

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at Lexington Elementary School, 1900 Lexington Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Mr. Johnny Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joseph Miller, Neville High School student.

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, Mr. Glynn Ludley

Administrative Staff: Dr. Kathleen Harris, Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence, Dr. Valerie Batley, Dr. Phedra Brantley, Mrs. Betty Carroll, Mrs. Derenda Flowers, Mrs. DaVona Howard, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mr. Josh Loporati, Mrs. Jacqueline Matthews, Ms. Mary Miles, Mrs. Emily Rash, Mrs. Sallie Sutherland, Ms. Mamie Williams

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

President Traweek asked that discussion/action on Lexington Elementary School overcrowding be added to the agenda as agenda item 9:G.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Muhammad, the Board approved the agenda with the addition as requested by President Traweek. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6 – Consent Agenda Items

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the minutes of July 14, 2011 and the Human Resources Agenda with the exception of section D, which is to be taken separately. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

Human Resource Agenda Item D

It was moved by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mr. Sharp, to approve Human Resources Agenda Item D:1; Dr. Phedra Brantley’s move from Safe Schools Director to Title Grants Supervisor, under contract effective July 1, 2011, until Dr. Tammye Turpin returns from sabbatical.

Bishop McFarland asked if the appointment is for one year.

Mrs. Dayton replied that it is until Dr. Turpin returns and issues are addressed.

Bishop McFarland stated that the recommendation is Supervisor of Title Grants – this is not the same position that Dr. Turpin holds. Because these are two separate positions, the motion is null and void. He stated that Dr. Turpin's name should not be stated in the motion.

Mrs. Dayton indicated that a lot of Dr. Brantley's authority was previously Dr. Turpin's authority and that is why she is concerned about due process. If Dr. Turpin returns from sabbatical early, then this matter will need to be addressed.

Attorney Lawrence noted that these are two different positions and that they stand on their own merit; therefore, Dr. Brantley will not be supplanted when Dr. Turpin returns from sabbatical. When a person returns from sabbatical, they are to return to their same position; however, they are still subject to reassignment as any other employee.

Dr. Harris stated that she is concerned about the discussion and the motion. It is her understanding that the superintendent has the authority by policy and law to assign roles and responsibilities to people that are subordinate to her.

Mrs. Dayton indicated that she is not trying to take authority from the superintendent, but there are times when change in status triggers due process. The superintendent has the authority to reorganize, but her concern is about employees' rights.

Bishop McFarland offered a friendly amendment to strike Dr. Turpin's name from the motion.

Mrs. Dayton accepted and asked that the minutes reflect the wording that she used.

For clarification, President Traweck asked Mrs. Dayton to restate her motion.

Restated motion by Mrs. Dayton: Motion to transfer Dr. Brantley from Safe Schools Director to Supervisor of Title Grants, under contract for one year beginning July 1, 2011. The motion was seconded by Bishop McFarland and carried on a unanimous vote.

Human Resource Agenda Item D:2

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to transfer Mr. Robert Johnson from principal to Secondary Supervisor. Opposed: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Traweck. In favor: Bishop McFarland, and Mr. Ludley. The motion failed.

Human Resource Agenda Item D:3

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved Mrs. Dana Mullins as principal of Lee Junior High School. The motion carried on a

unanimous vote.

Human Resource Agenda Item D:4

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to transfer Mrs. Sallie Sutherland from 504 Coordinator to Special Education Supervisor.

Mrs. Dayton stated that this position is a duplication of services and removal of authority. She reiterated that she is concerned about due process.

In favor: Mrs. Krutzer, Bishop McFarland, Mr. Muhammad and Mr. Ludley. Opposed: Mrs. Dayton, Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Traweek. The motion carried on a majority vote.

Human Resource Agenda Item D:5

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to transfer Mrs. Christie Taylor from principal to Elementary Supervisor.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is of the opinion that a district this size does not need two elementary supervisors.

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

Bishop McFarland asked Board members to reconsider the supervisor positions.

Action Item 8:A – Reconsideration of the 2011-2012 Budget

Attorney Lawrence noted that the motion must be made by someone on the prevailing side.

No action was taken due to the lack of a motion.

Mr. Muhammad stated that there has not been a Finance Committee meeting since the last meeting and the budget has not changed.

Dr. Harris noted that there have been several Finance Committee meetings and each time the agenda has been lengthy, and time runs out before the budget is fully discussed. She also noted that the Board has been provided with her recommendation as well as a zero based budget. Some Board members are asking that recommendations from the draft Prismatic report be implemented before the budget is adopted. This will be difficult because most of the recommendations do not provide immediate cost savings in the first year. She stated that the Board is only allowing her to reorganize under the current framework and that is what she is attempting to do. Now, some Board members are saying that there may be due process issues because she has divided roles and responsibilities among staff.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that department heads will present their budgets at the next Finance

Committee meeting.

Action Item 8:B – Approval of 2011-2012 Budget Resolution

No action needed due to the failure to reconsider the budget.

Action Item 9:A – Sole Source Purchase for Universal Screener

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board approved Cambium Education as the sole source provider for universal screening of K-3 students. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B – School Food Service Food Product Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded School Food Service products bid to Sysco Foods Service. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:C – Instructional Supplies Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded Instructional Supplies bid as indicated on the tab sheet. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:D – Carroll High School AFJROTC Memorandum of Agreement

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp the Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement for the AFJROTC program at Carroll High School. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:E – Board Member Permission to Travel

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, not to approve a travel request for Mr. Muhammad to a conference in Chicago, IL.

Mr. Traweck noted that the item has been placed on the agenda because only conferences and workshops sponsored by the National School Boards Association, Southern Regional School Boards Association, and the Louisiana School Boards Association are approved professional meetings. He then asked Attorney Lawrence if the motion is legal.

Attorney Lawrence replied that the motion basically states that Board policy not be expanded to include other types of meetings.

Bishop McFarland stated that there will be major issues if travel is approved for conferences that are sponsored by religious organizations.

Mr. Muhammad stated that the conference is educational; not religious. He further stated that he has been invited to participate on the panel.

Mrs. Krutzer, Mrs. Dayton, and Mr. Ludley agreed that Board travel should be limited to LSBA and NSBA sponsored meetings.

In Favor: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Bishop McFarland, and Mr. Ludley. Opposed: Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Traweek. Abstain: Mr. Muhammad. The motion carried on a majority vote.

Action Item 9:F – Reassignment of Cypress Point 6th Grade Students

Attorney Lawrence reported that the Federal Court approved the reassignment of Cypress Point 6th grade students to Sallie Humble Elementary School. The initial plan was to send students to Sallie Humble and Carroll Jr. High. Also, the district must revisit a Comprehensive Rezoning Plan on or before February 29, 2012.

Public Input: Mr. Henry Butler noted that the matter of rezoning and overcrowding was discussed a year ago and still nothing has been done. He is asking for resolve as soon as possible.

Action item 9:G – Lexington Elementary School Overcrowding

Bishop McFarland noted that the consensus of the Facilities Committee is to add additional classrooms and enlarge the cafeteria at Lexington to ease overcrowding.

President Traweek stated that he awaits guidance from the superintendent.

Dr. Harris indicated that the principal has a plan for the beginning of school. There have been discussions on moving 6th grade students to Lee Jr. High as well as the possibility of a lower and upper elementary school.

Mrs. Hodge noted that the Demographic Study shows that Lexington will continue to grow. A viable plan is to move 6th grade students to the junior high school because they have room. If 6th graders are to remain on the elementary campus, she will need an additional 16 classrooms.

Board members suggested that the principal meet with parents to discuss this matter in detail.

Dr. Harris stated that there are other matters to consider when adding classrooms, such as the need for additional restrooms. She further stated that the Department of Justice must be notified of the district's intentions.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to authorize the attorney to contact the Federal Court and the Department of Justice regarding overcrowding at Lexington. The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Traweek opposed. He stated that he would like to see a plan before contact is made.

Agenda Item 10 – Report of Board Members

Mr. Muhammad reported that he has been working with the superintendent on the Million Father's March initiative. He encouraged males to take students to school on the first day.

President Traweek announced that there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and fundraiser on August 20th for the Neville Field House. Also, the new owners have taken possession of Georgia Tucker.

Agenda Item 11 – Report of Superintendent

Dr. Harris reported that Media Center staff has moved back into their renovated building, and Central Office staff is currently moving into the new location.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Meetings

Board Meetings: Bishop McFarland requested that the August 16th meeting be moved to the 23rd and Mrs. Krutzer suggested that the September 6th meeting be moved because it is the day after Labor Day. The LSBA Data Driven Decision Making and Facilities Workshop is scheduled for August 29-30 in Pineville, LA.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Dr. Kathleen Harris
Superintendent