

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board of Education
2006 Tower Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at Monroe City School District Central Office, 2006 Tower Drive; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Bishop Rodney McFarland. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Traweek.

Agenda Item 1:B – 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

Administrative Staff: Dr. Kathleen Harris, Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence, Ms. Karla Bowlin, Dr. Phedra Brantley, Mrs. Betty Carroll, Mrs. Derenda Flowers and Mrs. Vickie Irwin

Action Item 1:C – Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to approve the agenda.

Mr. Muhammad offered a friendly amendment to add to the agenda a reconsideration of the appointment of Mr. Barry Jones as principal of Berg Jones Elementary School. Bishop McFarland seconded the motion. The motion and amendment carried on a unanimous vote.

Bishop McFarland asked for the effective date. Dr. Harris stated that the date will be November 2, 2011. Mr. Traweek noted that the reconsideration will be added to the Human Resources Agenda as B:2.

Agenda Item 2 – Point of Pride

Agenda Item 2:A – YMCA Partnership

Mr. Chris Pealer, Executive Director of YMCA, provided information on the Positive Action Program partnership. He noted that this program started under the Safe and Healthy Schools Grant. The program addresses risk prevention, self esteem, interpersonal skills, academics and personal habits. The program also helps to reduce violence, antisocial behavior and the early onset of drug and alcohol abuse. Classroom teachers teach from material that is provided by Safe Schools and the YMCA. Currently, the program is being offered to over 3,100 students.

Agenda Item 2:B – Principal Turnaround Panel Participant

Sam Moore, principal of Wossman High School, was one of five principals from the state that was selected to participate in the Louisiana SIG Community of Practice Symposium, in Baton Rouge on October 21, 2011. The symposium allowed participants the opportunity to share best practices, learn from experts in the field of school turnaround, and build a network of SIG schools and districts.

Action Item 3 – Consent Agenda Items

It is the consensus of the Board to take each consent agenda item separately.

Action Item 4 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

Action Item 4:A – Approval of October 18, 2011 Board Minutes

Mr. Muhammad asked that a correction be made to the minutes. He stated that it was his understanding that Mr. Jones had been appointed; he did not say that he had begun working. He then asked that the minutes reflect that correction. Dr. Harris suggested that Mr. Muhammad listen to the tape before any corrections are made. Mr. Traweck suggested that the minutes be approved. He noted that corrections can be made after Mr. Muhammad listens to the audio recording.

Mrs. Dayton stated that the word “assistant” should be removed from page 3, paragraph 5.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Muhammad, to approve the minutes with the correction as noted by Mrs. Dayton. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Krutzer questioned a statement made at the October 4th Board meeting that referenced a “gentleman’s agreement.” She asked if the agreement is binding with all Board members. Mr. Traweck replied that it is not - it was only a conversation between himself and Bishop McFarland. She stated that she had not been asked to be a part of any agreement and wanted to know if other Board members had been asked. Mr. Traweck suggested that Mrs. Krutzer speak with Bishop McFarland about his comments.

Action Item 4:B – Field Trip Request

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Muhammad, the Board approved a field trip request for Lexington, Sallie Humble and Barkdull Faulk Orchestra students to travel to Orlando, FL to participate in the Orlando Music Festival on April 19-24, 2012. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 4:C – Human Resources Agenda

It was moved by Bishop McFarland to approve the Human Resources agenda with the addition of the reconsideration of Mr. Barry Jones as principal of Berg Jones Elementary.

Mr. Traweek asked if there are any objections to the reconsideration. There were none.

Bishop McFarland noted that the elementary assistant principals are on the agenda because they have been receiving teachers' pay.

Mrs. Carroll noted that there is not an elementary assistant principal salary scale; therefore, the two elementary assistant principals are being moved from the teacher salary scale to the junior high assistant principal salary scale.

Mr. Muhammad and Mr. Sharp indicated that they were not opposed to Mr. Jones as principal; they were only concerned about the way the recommendation was made.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is in support of the adjustments for the assistant principals. However, she looks forward to the complete and accurate salary study so that the Board can determine where adjustments can be made in salaries and work schedules so that the district can be efficient and appropriate at all levels.

Public Input: Ms. Sandie Lollie noted that the procedure for suspending employees is not consistent. She asked that the Board investigate and determine if the person she is referring to has a job description. She also inquired about the Sales Tax distribution. Mr. Quincy Gardner noted that Berg Jones parents welcome Mr. Jones as interim principal, and it is their desire that he become the permanent principal. He invited the Board and public to a welcome reception for Mr. Jones on Thursday, November 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Traweek noted that the motion on the floor is to approve the Human Resources agenda with the addition of Mr. Barry Jones as principal at Berg Jones. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Jones thanked the Board, Dr. Harris and Berg Jones parents. He encouraged Board members and the public to visit the school and become active.

Action Item 4:D – August 2011 Financial Statements

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to approve August 2011 Financial Statement as printed. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Dayton asked for a computation of the November sales tax supplement. She noted that every year there is confusion about the distribution. She noted that employees need to know the process because there seems to be a misunderstanding.

Dr. Harris replied that the district is communicating with staff; however, classified staff will be dissatisfied until the percentages can be changed.

Mrs. Flowers noted that the Board determined the amount of the November sales tax check approximately six years ago. The May clean-out check is determined by the actual employee count.

Action Item 5:A – Approval of Policy

On a motion by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved policy JCDAE (Student Usage of Personal Electronic Devices) as printed. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6:A – Sales Tax School Refunding Bond Resolution, Series 2011

It was moved by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to approve the Sales Tax School Refunding Bonds Resolution, Series 2011.

Mr. Bill Wilson noted that the ten year bond rate is down almost 18 basis points and closed right at 2%. It was noted that savings are close to what was initially presented on September 13th. If interest rates remain the same, the savings will be approximately \$230,000. He commended the Board and district on maintaining a “AA-” bond rating.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6:B – Policy First Reading

The Board accepted policy DJC (Payroll Procedures) as a first reading.

Action Item 6:C – Awarding of SFS Pizza Bid

On a motion by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board awarded the School Food Service pizza bid to Pizza Hut. The motion carried on a majority vote. Mrs. Krutzer opposed.

Action Item 6:D – (Purchasing of Eight Buses) and Action Item 6:E (Authorization to Hire Seven Bus Attendants)

It was moved by Bishop McFarland to approve Action Item 6:D and 6:E. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Muhammad noted that the intent was to take the items separately because the Transportation Manger was to make a presentation.

Mr. Traweek stated that both items can be placed on the next agenda as a reconsideration.

Agenda Item 7– Report of Board Members

Mrs. Krutzer reminded the Board that the LSBA workshop is scheduled for November 7th and it is the last opportunity for Board members to receive their six credit hours.

Bishop McFarland stated that he does not know what went wrong on the authorization to purchase buses and hire bus attendants. He stated that he serves on the Transportation Committee with Mr. Muhammad and the committee was in agreement with both items.

Mr. Muhammad reported that the baseball field at Wossman is moving forward and that a

recommendation will be brought to the Board.

Mr. Sharp commented on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Lincoln Elementary Library. He also thanked Mr. Taylor for inviting him to Carroll High School's PTO meeting. He asked that the Policy Committee revisit the uniform policy as it relates to school uniform outerwear.

Mr. Traweek asked that the Board and community continue to pray for the student that was hit by a car as he attempted to catch the bus.

Agenda Item 8:A – Report of Superintendent

Instructional and Operational updates were given by school feeder patterns and Central Office. Presentations were given by Mr. Bob Rash, Mrs. Sylvia Brass, Mrs. Lametria Robinson, Mrs. Jacqueline Anderson, Mrs. Ann Cook, Mrs. Joyce Tate, Mrs. DaVona Howard and Mr. Andrew Hill.

Dr. Harris reported that the United Way Campaign is underway. She encouraged Board members to contribute.

Agenda Item 8:B – Report of Board Attorney.

No report.

Agenda Item 9:A – Future Meetings

Board Meetings: November 15th and December 6th.

Action Item 10:A – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 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