

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Pastor Dale Farley, Messiah Lutheran Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Traweek.

### Agenda Item 4: Roll Call

#### Board Members Present

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

#### Board Members Absent

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Krutzer (out-of-town)  
Mr. Jessie Handy (out-of-town)

#### Administrative Staff

Dr. Kathleen Harris  
Mrs. Derenda Flowers  
Mrs. Betty Carroll  
Dr. Tammye Turpin  
Mrs. Vickie Irwin  
Mr. Andrew Hill  
Ms. Mamie Williams  
Ms. Karla Bowlin  
Mrs. Patricia Johnson  
Mrs. Jackie Matthews  
Dr. Phedra Brantley  
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

### Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

Mrs. Smith asked that Action Item 10:F (Professional services for Carroll High) be removed from the agenda until Mr. Handy is present.

Mrs. Shelling asked that Action Item 12:A (Job descript for assistant superintendent) and Action 12:B (advertisement for assistant superintendent) be removed from the agenda until the full board is present.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board approve the agenda with the deletion of Action Items 10:F, 12:A and 12:B.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Agenda Item 6 – Points of Pride

Distinguished School: J. S. Clark has been recognized as a Distinguished School for making the most progress in significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups or whose students have exhibited sustained academic achievement. The school will be recognized at the next Title I Directors' Conference. In addition, State Superintendent Paul Pastorek will present J. S. Clark with the Acknowledgement Book at a scheduled board meeting.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community –“Lights On Afterschool”’: On Thursday October 17, 2010, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers afterschool programs celebrated national "Lights On Afterschool". Three hundred parents and community leaders showed up to help Minnie Ruffin Elementary celebrate the event. Mayor Jamie Mayo presented the school with a proclamation naming Minnie Ruffin the " Lights On Afterschool" Site for the City of Monroe.

#### Action Item 7 – Consent Agenda Items

Mrs. Shelling asked that Personnel Report Item E be taken separately.

Mrs. Dayton asked that Action Item 7:C (financial report) be pulled until the Finance Committee has met.

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to approve October 19, 2010 minutes, delete Action Item 7:C, approve Personnel Report Items A,B,C,D,F and move Personnel Report Item E to items for separate consideration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 8 – Items for Separate Consideration

##### Personnel Report – Item E

Mrs. Shelling asked that para-professionals that are not replacing someone be pulled from the Personnel Report. She stated that the superintendent was given a directive not to hire additional paras.

Dr. Harris stated that she just recently learned that paras at Minnie Ruffin were already working. The principal allowed the paras to begin working because she thought the Implementation Plan would be approved. They began work without the knowledge of Mrs. Carroll, and prior to the board giving the directive not to hire additional paras. She further stated that this was not a deliberate action.

Mrs. Smith stated that Minnie Ruffin is overcrowded and additional staff is needed. Neither the principal nor the superintendent is at fault because it has been a practice of the board to allow staff to begin work prior to them coming before the board for approval.

Bishop McFarland stated that there are 10 paras on the agenda to be hired; 7 of those paras are being hired because of increased enrollment.

Mrs. Dayton stated that additional teachers, not paras, should be hired if there is increase enrollment.

Bishop McFarland replied that there is no room for additional classrooms at Minnie Ruffin.

Mr. Traweek stated that the salaries will come from general funds; thereby, reducing the amount of sales tax checks for classified employees.

Mrs. Flowers noted that the checks will not be reduced because of additional staff. The cost of the additional paras is approximately \$500,000 and the district will receive approximately \$800,000 from MFP funds.

Dr. Harris stated that the board directed her to look into other funding sources for additional paras. She noted that salaries could possibly be funded through ARRA funds.

Mrs. Dayton stated that for the best interest of the students, she will support this item. She also stated that she does not want to see the board placed in this situation again.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve section E of the Personnel Report.

Mrs. Shelling stated that she is not opposed to children being educated. This is not about servicing children; it is about the board's directive not being followed.

In favor: Mrs. Dayton, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith

Opposed: Mr. Traweek, Mrs. Shelling

The motion carried on a majority vote.

#### Action Item 9:A – Adoption of Policies

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board approved the following policies: EE, IDAA, IDBB, IDDC, IDFA, IFDA, II and IKDB.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Attorney Lawrence noted that a policy dealing with cyberbullying will need to be addressed at a later date.

#### Action Item 10:A – Policy First Read

Ms. Sandie Lollie asked for clarification on corporal punishment. She asked that there be consistency in all schools

Dr. Harris noted that there is a policy that addresses corporal punishment but she has asked principals to use other methods. She stated that she has observed teachers not following the policy.

The board accepted the following policies as first read: EDBA, EDC, GAEAA, GBN, JAA, JB, JBA, JBB, JBC, JBCB, JBCBB, JBCC, JBCE, JBCF, JBD, JBE, JBH, JCAA, JCAB, JCABB, JCABC, JCD, JCDA, JCDAAB, JCDAAC, JCDAAD, JCDAE, JCDAF, JCDB, JCE, JCEA, JCEC, JD, JDA, JDB, JDD, JDE, JG, JGA, JGB, JGC, JGCB, JGCC, JGCD, JDCE, JGD, JGF, JGFB, JGFC, JGFF, JGFG, JGFH, JH, JHB, JHC, JJ, JQA, JQH, JR, JS.

#### Action Item 10:B – Bond Resolution

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Shelling, the board Adoption of a resolution providing for the issuance of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, Series 2010, of the City of Monroe Special School District; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; providing for the payment of the principal and interest on such bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the refunding of certain bonds of said School District; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:C – Systems Survey and Compliance Questionnaire

President Traweck passed the gavel to vice president McFarland and briefly left the meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board approved the Systems Survey and Compliance Questionnaire.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:D – Preliminary Sale of Georgia Tucker

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board authorized the administration to proceed with the preliminary steps for the sale of Georgia Tucker School site, to include the engagement of North Delta Title Company for title transfer assistance, the introduction and publication of an ordinance for future adoption that memorializes the terms, conditions and process of sale, and the taking of such other necessary and prudent action related thereto.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### Action Item 10:E – Implementation of the CAPS System

Mr. Traweek rejoined the meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board authorized the administration to proceed with implementation of the CAPS system as provided by Forethought Consulting, for accessing the newly adopted and revised board policies.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### Action Item 10:F – Professional Services – High School Consultant

Deleted

### Agenda Item 11: Report of Board Members

Facilities Committee: Ongoing projects are progressing. The committee toured Wossman's gym after the meeting. Next meeting - November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Bishop McFarland asked the superintendent to send notification to principals informing them that no additional paras can be hired prior to board approval.

Insurance Committee: Meeting date to be determined. Mrs. Dayton will send meeting dates to the superintendent.

Policy Committee: Next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Media Center.

Mrs. Dayton requested a pupil/teacher ratio by school and grade.

### Agenda Item 12 – Report of Superintendent

#### Action Item 12:A – Job Description – Assistant Superintendent

Deleted

#### Action Item 12:B – Advertisement for Assistant Superintendent

Deleted

#### Agenda Item 12:C – Instructional Technology Update

Ms. Karla Bowlin updated the board on programs and trends in Instructional Technology,

#### Agenda Item 12:D – Board Attorney Update

None

Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

Board Meetings: November 16, 2010 and December 7, 2010, 2010.

Work Session: To be announced.

Bishop McFarland asked that noon meetings be limited to no more than an hour.

Action Item 14 – Executive Session

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board convened in executive session at 1:40 p.m. to discuss *Stewart vs. Roggeron* and *Wilson vs. Monroe City School Board*.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

The board reconvened in open session at 2:05 p.m. with no action taken.

Action Item 15 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mr. Mickey Traweek  
Board President

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Dr. Kathleen Harris  
Superintendent