

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in a special call meeting, Monday, November 3, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. at the Monroe City School Board Central Office, 2101 Roselawn 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
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

Board Member Absent

Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.

Superintendent and Board Attorney

Dr. James Dupree
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Session

Attorney Lawrence stated, "This agenda item involves a pending lawsuit that was recently in court. The question before the Board is whether or not to appeal the decision. Under the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, there is a specific provision that states that the Board has the right to convene in executive session to discuss any matter that involves pending litigation. There are things I would not feel comfortable discussing in open session and I would like to be able to be very direct with the Board. Certain things that will be discussed will be cloaked as attorney-client privileges; therefore, it is my suggestion that we convene in executive session."

On a motion by Mr. Handy that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board convened in executive session with the Board attorney for a period not to exceed twenty minutes to discuss the case of *Gannet River States Corporation d/b/a The News Star and Barbara Leader -vs- Monroe City School Board, Vickie Dayton and James Dupree*, No.08-3832 (4th JDC-Parish of Ouachita). The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

After the allotted time, the Board requested an additional fifteen minutes.

Action Item 7 – Adjournment/Recess

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:55 p.m. On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board recessed the meeting until 5:30 p.m. tonight.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Reconvene Board Meeting

At 5:30 p.m., President Dayton called the meeting back to order. It was noted that all Board members are present.

Continuation of Action Item 6

On a motion by Mr. Handy that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board convened in executive session for a period not to exceed twenty minutes to continue discussion on Action Item 6.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

After the allotted time, the Board asked for an additional five minutes.

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:55 p.m.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland to authorize Attorney Lawrence to appeal the court's decision.

President Dayton stated, "Being a public official is difficult at times. Sometimes you have to look at one side versus the other side and make the best judgment call that is for the good of the whole. I think that Board members agree, that as much transparency as possible is the best way to operate. There are times when you have to issue a judgment about situations and you have to consider facts that involve everyone. Every member of this Board has deliberated intensely and researched this issue."

Mrs. Krutzer stated, "Today, after we left the meeting, Mr. Traweek questioned me on my participation in this matter. This matter deals with my sister's husband, Mr. Brady King. Mr. King is a member of the firm of King and McNew which is one of the attorneys that represent *The News Star*. I asked the Board attorney for verification on what I should do and he sent me an email and stated that I should contact the State Ethics Board. I did so, and I spoke to Ms. Tracey Myer. In Section 1112 it refers that, 'No public servant, except

as provided in R.S. 42:1120, shall participate in transactions involving the governmental entity and any member of his immediate family.’ They would not give a ruling because the attorney is not the immediate family member named in the lawsuit. Because there have been questions on this, and I don’t want to do anything to this Board that would in any way jeopardize or give the appearance that this is inappropriate, I am going to recuse myself from voting.”

Mrs. Shelling stated, “Because this is my family member, I am recusing myself.”

In favor: Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Dayton

Opposed: Mr. Traweek

Recused: Mrs. Krutzer, Mrs. Shelling

The motion carried on a majority vote.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Action Item 7 – Adjournment/Recess

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Victoria Dayton
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent