

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tony Bradford; Minnie Ruffin Elementary School.

Item 5: Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Board Member Absent

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Dayton

Superintendent and Administrative Staff

Dr. James Dupree
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Mr. Andrew Hill
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Mr. Bobby Williams
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mrs. Teresa Foreman
Mrs. Julie Staley
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Consent Agenda

Superintendent Dupree asked that agenda item 8:A (ResCare update) be removed from the agenda. Mrs. Smith asked that Wossman High School be included in consent agenda item 5:F. along with Lee Jr. High for approval and construction. Mr. Handy asked that a feasibility study for a baseball park behind Carroll High be added to consent agenda item 5:F.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to approve the following changes to the consent agenda: Delete agenda item 8:A, revise agenda item 5:F to include hiring an architect to conduct a feasibility study on Lee Jr. High and Wossman

High gymnasiums for improvement and/or construction and to conduct a feasibility study for a baseball park at Carroll High.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- 5:A – Adoption of the Agenda
- 5:B – Adoption of Board Minutes: January 13, 2009
- 5:C – Adoption of Board Minutes: January 26, 2009
- 5:D – Permission to advertise for bids: Transportation Routing Software
- 5:E – Permission to advertise for bids: Bleachers for M.L.K. Middle
- 5:F – Permission to hire an architect to conduct a feasibility study for Lee Jr. High and Wossman High gymnasiums for improvement and/or construction and to conduct a feasibility study for a baseball park at Carroll High
- 5:G – Permission to enter into a contract with RMA Roof Masters of North America for roof repairs at Sallie Humble Elementary School (QZAB Funds)
- 5:H – Human Resources Agenda

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 - President's Reports and Announcements

Ms. Cynthia Hodge asked for an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mrs. Smith noted that the human resources agenda was voted on when the consent agenda was approved.

Bishop McFarland stated that the Board can convene in executive session if it is unanimously approved.

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Handy voiced their concerns about going into executive session since all parties involved are not present.

President Shelling stated that she would allow Ms. Hodge the opportunity to make a request to the Board for an executive session.

President Shelling thanked everyone for their attendance. She stated, "As president, I am committed to bringing harmony to the Board and to develop a partnership with all Board members. I will provide leadership for the Board that will exemplify a positive image we all can be proud of. Therefore, I would like to begin by setting a tone of harmony for the Board by presenting a Ten-Point Initiative Plan that I would like to accomplish during my tenure as president." President Shelling shared her plan with the Board. She asked Board members to read the handout containing information about Board committees and to complete their committee assignment request form. She noted that committee appointments will be made at the next scheduled meeting. President Shelling also briefed the Board on

the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network lobbying trip to Washington, DC.

Ms. Sandie Lollie noted that on February 10th the American Federation of Teachers around the country wore the color blue to support the effort to pass the National Economic Recovery Plan. She also noted that numerous employees in attendance are wearing blue shirts to show their support.

President Shelling thanked Rev. Larry Stafford for the letter he sent to her urging her to do everything necessary to bring harmony to the Board.

President Dayton recognized Ms. Cynthia Hodge. Again, Ms. Hodge asked for an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Consideration of an Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to convene in executive session to discuss a personnel matter concerning Ms. Cynthia Hodge.

In favor: Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Traweek, Mrs. Shelling

Opposed: Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith

The motion failed.

Mrs. Smith stated that she is concerned about going into executive session because the principal is not present.

Mr. Traweek, Mrs. Krutzer and President Shelling stated that they were disappointed that the Board did not allow Ms. Hodge to voice her concerns.

President Shelling asked that the prevailing side reconsider and set a hearing date.

Agenda Item 7 - Action from the Superintendent

Presentation of Certificates for MCS Regional Young Authors' Contest Winners

Ms. Rose Lee along with school representatives presented certificates to the following students:

Lincoln Elementary: Rokeisha Bilton; Minnie Ruffin Elementary: Lauryn Williams, Tony Bradford, Keithan Tanner, Chelsie Wilson; Lexington Elementary: Kerry Ann Doyle, Sarah Peske; Cypress Point Elementary: Orlandria Freemont, Darius Washington, Louay Mahrous, April Hunt; Neville High: Jacualyn Gaines, Sherry Moore, Nicholas Fletcher, Tiffany Fortenberry

Agenda Item 8 – Report: ResCare update

Deleted

Agenda Item – 9:A – Report: Best Practices Audit Findings

As a continuation from the work session held prior to Board meeting, Mrs. Flowers continued briefing the Board on responses to the Best Practices Audit Findings. She touched on: Strategic and Operational Planning, Master Bank Account, Strengthening Existing Controls, Financial/Accounting Information System and Management Information System.

Board Discussion:

Mrs. Smith stated that she was troubled by an article in the News-Star today. She said, “As a Board member I did not demand that the superintendent provide information to anyone because I was not aware of the request. I ask that anyone requesting items allow the staff adequate time to assemble the information.”

Mr. Handy stated that persons requesting information should be patient and not scandalize the staff and superintendent if they are unable to immediately stop what they are doing and produce the requested documents.

Bishop McFarland stated, “The News-Star article indicates that the Board demanded that Dr. Dupree release the information. That decision was not a Board decision. The letter requesting information was written on January 28, 2009 and delivered to the superintendent’s office on February 3, 2009. The very next day, a response was given to the News-Star. The article in the newspaper makes it seem as though we are trying to hide something, and we are not. This Board should not cast judgment upon the superintendent and those working in the office. When this issue was raised previously, the Board as a whole voted on whether or not to release the information.”

Mrs. Krutzer noted that the law requires that you comply within forty-eight hours.

Bishop McFarland replied that the superintendent’s office responded to the request the next day.

President Shelling stated, “I was contacted by the media. As the Board president I asked that the information be released because some of the items were easily accessible.”

Agenda Item 9:B – MFP Salary Information

Public Comments:

Ms. Rachelle May stated that MFP funds have been discussed for months, and still there is no resolution. She asked if employees would receive any of the funds.

Ms. Sandie Lollie noted that the MFP funds have been spent, and she is not sure if employees will receive any of the money.

Board Discussion:

President Shelling stated that many questions regarding MFP were addressed at the work session prior to the Board meeting.

Bishop McFarland asked the Board to consider distributing funds to classified employees.

Mr. Traweek stated that closure needs to be brought to this issue. He suggested that Board officers, Dr. Dupree and Mrs. Flowers meet to discuss a possible distribution.

President Shelling asked that Bishop McFarland be a part of that meeting.

Action Item 9:C – Coaches Stipends

Public Comment:

Ms. Vivian Wancewicz asked for clarification as to what time salaried employees begin hourly pay for extra work.

Mr. Traweek stated that this plan is not perfect, but it is a starting point. He noted that the motion he will make was drafted, at his request, by the Board attorney so that it will be legal.

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Bishop McFarland to adopt and implement the extracurricular supplement as presented by the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer with approval of all necessary implementing procedures for setting compensations and the payout of funds for extra work.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Traweek asked if the pay would be retroactive.

President Shelling stated that the motion itself makes it official tonight.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Update

Mr. Traweek noted that the Board is still awaiting an Attorney General's Opinion regarding a live auction on the Georgia Tucker property.

The Board discussed changes to the Board meeting schedule for February, March and April. New meeting dates are: February 24th, March 10th, March 24th and April 23rd.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

None

Agenda Item 12 – Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board convened in executive session at 8:00 p.m. for a period not to exceed twenty minutes to discuss the following cases:

12:A – Angela Hubbard, et al. -vs- Monroe City School Board {No.05-1415; 4th JDC-Parish of Ouachita-Civil section 3}

12:B – Andrews -vs- Monroe City School Board {No. 11,297; USDC-W.D. of Louisiana}

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 13 – Reconvene in Open Session

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board reconvened in open session at 8:17 p.m.

Action Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

Upon a motion by Bishop McFarland, seconded by Mr. Handy and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent