

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Thursday, April 30, 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 Rev. Dale Farley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brian Jenkins, Cypress Point Elementary.

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

Action Item 5 – Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Jessie Handy, the Board adopted the revised agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6 – Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the March 24, 2009 minutes as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7:A – Statement of School Performance

None

Agenda Item 7-B – Recognition: Grambling State University High School Art Competition

Dr. Dupree introduced Mrs. Patricia Harris, Talented Art Teacher from Neville High School. Mrs. Harris introduced her student and gave a brief overview of the program. Mr. David Breithaupt, principal of Career Development, introduced his student. He also extended an invitation to everyone to come by the school and view the student's artwork.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to:

DeMarcus Jacobs, Neville High School
Akeem Henry, Wossman High School
Alan Robinson, Career Development

Agenda Item 7-C – Recognition: 2009 Regional Social Worker of the Year

Ms. Robbi Thompson was presented a Certificate of Recognition for being named the 2009 Regional Social Worker of the Year.

Agenda Item 7-D – Recognition: High Performance/High Poverty School

Dr. Dupree congratulated Mrs. Christie Taylor and the staff from J. S. Clark Magnet Elementary School for being recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education for being a High Performing/High Poverty school. A HP/HP school is one that has a baseline School Performance Score of ≥ 100 for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, with no current "School in Decline" label and has a free or reduced lunch percent of ≥ 65 . Mrs. Taylor and members of her staff will travel to Baton Rouge to receive their recognition.

Action Item 7-E – Recognition for Carroll High School's Choir

Dr. Dupree presented a Certificate of Achievement to Mr. Roosevelt Pine and the Carroll High School choir. The choir traveled to Atlanta, GA to participate in the 2009 National Music Conference. At the conference, the choir received the 1st Place Gold Award.

Mr. Pine thanked Mr. Jerry Payne, Interim Principal of Carroll High, Board Members and the community for supporting the choir in their effort to raise money for the trip.

The choir performed for the Board and audience.

Bishop McFarland asked Mr. Pine to submit a tape of the choir to the National School Boards Association for consideration to perform at the conference in 2010. Mrs. Shelling noted that the Louisiana School Boards Convention will be held in Monroe in 2010 and she would like the choir to perform.

Unfinished Business

Agenda Item 8:A – Forethought Consulting

Attorney Lawrence noted that he is reviewing the contracts from Forethought. One contract deals with existing policies which covers updates, amendments and/or supplements. The other contract deals with ongoing maintenance of the policy manual. There needs to be an addition to the contract to deal with the ability to access the document electronically.

Mrs. Krutzer and Mr. Handy stated that they want the document to be accessible from the district's website. Mrs. Dayton stated that she wants to make sure that there is a solid plan to keep the document updated. Mrs. Shelling noted that Forethought needs to have access to the website to make changes, as needed, if the policy manual is on the district's website.

Agenda Item 8:B – Superintendent Performance Objective Evaluation/Measurements

Mrs. Dayton noted that the spreadsheet of timelines for the evaluation process is in the final stage of completion and should be ready in approximately one week. Upon completion it will be emailed to Board members and Attorney Lawrence. The committee will look at the last evaluation instrument used.

Agenda Item 8:C – Procedures for Reviewing All Credit Card Expenditures

Mrs. Dayton noted that the policy is being researched. A board work-session will be scheduled as soon as all information is gathered.

New Business

Action Item 9:D-1 – Audit Services

Mrs. Shelling noted that this item was placed on the agenda because some Board members suggested that the district might want to look at an RFP in lieu of appointing the firm that has been providing services for the district.

Mr. Traweck asked Dr. Dupree his thoughts on the existing firm.

Dr. Dupree indicated that the administration is satisfied with the services from the existing firm. He stated that he is not recommending a change.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the re-appointment of Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier Certified Public Accounting Firm for the 2009 and 2010 Audits.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B-1 – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved Human Resources Agenda Items A-F. Agenda Item G is to be omitted.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B-2 – Implementation of Support Staff at Elementary Schools

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the implementation of support staffing at elementary schools as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:C – Approval to Seek Renewal of the 21st Century Grant and MOU for Grant Writer Dr Linda Heard

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board authorized the administration to seek renewal of the 21st Century Learning Community Program Funding and approved an MOU for grant writer Dr. Linda Heard.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mrs. Krutzer opposed.

Action Item 9:D-1 – Permission to Advertise for Bids

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith the Board authorized the administration to advertise for the following bids:

- a. Security Camera and Supplies
- b. Janitorial Supplies, Instructional Supplies, Pest Control Services, Dumpster Services
- c. School Food Service: Food Products, Paper and Cleaning Supplies, Milk and Orange Juice, Bread Products
- d. Air Conditioning for two Special Education Buses

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:D-2 – Awarding of Bids

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board awarded the following bids:

- a. Video Conferencing Equipment – Detel Computer Solutions, LLC
- b. Fan Coil Replacement – Byrnes Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
- c. Chiller for Carroll High – Byrnes Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9:3 – Sole Source Provider – Positive Action Inc.

Dr. Dupree noted Positive Action Inc. is the sole provider for the Positive Action Curriculum and that the item is on the agenda for information only. No action is needed.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Updates

- A. Transportation Committee: Mrs. Krutzer asked for thirty minutes prior to the next Board meeting to schedule a transportation committee meeting.
- B. Personnel Committee: No report.
- C. Facilities Committee: Mr. Traweck noted that a facilities committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. He also noted that Grant Schleuter will attend the meeting and discuss the use of low interest money for projects. All Board members are asked to attend.

The bid process for the baseball park across from Carroll High is complete.

The Attorney General denied the request to sell the Georgia Tucker property below the appraised value at a live auction. Mr. Traweck suggested that another appraisal be done on the property.

- D. Insurance Committee: Mr. Handy stated that no meeting has been scheduled.

Agenda Item 11 – President's Reports and Announcement

- Meeting with the State Superintendent – Conference calls are held monthly with presidents of Louisiana School Boards and the State Superintendent. President Shelling was not involved with the last conference call because it coincided with her return from the National School Boards Conference. She will be available for the May conference call.
- National School Boards Conference – President Shelling, Mrs. Krutzer, Bishop McFarland, Attorney Lawrence and Mrs. Jacobs attended the conference held in San Diego, CA. She noted that this was a very informative conference. Board members were thanked for attending. Actor Hill Harper, guest speaker at the Black Caucus luncheon, autographed his latest book after the luncheon. Mrs. Shelling will purchase one book for each high school and will donate the signed copy to the school.

Mrs. Krutzer noted that she attended a day-long workshop on Board policy development while at the conference. She asked if she could place the reference book in the boardroom to be used by all Board members as resources material.

- School Visits – Visits are scheduled for May 4th - 14th. All visits will take place during the morning and Board members will eat lunch in the school cafeteria. A time will be set to visit Central Office and the Media Center.

- Legislative Update (School Board Reform) – President Shelling read the following statement from an email received from LSBA:

The House and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Louisiana Legislature voted down, by an 11 to 6 vote, an effort to impose term limits on Louisiana's school boards. It also deferred, at the author's request, proposed legislation that would revise anti-nepotism laws. It was apparent that there were insufficient numbers in support, when Rep. Carter (BR) sought deferral.

LSBA responded to these two challenges to local authority with a strong presence in the Capitol. The bills were endorsed by the administration and the BESE but found few committee members sympathetic.

The majority expressed the conviction that the term limits legislation was an effort to substitute local initiative with a "big brother", state knows best policy.

The May 5th meeting is cancelled. The next Board meeting is May 19th.

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent's Announcements

- The Cooperative Office Education Program from Wossman and Carroll High held their annual banquet on Wednesday, April 29th.
- The District's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Emalie Dunn, has been named the Regional Teacher of the Year.
- A brief meeting will be held on May 1st at Sherrouse at 9:30 a.m. to discuss preparations for a possible outbreak of the Swine Flu.
- The Educator of the Year Reception will be held May 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the ULM Library.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent