

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Thursday, July 14, 2011 at Minnie Ruffin Elementary School, 1801 Parkview Drive; Monroe, Louisiana 71202. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Johnny Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bob Rash.

Agenda Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Dayton, Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Krutzer, Mr. James Mickey Traweek, Mr. Clarence Sharp, Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. Mr. Verbon Muhammad, and Mr. Glynn Ludley.

President Traweek noted that Attorney Lawrence is absent due to a previous commitment.

Administrative Staff: Dr. Kathleen Harris, Ms. Karla Bowlin, Dr. Phedra Brantley, Mrs. Betty Carroll, Mrs. Derenda Flowers, Mr. Andrew Hill, Mrs. DaVona Howard, Mr. Josh Leporati, and Dr. Tammye Turpin.

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

President Traweek indicated that Agenda Item XIV will not be discussed due to the absence of the Board Attorney, but the item will be replaced with a new grievance that has been filed.

It was moved by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to move Agenda Item XIV to Agenda Item 7:B and replace it with the new grievance, and move the Personnel Report to Agenda Item 7:C. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Points of Pride

Mr. Josh Leporati reported that a new technology product has been implemented to watch the district’s infrastructure. Because the company that offers this technology does not have a large number of educational clients, he was asked to present and demonstrate the district’s successful implementation of the network monitoring solutions during the national webinar. Also, e-Rate funding for FY10-11 was used to complete 61 of the 78 network closets. The completion of this project will allow MIS staff to effectively maintain the closets.

Action Item 7:A – Approval of Board Minutes

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the June 21, 2011 and June 27, 2011 minutes as printed. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:B – Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mr. Muhammad, the Board convened in executive session at 5:10 p.m. to receive information on a grievance filed by an employee. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:17p.m.

Action Item 7:C1 – Approval of Job Descriptions

Bishop McFarland noted that there were no questions or concerns regarding this item during the Personnel Committee meeting.

Mrs. Dayton asked for the effective date of the job descriptions.

Dr. Harris replied that the effective date will be today.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the following job descriptions: Special Education Supervisor, 504/Dyslexia Coordinator, School Community Specialist, Title Grants Supervisor and Medical Magnet Program Coordinator. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:C2 – Human Resources Agenda

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to approve the Human Resources Agenda with the deletion of Item F:3. Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Muhammad, and Mr. Traweck opposed. The motion failed.

It was moved by Mr. Sharp to approve the agenda and to take section D separately. He stated that he wants to approve D:2, D:3 and D:6 and table the remaining items in section D until another day. Mrs. Dayton seconded the motion.

President Traweck stated that Mr. Sharp's motion is to approve the Human Resources agenda, and to only approve three positions under section D, which are D:2, D:3 and D:6. He then asked Mr. Sharp to show the recording secretary the items he wants included in his motion.

Bishop McFarland asked if only three positions are being approved.

Mr. Sharp stated that he wants to approve the Librarian position, Science position, Carroll High Magnet position, and table the remaining items.

President Traweck restated the motion to accept the Human Resources agenda with the exclusion of F:3 that was deleted by Mrs. Carroll at the Personnel Committee meeting, and to approve D:2, D:3, D:6 under section D.

Bishop McFarland stated that it is preposterous for this type of motion to be made. He

stated that the community is watching how Board members are voting, and they see the plan. He asked if the Board is trying to stop students from achieving.

Mr. Sharp replied that there is no plan. This matter was previously voted down.

Mr. Muhammad stated that he does not have a problem with progress, but he needs to see the entire plan. He further stated that he represents Barkdull Faulk and he wants to know what will happen to that school if the recommendation is approved.

Dr. Harris replied that a new principal will be hired – a school is never left without a leader.

Mr. Muhammad stated that he represents poor people and nothing has been done to give them a voice.

Dr. Harris replied that she asked for transportation positions before the new Board members came aboard and it was voted down. She also noted that supervisor positions are in the budget and will not impact General Funds.

Mr. Muhammad stated that the sentiment is that there is no support for the superintendent, but the support has to be right. He also stated that he supports Carroll High School because they need help.

Dr. Harris replied that Carroll and the other two high schools need a secondary supervisor.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is concerned that six teachers on this agenda are leaving and going to other districts. She wants to know if it is being determined why employees are leaving.

Mr. Sharp stated that he is not opposed to the positions, but he would like to see what will happen with other positions. Initially he was not in support of the person that was recommended for the Carroll Medical Magnet Program, but after speaking with others he was assured that it would work out. He is also concerned that there have been no conversations regarding raises for support personnel. He stated that only if he serves one term, he wants it known that he did the right thing.

Bishop McFarland suggested that Mr. Sharp place collective bargaining on the agenda if he is concerned about classified employees.

In favor: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Traweek (stated that he is in favor of the motion due to budgetary reasons). Opposed: Bishop McFarland (stated that he is opposed because the entire Human Resources Agenda is not being approved). Abstain: Mr. Ludley (stated that he abstains because he is not clear on the motion). The motion passed.

Dr. Harris pointed out that the Board has repeatedly stated that it does not want to impact the classroom, but the lack of supervisors will definitely impact the classroom. The school year will begin with one supervisor; the jobs will get done but it will be

piecemealed and that makes it difficult to move forward. She reiterated that the salaries will not impact general funds because they are being taken from other sources.

Public Input: Mrs. Walker stated that she has a problem with the Board being concerned about the budget when students are in need. The vacant supervisor positions are positions that the district has always had. She noted that schools need supervisors.

Action Item 8 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

None

Action Item 9:A – Approval of Change Order for Lee Jr. High Lift Station

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the Board approved a change order for Lee Jr. High School's lift station. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B – Approval to Merge Career Development with STAR Program

Mrs. Dayton asked Dr. Harris if this is her recommendation.

Dr. Harris replied that it is.

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the merging of Career Development and the STAR Program. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:C – Adoption of 2011-2012 Budget Resolution

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to approve the 2011-2012 Budget Resolution.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that she does not recommend approving the resolution until cost saving measures have been addressed as suggested in the Prismatic report.

Bishop McFarland asked the Board to support the superintendent and pass the budget.

Mr. Muhammad indicated that the budget is fair but he does not see anything in there for facility repairs or pay raises for classified employees.

Dr. Harris asked if the Board is directing her to go back and build a budget that gives classified employees raises.

Mrs. Dayton stated that the salary study will address salaries.

President Traweek noted that there are things in the budget that he likes and there are things that he dislikes – he supports the approval and encourages Board members to do the same. He indicated that the budget must be approved by September and it will be impossible to implement all the suggestions in the Prismatic report. The budget can be

revised as needed.

Mr. Ludley encouraged the Board to move forward with approval of the budget.

Public Input: Ms. Sandie Lollie asked why the MFP formula was not revisited several years ago if budgets can be changed as needed.

In favor: Bishop McFarland, Mr. Ludley, Mr. Traweek. Opposed: Mrs. Krutzer, Mrs. Dayton, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Muhammad. The motion failed.

Mr. Ludley asked Board members to speak with the superintendent if there are any questions or concerns about the budget.

Action: Item 10:A – Permission to Advertise for two Talented Art Teachers

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for two Talented Art teachers. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:B – Permission to Adopt School Uniforms for Sherrouse School

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board approved school uniforms for Sherrouse School. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:C – Awarding of School Food Service Bread Products Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded School Food Service bread products bid as indicated on the tab sheet. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:D – Awarding of School Food Service Milk and Juice Products

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded School Food Service milk and juice products bid as indicated on the tab sheet. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Comments/Report of Board Members

Mr. Sharp stated that no questions should be asked if Board members request that items be placed on the agenda. He also stated that the district has very nice gymnasiums and they should be utilized to restore the physical education program.

Mr. Muhammad encouraged the district to support the Million Father's March. The nationwide initiative is designed to encourage fathers to be more active in education.

Mr. Ludley encouraged Board members to meet with the superintendent to discuss issues prior to Board meetings.

Mrs. Krutzer asked that all Board members attend Finance Committee Meetings.

Bishop McFarland stated that Board members should listen to the community and do what is right so that the district can move forward.

President Traweek reported that the Media Center and Administration building is near completion, and should be ready for occupancy in a few weeks. He offered his condolences to the family of a former student that was killed. He then asked for a moment of silence.

Agenda Item 12 – Report of Superintendent

Dr. Harris encouraged Board members to contact her when they have concerns. She indicated that principal positions could have been advertised and a recommendation brought forward at the August 2nd meeting if the Board had approved the two supervisor positions. The district is slowed when Board members use their vote to slow progress. She noted that staff will be lost when there is uncertainty. Again, she asked the Board to help her move the district forward.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

Board Meetings: August 2nd and August 16th.

Workshops: LSBA Data Driven Decision Making and Facilities Workshop – August 29-30, 2011 in Pineville, LA

Action Item 14 – Executive Session

This matter was taken out of sequence and changed to Action Item 7:B.

Action Item 15 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Ludley and seconded by Mr. Sharp. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Dr. Kathleen Harris
Superintendent