

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Bishop Rodney McFarland. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Traweek.

Agenda 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. Brenda Shelling

Board Member Absent

Mrs. Stephanie Smith (out of town)

Administrative Staff

Mr. Julian Gray
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Dr. Tammye Turpin
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Mr. Andrew Hill
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mrs. Teresa Foreman
Ms. Karla Bowlin
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Gray asked to reverse the order of agenda items 7:3 and 7:4.

Bishop McFarland asked that agenda item 7:6 be removed from the agenda because the full Board is not present. He indicated that the Board has not received the full investigative report.

Mrs. Shelling stated that she is opposed to deleting agenda item 7:6 because this matter has been ongoing for months. She also stated that the Board was assured that the investigation would be completed by December 15th.

Mrs. Dayton suggested that a special called meeting be scheduled within forty-eight hours to address this matter.

Mr. Gray stated that the investigations have lingered and it is time to move forward and bring closure to this matter. Action should be taken immediately because the end of the school year is fast approaching.

President Traweck asked if negotiations can take place prior to the tenure hearing.

Attorney Lawrence replied that it is permissible to work toward a resolution but the final resolution must come before the Board for approval.

Mr. Traweck noted that a special call meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, January 28th at noon. He also noted that the meeting will proceed even if all Board members are not present.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, to adopt the agenda with the reversal of agenda items 7:3 and 7:4 and the deletion of agenda item 7:6.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mrs. Krutzer stated that she is opposed because she wants to bring closure to agenda item 7:6.

Mr. Handy stated that the Board needs to start the superintendent search process as soon as possible.

Action Item 6 – Approval of January 7, 2010 Board Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling that was seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the Board approved the minutes of January 7, 2010 as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:1 – 2008-2009 Audit Report

Mr. Lynn Andries, Certified Public Accountant with Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier presented the 2008-2009 Audit Report. He noted that the district received an unqualified opinion which is the type of opinion that the district should look for each year. He briefly discussed the general fund statement of revenues and expenditures. The general fund balance for the year ending June 30, 2009 is \$11.7 million. Several recommendations were made: Complete and update the School Board's Policy Manual, prepare a formal plan for monitoring the computer and information system, prepare a

formal disaster recovery and business continuity plan, implementation of a written security plan and disaster recovery plan for business operations. There were several financial statement findings: Payroll fraud/falsifying of timesheets by an assistant principal and misuse of credit cards by a school bookkeeper and four principals.

Mrs. Shelling noted that the failure to turn in sick leave by central office employees is no different than the issue with credit cards; there is still a cost to the district. At the end of employment, employees will be paid for those sick days. The days in question should be documented and deducted. She also commented that the management letter notes that the district should utilize the comments and recommendations included in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Report. She stated that in some cases the recommendations have been ignored.

Mr. Francis Huffman stated that his firm looks at the recommendations from the Legislative Auditor's Report when preparing their audit.

Mrs. Dayton asked the president to schedule a Finance Committee meeting to look at trends and expenses so that the Board can map out a strategy.

Action Item 7:2 – Permission to advertise the sale of Georgia Tucker on the Louisiana National History Register

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Bishop McFarland to advertise the sale of Georgia Tucker at no less than the appraised value on the Louisiana National Historic Register.

President Traweck noted that the charge is minimal to advertise on the website.

Bishop McFarland asked that a specific dollar amount be added to the motion.

Mrs. Shelling stated that the exact cost is not known. She further stated that if the building is not sold within the time frame, it can be brought back to the Board for other options.

Public Comment: Rev. Roosevelt Wright stated that buildings such as Georgia Tucker have been sold for a minute amount of money.

Attorney Lawrence replied that this can be done if the building is being transferred to another state agency. It is possible to partner with another governmental entity that will use the building for public use. If the building is being sold to a private individual, it must be at no less than the appraised value.

Mr. Handy asked if there is a time limit on advertising.

Mrs. Shelling restated her motion: To authorize the sale of Georgia Tucker on the Louisiana National Historic Register at no less than the appraised value for six months.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:3 – Defining the Scope of Work for Neville/Wossman Stadium and Field House Project

Mr. Gray noted that three firms presented the scope of work for the Neville/Wossman stadium and Neville field house projects: TB Architect, Architecture Plus and Herbert Land Architect. At the January 19th Facilities Committee meeting, each firm made a presentation. It was noted that it would be cost effective to build a stand alone field house at Neville. It was also noted that the restroom facilities are not sufficient for the seating capacity at both stadiums.

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, to accept the scope of work for both Neville and Wossman stadium and the field house project at Neville.

Mrs. Dayton stated that there are elementary schools that have leaking roofs. She further stated that it is tough to support these projects when there are other needs. She noted that all schools should receive what is needed, but needs should be prioritized.

President Traweck stated that schools will probably always have leaking roofs. He noted that over half of the QZAB funds went toward roofs. He stated that sports are important to the educational system, and students that use those facilities should do so in a safe environment.

Bishop McFarland noted that Wossman was sited for having the concession stand under the stadium. He is not in support of the scope of work for Wossman because a stand alone concession stand is needed. There are also issues at Carroll that need to be addressed.

Mr. Handy stated that he asked to have Carroll included in the study, but it was not done because several Board members indicated that the building was still under warranty. He asked that the same architecture firms that performed studies at Wossman and Neville do the same for Carroll.

Mrs. Shelling stated that no architects were solicited; each firm performed the study on their own and presented the findings to the committee. She also stated that the only school with a stand alone concession stand is Carroll. If concession stands under stadiums are a health factor, it should be addressed.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that many of the issues in the book prepared by TB Architect have not been addressed.

Bishop McFarland stated that this item should be brought back in a different manner at another Board meeting.

Mr. Handy asked that this item be tabled until a Facilities Committee meeting can be called. He stated that the committee should study the book and prioritize needs. There will be major cuts in funding and the Board should be careful with spending.

Bishop McFarland stated that when a person calls for an item to be tabled, it is not debatable; it must be voted on.

On a motion by Mr. Handy that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board tabled this agenda item.

In favor: Mrs. Dayton (not opposed to the projects, but would like to see a full report to make sure no academic needs have been overlooked), Mr. Handy (wants to make sure that all school needs are met and that Carroll is included in the study), Mrs. Krutzer, Bishop McFarland

Opposed: Mrs. Shelling (opposed because many agenda items have been tabled and never brought back before the Board), Mr. Traweek (this item has been supported by the community and the architects have put in a lot of work on these projects)

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Bishop McFarland stated that the Board president has the authority to put this item on the next agenda.

Action Item 7:4 – Naming of an Architect for the Neville/Wossman Stadium and Field House Project

No action taken on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7:5 – Continuation 21st Century Learning Communities After-School Program Grant

Mr. Gray noted that this item is for information only. The Louisiana Department of Education released another grant RFP last week, January 19, 2010, that is due February 3, 2010. Linda Heard has been authorized to write this grant as allowed by the MOU signed May 14, 2009 and approved at the April 20, 2009 Board meeting. The current MOU allows for Dr. Heard to write continuation grants for the MCSD. In this grant each school site can receive up to \$200,000 per year for a total of \$800,000 per year for 3 years. The schools that will be targeted as 21st Century Sites include: Lee Junior High (with Neville High School included in that location); Carroll High School, Wossman High School, and Clara Hall Elementary School. If funded all MCSD schools excluding one (Lexington Elementary – does received MCSD 01 Sales Tax Tutoring Funds) will receive 21st Century Funds or TANF Funds for tutoring.

Mrs. Krutzer asked Mr. Gray to meet with the principal of Lee Jr. High to ask her to reconsider participating in the grant. She noted that the grant writer should not be the evaluator.

Action Item 7:6 – Scheduling of a Tenure Hearing for two Principals

Deleted

Action Item 7:7 – Authorization to Hire Additional Counsel for Tenure Hearing Proceedings

No action taken on this agenda item.

Action Item 8A:1 – Approval of the Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the Board approved the human resources agenda of January 26, 2010 as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8B:1 – Permission to Contract with Southern Specialized Risk Options, LLC

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, to authorize the administration to contract with Southern Specialized Risk Options, LLC and approved a MOU for grant writer Steven Haynes to write the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, DOE Office of Safe Schools-Emergency Management Planning Grant, and State Homeland Security Grant Program-School Transportation Anti-Terrorism Program

Mrs. Krutzer asked if the district will be applying for all of the indicated grants. She stated that the district must be cautious in applying for grants because the amount of paperwork that is required takes staff away from their daily priorities.

Dr. Turpin stated that the main grant that the district is interested in is the COPS Hiring Recovery Program for School Resource Officers.

Attorney Lawrence noted that there is a fee of 5% of the grant award for the grant writer. If the grant does not allow for the fee, it then becomes a general fund obligation.

Dr. Turpin stated that the district receives approximately 9.6% indirect cost that goes directly into general funds and those funds can be used to pay the grant writer.

Mrs. Shelling stated that any fees other than the 5% fee should be authorized by the Board.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8B:2 – Approval of the Revised District Plan for Educational Technology

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the Board approved the Revised District Plan for Educational Technology.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8B:3 – Approval of the Revised Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the Board approved the Revised Acceptable Use and Internet Safety.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8C:1 and 8C:2 – Awarding of School Food Service Equipment Bids

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling the Board awarded school food service bids SFS10-08 and SFS 10-09 as indicated on the spreadsheet.

Mrs. Krutzer inquired about the use of stainless steel eating utensils.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8C:3 – Permission to Advertise for RFP for Computer Lease

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling the Board authorized the administration to advertise for RFP for computer lease.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8C:4 – Sole Source

Ms. Bowlin indicated that this item is on the agenda for information only. She noted that this sole source item is a carrying case that contains cameras, microphones, microscopes and software for students to create videos, podcasts and to conduct scientific experiments.

Action Item 8C:5 – Approval of E-rate Vendors for 2010-2011

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling the Board approve the E-rate vendors list as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports

None

Agenda Item 10 – Interim Superintendent’s Reports and Announcements

None

Agenda Item 11 – President’s Reports and Announcements

President Traweek reminded the Board that a special called meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28th at noon at the Media Center.

Agenda Item 12 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Bishop McFarland.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.
Interim Superintendent