

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Thursday, January 7, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Rev. Van Brass. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Adam 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. Stephanie Smith  
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

#### 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  
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

### Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

Superintendent Gray asked that the wording on agenda item 9:5 be changed from interim to acting.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the agenda with the change as requested by Superintendent Gray.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 6 – Approval of a One Vote Method of Electing Board Officers

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the one vote per nominee method of electing Board officers for 2010, whereby all candidates for the office of President and Vice President of the Board will be nominated at one time, and each Board member casting a single vote for the candidate of their choice.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 7 – Election of Board Officers for 2010

President Shelling passed the gavel to Superintendent Gray. He declared the office of President and Vice President of the Monroe City School Board vacant; he then called for nominations for Board President.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy, to nominate Mr. Mickey Traweek for President and Bishop Rodney McFarland for Vice President.

Superintendent Gray stated that nominations would be taken one at a time for each office.

Attorney Lawrence stated that if there are no other nominations and it is the consensus of the Board, both nominations could be taken at the same time.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Handy called for the closing of nominations.

In favor: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Handy, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shelling  
Recuse: Mr. Traweek, Bishop McFarland

Superintendent Gray passed the gavel to President Traweek.

Board members thanked Mrs. Shelling for serving as Board President.

#### Action Item 8 – Approval of December 15, 2009 Board Minutes

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the minutes of December 15, 2009 as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 9:1 – Recognition

Mrs. Mary Lou Roundtree, Wossman High School Talented Art Teacher, introduced James Augurson. She noted that he won the cover art contest for the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Conference. A framed copy of his winning artwork was presented to Board members. The Board congratulated him on his accomplishments.

Action Item 9:2 – Permission to Travel

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved travel for Carroll High School Concert Choir to New York, NY; April 23-26, 2010.

Mrs. Krutzer indicated that the choir would be performing at Carnegie Hall.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:3 – Permission to Advertise for an Assistant Principal at MLK

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for an assistant principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:4 – Permission to Re-advertise for an Assistant Principal at Carroll High

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board authorized the administration to re-advertise for an assistant principal at Carroll High.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:5 – Appointment of an Acting Principal at Madison James Foster

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Mr. Harrington Watson as the Acting Principal of Madison James Foster Elementary School.

Mrs. Shelling inquired why a staff member at Madison Foster was not considered. She then asked that the item be removed from the agenda.

Bishop McFarland stated that there has always been a gentleman's agreement that Board members are notified when there are issues or concerns in their respective districts.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mr. Handy to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

In favor: Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Handy

Opposed: Mrs. Dayton, Mr. Traweek, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shelling

The motion failed.

Action Item 9:6 – Permission to Contract with a Project Manager

Superintendent Gray indicated that three people were interviewed for the position. It is the recommendation of the interview committee and Superintendent to contract with Lemuel Corkern.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the Superintendent's recommendation to contract with Lemuel Corkern to assist with current projects.

Mrs. Dayton asked that the Board be briefed on how change orders will be handled.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:7 – Permission to Enter Into a Partnership Agreement for Race to the Top

It was moved by Mr. Handy and seconded by Mrs. Dayton to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Education on the Race to the Top Grant.

Mrs. Dayton asked that additional language be placed in the motion to protect the district because the details are changing daily.

Mrs. Shelling stated that she is concerned about signing the agreement because there are too many uncertainties.

Attorney Lawrence stated that the motion could indicate that before there is final approval of the agreement, the item would be brought back to the Board for ultimate approval on the meeting prior to the deadline.

Mrs. Krutzer asked the Superintendent to inform the Board on all meetings concerning Race to the Top.

President Traweck asked Attorney Lawrence if the district could opt-out of the agreement if it is approved tonight.

Attorney Lawrence stated that the Board could add language to the motion to state that the Superintendent has the authorization to enter into the agreement providing that it is not binding on the district until all details are known. However, the contract must conform to that type of motion.

Mrs. Shelling stated that this agreement must be signed by January 11, 2010 but there is no final date to opt out. There is no commitment from the State that the district will receive the money even though federal requirements state that the money is to be shared.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is uncertain if the State will accept a modified contract. She then offered a friendly amendment to allow Attorney Lawrence to construct a legal agreement to protect the district.

Mr. Handy accepted the friendly amendment.

Mrs. Dayton asked Attorney Lawrence to contact the State to see if a modified contract can be accepted.

The Board recessed to allow Attorney Lawrence an opportunity to confer with staff from the State. Attorney Lawrence spoke at length via telephone with staff from the Louisiana Department of Education to gain clarity on constructing an addendum to the Partnership Agreement.

Mrs. Shelling stated that the State has verbally stated that the district can opt-out but that statement is not in the contract. She then asked why the State does not want that language in the contract.

Mr. Lawrence replied that the State's position is that if the opt-out statement is in the document that is submitted to the United States Department of Education, it will appear that the district is not totally committed to participate with the State. They believe that the Federal Government will read that to mean that the district will bail out. If that is the case, the Government will be concerned about giving money to the State and the State not having a local district to give the funds to.

Public Input – Ms. Sandie Lollie stated that her only concern is for the students. She further stated that this is political and not about students. The district should be cautious because they do not have all the details.

Amended motion: As per tonight's telephone conversation with staff from the Louisiana Department of Education, the Board authorizes the administration to proceed with participating in the Race to the Top program with the understanding that the ninety day opt-out provision exist in the event that there is no mutual agreed work-plan between the State and the school district. If there is no mutual agreement, the district does not commit itself to this program. In addition, the addendum must be signed-off and executed by both the local school district and the State.

Mr. Handy accepted the amended motion.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mrs. Shelling opposed.

#### Action Item 10:A – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the January 7, 2010 Human Resources Agenda as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:B – Awarding of Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the Board awarded the School Food Service food products bid to Sysco Food Services.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Committee Reports

- A. Personnel: Bishop McFarland – He asked that the Personnel Committee report be removed from the agenda because this meeting takes place prior to Board meeting. He requested that he remain the chair of the committee and that he be allowed to serve on the Facilities Committee.
- B. Facilities: Mr. Traweek – The CHS baseball field is approximately 70% complete.
- C. Policy: Mrs. Dayton – Meeting date to be announced.
- D. Curriculum: Mrs. Krutzer – Meeting date to be announced.
- E. Finance: Mrs. Shelling – No report.

Agenda Item 12 – Interim Superintendent’s Reports and Announcements

None

Agenda Item 13 – President’s Reports and Announcements

None

Agenda Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mr. Mickey Traweek  
Board President

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Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.  
Interim Superintendent