

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Rev. Larry Stafford. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Williams; Barkdull Faulk Elementary School.

### 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. Brenda Shelling

#### Board Member Absent

Mrs. Stephanie Smith

Note: Mrs. Smith is chaperoning a trip with Wossman's Band

#### 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 Agenda

At the request of Mrs. Smith, President Shelling asked that agenda item 9:B-2 be removed from the agenda. President Shelling asked that a specially called meeting be scheduled for Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to address this matter. Bishop McFarland and Mr. Handy noted that they will be unavailable because of prior commitments.

Attorney Lawrence asked that case number *11,297; USDC-W.D. of Louisiana* be noted on agenda item 13:A.

On a motion by Mr. Traweek that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the agenda with the following changes: Delete item 8:C (review of Superintendent Performance Objectives), correct the spelling of the contractor's name on agenda item 9:B-1 (from Paul to Kaul), delete item 9:B-2 (resolution authorizing a one-time lump sum salary compensation to

eligible employees), change 9:D to authorization to contract with Forethought Consulting and add case number 11,297; *USDC-W.D. of Louisiana* to agenda item 13:A.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 6: Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the February 10, 2009 minutes as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Agenda Item 7:A-B - Recognitions

Superintendent Dupree recognized Chief Ronald Schleuter and Captain Carol Andrews of the Monroe Police Department for their support of Monroe City Schools. Assistant Chief of Police Herbert Otwell accepted certificates on behalf of Chief Schleuter and Captain Andrews.

Mrs. Mattie Johnson-Crenshaw, Wossman High School JAG Specialist, was presented a certificate of achievement for her dedication to Monroe City Schools and the JAG Program.

#### Agenda Item 8:A-1 – ResCare update

Dr. Tammye Turpin introduced Mr. Craig Spiller, Louisiana Supervisor of Operations for ResCare, and Mrs. Dana Mullins, Monroe City Schools Project Supervisor.

Mrs. Mullins briefed the Board on the ResCare Program. She noted the following growth for one semester: Carroll Jr. – 58% in reading, 28% in math; Lee Jr. High – 55% in reading, 52% in math; Martin Luther King – 35% in English, 16% in math. She noted that there was growth by two grade levels for several students at each school. She contributes the success of the program to low student/teacher ratio and parental involvement.

#### Action Item 8:B – Desegregation Plan

Attorney Lawrence briefly spoke on the proposed Consent Decree from the Department of Justice. He noted that the Board has several options - approve the plan as written by the DOJ, approve it with modifications or reject it.

It was moved by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland to approve the proposed Consent Decree as written.

Mrs. Dayton offered a friendly amendment to include all schools in the Desegregation Plan.

Mr. Handy did not accept the friendly amendment. He stated, “We do not need to send up red flags with the DOJ by adding additional schools. We can always add the other schools later.”

Mr. Traweek stated that it is only fair to include all schools in the plan.

Bishop McFarland stated that in the past, there has been inequality in the high schools. He further stated that he is concerned about all students.

Mrs. Dayton asked that the matter of enhancements for Neville and Wossman be added to the next regular Board meeting agenda.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Traweek opposed.

Mrs. Krutzer requested a report on discrepancies between all three high schools.

Agenda Item 8:C – Review of Superintendent Performance Objectives

Deleted

Action Item 9:A-1 – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the Human Resources Agenda as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B-2 – Awarding of contract for improved stage lighting at Neville

Mrs. Flowers noted that \$30,000 was budgeted for this project. She also noted that there is a commitment from Neville Alumni and Friends Association to fund the remaining cost of the project.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved a contract with David Kaul to upgrade stage lighting at Neville High School.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B-3 – Resolution to authorize a one-time payout

Deleted

Agenda Item 9:C – Stimulus Package update

Dr. Dupree briefed the Board on the Stimulus Package. The district should expect to receive approximately \$2.3 million for Title I and \$1.2 million for IDEA. At this time it is uncertain as to how much money the district will receive for construction/modernization.

Action Item 9:D – Approval to contract with Forethought Consulting

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to contract with Forethought Consulting to review and revise the Policy Manual from 2007 to 2009.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Update

Mr. Traweek noted that the preliminary walk-through with staff from Architecture + has been completed at Lee Jr., Wossman High and Carroll High.

Mr. Handy inquired about the property on Breard Street.

Mr. Traweek stated that the appraisal has been completed.

Agenda Item 11 – President’s Reports and Announcements

President Shelling disseminated a packet of information containing committee assignments, committee report schedules and seating arrangements. She announced the following:

- The LSBA Convention is scheduled for March 5-7, 2009 in Lake Charles, LA
- The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus will meet in Baton Rouge on March 28<sup>th</sup>
- The Board retreat is tentatively scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent’s Reports and Announcements

Superintendent Dupree announced the following:

- Wossman High School Band is participating in Mardi Gras parades in south Louisiana
- Carroll and Wossman basketball teams are competing in playoffs
- A Superintendents’ meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge

Action Item 13 – Convene in Executive Session

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to convene in executive session for five minutes to receive information on Andrews vs. Monroe City Schools {11,297; USDC-W.D. of Louisiana}.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 14 – Reconvene in Open Session

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board reconvened in open session.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 15 – Adjournment/Recess

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Traweek.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mrs. Brenda M. Shelling  
President

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James A. Dupree, Ed.D.  
Superintendent