View are the recipients of Reed's and Perkins' classrooms' community service project.

Ellen Perkins and her husband Mike have put together the Waterloo Youth Group. The building will be open once a month on Saturdays for former Waterloo students in grades 8-12. The students will be able to meet and talk, play board games, etc. Lunch will be served during this time to the participants. Discussion will be open, but there will be a focus on post-secondary readiness and guiding students to apply for the Waterloo Scholarship. The first meeting date is January 10, 2015.

Chris Taft's classroom participated in a series of videotaping and interviews done by Christopher Slat, the videographer from the ISD. The taping focused on STEAM and will be the first showing of the ISD's TV show.

Waterloo will be hosting the Monroe Living Learning Council Appreciation Reception for Student Teachers on Wednesday, December 17. Several of the classrooms will have STEAM presentations set up in the hallway for guests to view. Wendy Antko will use this date to do her Trimester 1 "learning showcase" for her students' families. Wendy's STEAM project for Trimester 1 integrated social studies across the curriculum. The students in second grade focus on communities for social studies. The students are creating maps of our local community. They created paper copies of different landmarks in our community. Templates to be used as stamps for the map "key" are being created by Victoria Sweet's class at MHS. Once the information is loaded into the CAD program by Victoria's students, then Glen Zorn's students will cut the metal into a 3"x 3" template for the Waterloo students to use to mark the legends on their maps. Chris Slat will be filming this whole process, including the classrooms at MHS.

Cheryl Bindus' and Amanda Iocoangeli's classrooms are completing their Trimester 1 study of the Water Cycle. The students tested water from different water sources. The representative from Monroe County Soil Conservation office shared the water cycle and erosion model and demonstration that she does in classrooms. The students then created models of ways to transfer water from one source to another. On Thursday of this past week they visited Fedco here in Monroe. This locally owned company gave the students a fantastic tour and demonstration of how the desalination plant creates the pumps and equipment to create fresh water from salt water sources. On Friday the students were asked by their teacher to redesign their first water transferring source using the new information from the field trip. During this engineering process the students could not use gravity as the means of transfer.

In the area of robotics, 18 teams have been established for a robotics competition that will take place in March at Waterloo.

Waterloo is a part of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Building Healthy Communities grant. The six components of the grant have been implemented throughout the school.

The Waterloo Christmas Card Distribution Community Walk will take place on Tuesday, December 16. Each classroom will create Christmas cards to be delivered throughout the Waterloo neighborhood. This has been an annual tradition which is widely appreciated and cherished by members of the Waterloo neighborhoods.

Denise Gray and Wendy Antko are leading the way for the first ever Waterloo Career Day..... I have a Dream Event. This will take place on Friday, January 16. They are inviting Waterloo community members to showcase their careers. They are hoping to get a good variety of occupations from our Waterloo friends. If need be, they will go outside Waterloo to make sure there are different types of careers. There will be prep work done with the students prior to the event, and then there will be reflections and carryover done after the event.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Mason reviewed his notes on the work that was done while creating the Board's vision statement.

### **New Business**

Mr. Yeo welcomed Mr. Bunkelman and Mrs. Mentel who were in the audience this evening. He also thanked Mr. Mason for sharing his notes on the vision statement.

Mr. Yeo mentioned that he is overwhelmed with the unparalleled dedication and support that Mrs. Knabusch-Taylor gave Monroe Public Schools over the years; she never wavered in her commitment to students.

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

Mrs. Orr, MHS principal, shared her thoughts on the District/Community Engagement Coordinator. Mr. Vergiels' work in helping her inform the community last spring about the Direct College program brought families to the high school. It's been difficult this year without someone in this position. The innovation has not stopped at the high school, but the information is not getting out to the community.

Mrs. McLaughlin, Waterloo principal, commented on the amount of publicity received last year during the playground competition. She thinks it had a huge impact on their increased enrollment this school year. The STEAM related activities that are currently happening at Waterloo are not receiving the publicity they deserve.

Mr. Mason appreciates this information because it provides evidence to help justify this position.

Mrs. Henry, Orchard principal, agrees that this position is needed to help get the message out about the positive things we are doing in our schools.

Mr. Bunkelman hopes that this job encompasses the social media as well as print. He would like to see a program developed to assess and evaluate the position.

Mrs. Mentel commented on how Mr. Vergiels promoted student activities outside of the school day as well as during the summer.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Mason; support by Mrs. Taylor that the December 9, 2014, Board Meeting #22 of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 5-0 hand vote at 8:26 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final vertical stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

Secretary