

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, December 2, 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 Rev. Dale Walker. 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
Mr. Bobby Williams
Mrs. Julie Staley
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Consent Agenda

Mrs. Paulette Cappel asked that all Board agendas be placed on the Monroe City School Board website prior to Board meeting. She also asked that citizens be allowed to participate in the Board's debates and decision making.

Dr. Dupree asked that agenda item 7 (Action from the Superintendent) and agenda item 10:A (Athletic/Activity Stipends) be removed from the agenda.

Mrs. Krutzer asked that a correction be made to the November 10, 2008 Board minutes. She noted that a statement made by her regarding 8:A (Follett Dashboard Software) was omitted from the minutes.

President Dayton stated that minutes can not be too in-depth.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, to delete Agenda Item 7, delete Agenda Item 10:A, and correct the minutes of November 10, 2008.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the following consent agenda items:

- 5:A – Adoption of the Agenda
- 5:B – Adoption of November 10, 2008 Board Minutes
- 5:C – Awarding of Bid: Stage curtains for Wossman and Carroll High
- 5:D – 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 items. She asked that all cell phones be turned off.

Action Item 7 – Action from the Superintendent

Deleted

Action Item 8 – Authorization to Pay Legal Fees for Superintendent Dupree

Dr. Dupree noted that these legal fees are associated with consultation he received during the contract negotiation.

Ms. Sandie Lollie inquired as to where the money will come from to pay the legal fees.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, to authorize a payment of \$1,697.50 to Crawford and Joyce for legal assistance retained by the superintendent during contract negotiations.

Board Discussion

Mr. Traweek stated that he is not in support of this action item because it was not required. He then asked Attorney Lawrence if it is legal to pay these fees.

Attorney Lawrence stated that the Board may pay the fees but it is not obligated to do so.

Dr. Dupree stated that he did not initiate this process without encouragement from the Board president and attorney. He further stated that during the process of the early exit agreement he was encouraged to seek counsel in regards to the written document that was presented to him.

President Dayton noted that at the time the contract was not being renewed, and the Board's attorney could only represent the Board. She stated that Dr. Dupree hired his own personal attorney to handle his personal interest.

Mrs. Shelling inquired as to why the superintendent was advised to seek legal counsel. She stated that she is concerned with the legalities of paying the bill.

Attorney Lawrence stated that at the time it appeared that the contract would not be renewed. During this time the Board discussed bringing in a superintendent early. In order to do that there had to be an early exit agreement with the existing superintendent. He further stated that Dr. Dupree had numerous questions and concerns that he could not answer because he is the advisor to the Board. He noted that both parties needed their own legal counsel.

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Handy noted that the superintendent did not initiate the early exit; it was initiated by some Board members.

Mrs. Shelling asked the Board to allow Attorney Lawrence to seek an Attorney General opinion on this item.

Mr. Traweek stated that it is not needed because the Board's attorney has given his legal opinion.

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

Opposed: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Traweek

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Agenda Item 9 – Update on the compliance with the DOJ Consent Decree

Dr. Dupree updated the Board on the technical assistance visit to San Antonio, TX on November 17, 2008. A team from the district visited the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) for requested technical assistance concerning issues with the Consent Decree submitted to the Department of Justice. The IDRA will provide 50 hours of technical assistance at no cost to the district. The meeting focused on: Uniformity in high school course offerings, Carroll High Medical Magnet Program, increased parental involvement, and Court Decree monitoring and review.

Mr. Handy stated that he is excited about the revitalization of the Medical Magnet Program.

Attorney Lawrence stated that the next step is signing off on the Consent Decree and submitting it to the Federal Judge that the case is assigned to.

Action Item 10: A – Athletic/Activity Stipends

Deleted

Action Item 10:B – Approval to contract with RFP Depot for Electronic Bidding

On a motion by Mr. Handy that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved a contract with RFP Depot, LLC DBA BidSync to provide electronic bidding services as required by Act 5905.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:C – Resolution to adopt a portion of the LA Procurement Code

Mrs. Flowers noted that the district does not have a policy that deals with the purchase of products if there is only one vendor that provides that service or product. She stated that by adopting this portion of the state law, it allows the district to enter into an agreement with vendors when there is a sole source provider.

Attorney Lawrence stated that since this is a policy change, this item will need to be introduced at this meeting and adopted at the next special or regular meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, to allow the reading of this policy to serve as an introduction and that the policy is placed on the next agenda for adoption.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Committee Updates

No committee updates.

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

No announcements and updates.

Agenda Item 13 – Executive Session

Action Item 13:A – 2007-2008 Superintendent’s Performance Evaluation

Rev. Dale Walker addressed the Board on the need for transparency during Board meetings. He stated that the Board should reach out to the community for the betterment of the City of Monroe.

It was moved by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to convene in executive session for ten minutes to discuss the 2007-2008 superintendents’ performance evaluation.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the meeting reconvened in open session.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote

Action Item 13:B – Andrews and United States-vs-MCSB

No discussion on this agenda item. No executive session needed.

Action Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Victoria Dayton
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent