

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order by President Dayton. Prayer was offered by Mr. Mickey Traweek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Dayton
Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Krutzer
Mr. James Mickey Traweek
Mr. Jessie Handy
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

Superintendent and Administrative Staff

Dr. James Dupree
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Mr. Andrew Hill
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Dr. Tammye Turpin
Mr. Bobby Williams
Mrs. Julie Staley
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Ms. Karla Bowlin
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Bishop McFarland to delete agenda item 8:C (LA Tech report), delete agenda item 9:B (Athletic and Activity Stipends report), and approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5:A – Adoption of the Agenda
- 5:B – Adoption of September 16, 2008 Board Minutes
- 5:C – Human Resources Agenda

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – President’s Reports and Announcements

President Dayton welcomed everyone to the meeting. The public was informed on procedures for addressing the Board on agenda and non-agenda items.

Action Item 6:A – Superintendent’s Performance Objectives

Public Input

Mr. Neil Shaw commented on objective #5 on the draft performance objectives. He also questioned Mrs. Shelling and Dr. Dupree about Cassandra Shelling being recommended for a position at Wossman High School.

President Dayton advised Mr. Shaw not to make personal comments.

Board Comments

Bishop McFarland stated that the Board president must take charge of Board meetings by enforcing the orderly meeting rules.

Mrs. Shelling noted that she has been working on the performance objectives but she would like to see input from the entire Board.

President Dayton stated that the test data from last year should be available by the end of the week. She further stated that the information should be thoroughly reviewed in order to set true performance objectives.

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mr. Traweck to table agenda item 6:A until the Special Call Board meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m..

President Dayton noted that this will be the only item on the agenda.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7:A – Student/Teacher Ratio Report

Mrs. Carroll presented the student/teacher ratio report to the Board. She noted that the ratio was reduced this year and that classes are much smaller than they have been in previous years.

President Dayton asked for a report on core class sizes at the secondary level.

Agenda Item 8:A – ResCare Update

Dr. Turpin reported that the ResCare Program is progressing well. Lee Jr., Carroll Jr. and MLK are near capacity, and additional students are being identified to fill the remaining slots. Students are assessed as to their academic skill level using the Star Reading, Star Mathematics and LEAP Practice Assessment. All students in the ResCare Program have an

IAP (Individual Academic Plan). The Behavior Model is a four level plan for progressive intervention for student disruptions.

Dr. Turpin also noted that the Louisiana Department of Education performed an initial monitoring of the program and they acknowledged that the Monroe City School district has the top program in the state.

Dr. Dupree stated that attendance and behavior for ResCare students is excellent.

Agenda Item 8:B – Clara Hall Update

Ms. Lametria Robinson stated that the school is off to a great start. Students are receiving prescriptive interventions based on their DIBEL Scores. The Literacy Coach is performing informal observations and providing feedback. The principal, supervisor and teachers from Clara Hall are in collaboration with staff at Jefferson. There are weekly grade group meetings and monthly cross grade meetings.

Agenda Item 9:A – QZAB Update

Mrs. Derenda Flowers noted that the projects from last year are moving forward. The roof at Carroll High is complete, and other roofing projects are near completion. She also noted that the House passed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. As a part of this plan, the QZAB program was extended for the next two years. David Henderson of Foley and Judell, LLP suggested that the district submit a request for the remaining 1.5 million.

Mrs. Krutzer suggested that the Board request three million in QZAB funds since this is a new round of money.

Mrs. Flowers stated that the State will only receive eight million; therefore, 1.5 million is a reasonable request.

Agenda Item 10:A – Board Committee Updates

The temporary buildings for Lexington have arrived and should be installed in approximately one week. The facility committee briefly discussed the consolidation of central office and the appraisal of Georgia Tucker. It was suggested by the committee to do an architectural study for a new gym at Wossman and Lee.

Mrs. Shelling suggested that an architectural study be performed to determine the feasibility of using the Georgia Tucker site for central office.

Action Item 10:B – Addition to the Agenda: Attorney General's Opinion

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to add to the agenda the authorization to seek an Attorney General's opinion regarding the sale of Georgia Tucker.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mr. Traweek that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board authorized Attorney Lawrence to seek an Attorney General's opinion on the sale of Georgia Tucker.

Mrs. Shelling stated that the Board should not let the opinion influence the Board to sell the property below market value.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Dupree announced the following:

- School site visits are going well.
- Students involved in the bus accident are progressing.
- Superintendent Dupree, Attorney Lawrence, Mrs. Dayton and Mrs. Shelling will travel to Washington, DC to meet with the Department of Justice.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

President Dayton asked the public to refrain from making personal references.

Ms. Vivian Wancewicz addressed the Board on equity among all employees, teacher morale, and over-crowded classrooms.

Mr. Neil Shaw voiced his concern on the fast-track program for teachers and the lack of dialogue between Board members and the public at Board meetings.

Ms. Sandie Lollie noted that teachers have left the district to teach for ResCare because they value their employees. She asked the Board to look into teachers and paraprofessionals being forced to stay after school for weekly meetings.

Mr. Tim O'Neil voiced his concerns on stipends for coaches and asked the Board to consider a pay raise for coaches.

Ms. Dana Jefferson addressed the Board on the lack of music and art programs at elementary schools.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Victoria Dayton
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent