

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at Sallie Humble Elementary School, 3800 Westminster Street; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Pastor Mark Foster, West Monroe Pentecostal Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Davis, Carroll High School.

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
Ms. Derenda Flowers
Ms. Betty Carroll
Dr. Tammye Turpin
Ms. Vickie Irwin
Mr. Andrew Hill
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mr. Josh Leporati
Ms. Karla Bowlin
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Mr. Sharp, to approve the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Point of Pride

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs will honor Kendrell Carr, 3rd grade student at Berg Jones Elementary School, for winning 3rd place in the K-5th grade Inclusion Art Contest. The award ceremony will be held in Baton Rouge on February 23rd.

Michael Davis, Carroll High School AFJROTC Cadet, has been accepted to attend the service academy at West Point. He is celebrated as an honor student, athlete, leader and community servant.

Michael Coenen, Neville High School student, has been selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the United States Department of Education as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. This program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating seniors.

J. S. Clark Magnet Elementary School and Sallie Humble Elementary School has been recognized as High Performing/High Poverty Schools by the Louisiana Department of Education. Only fifty-six schools, representing thirty school districts across Louisiana, have earned this distinction. These schools have been identified and honored for overcoming the challenges associated with educating large populations of poor and minority students.

Action Item 7 – Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a.) Approval of January 25, 2011 minutes
- b.) Permission to travel:
 - i. Lincoln Elementary Dance Team to Dallas, TX; February 25-27, 2011
 - ii. Wossman High School Spanish Club to Arlington, TX; March 26-27 2011
- c.) Permission to contract with Melanie Massey Physical Therapy, Inc.
- d.) Personnel Report
 - i. Resignations/Leaves
 - ii. Appointments

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brett Smith asked for clarification on the position of Fine Arts Coordinator. He noted that the position is being advertised as an Instructional Specialist of Fine Arts/Physical Education.

Dr. Harris stated that there may be confusion on the title of the position, but the position has always required supervisor credentials.

Action Item 8 – Items for Separate Consideration

None

Action Item 9:A – Awarding of Diagnostic Study RFQ/P

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board awarded the Diagnostic Study RFQ/P to Prismatic Services, Inc.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B 1-6 – Approval of Job Descriptions/Permission to Advertise

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to approve and advertise for Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Executive Director of Human Resources, Executive Director of Educational Support Services, Executive Director of Accountability and Information, Executive Director of Operations and Chief Financial Officer.

Public Input:

Ms. Rachelle May asked if all the positions are new. She also asked if persons currently holding these types of positions will be displaced.

Dr. Harris stated that there are currently three executive director positions and those positions will be split into six. She noted that there needs to be a focus on how central office personnel perform their duties. The intent is to fill the positions from within.

Mr. Dennis Turner questioned how additional staff will improve, inspire and enhance the learning environment of Monroe City Schools' students.

Mr. Sharp stated that the state of Louisiana is cutting funds; therefore, the district needs to utilize the employees that are currently in place. After the budget is complete, these positions can be revisited.

Dr. Harris stated that the cost of the proposed reorganizational plan is minimal. Presently, the three executive directors are covering a lot of areas. Because of this, employees can not focus and implement programs with fidelity. The children of Monroe City Schools should receive the highest quality education - staff will work hard to make that happen even if the additional positions are not approved. She reiterated that the cost of the reorganization is minimal and the district will not be in financial danger by adding these positions.

Mrs. Dayton stated that funds to classrooms need to be protected. The cost is minimal now, but the district should not set itself up to fund these positions and then have to cut them in the future. She further stated that the superintendent can modify job descriptions as needed.

Mr. Muhammad stated that he can see the need but he is not in support of adding additional staff at this time. There is staff currently in place that can perform the needed duties. He further stated that he would like to have seen the entire plan presented at one time.

Bishop McFarland stated that the superintendent needs support. She can not be fairly

evaluated if the Board will not give her the tools she needs to move the district forward. The superintendent is only asking for \$5,000 to implement her program.

Mrs. Krutzer questioned how three positions can be added for \$5,000. There is a concern that funds will be taken from grants and Title programs to finance the salaries; those funds should go directly to the classroom. She asked that the reorganization be placed on hold until the budget is revised and the studies are complete. She suggested that the superintendent reassign duties to staff.

Dr. Harris stated that she will have no other choice but to reassign duties if the plan is not approved. By doing this, some staff may have fewer responsibilities but continue to receive the same salary.

Mr. Traweck stated that the superintendent does have the authority to reassign staff, but any decrease in pay must have Board approval. He also indicated that he is concerned that funds will be taken away from classrooms.

Mr. Ludley asked the Board to support the superintendent. She has been hired to move the district forward, but has been constantly met with resistance.

In favor: Bishop McFarland, Mr. Ludley

Opposed: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Traweck

The motion failed.

Agenda Item 10:A – Policy First Read

Dr. Harris noted that a Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16th. At this time, principals will review the policies for recommendations or changes.

The Board accepted the following polices as first read: ABE, BBBC, BE, CBB, CBD, DFE, DFL, DJED, EBC,GBC, GBDB, GBM, IDBB, IDFA, II, JBA, JBC, JBCC, JBCCD, JBD, JCDAC, JCDAF, JCDB, JDA, JGB, JGFG, JGFHA, JH, JS, KA, KB, KBC, KE, KF, KFA, KG, KIB, KJJ, KKA, KLG, KLMA, LF, LH.

Action Item 10:B – Supplemental Pay for Interim Transportation Manager

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board approved supplemental pay for Interim Transportation Manager Mr. Willie Anderson for service rendered November 12, 2010 – February 10, 2011.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11: Report of Board Members

Mrs. Krutzer thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC. She then briefed the Board on the conference. She encouraged Board members and citizens to contact their congressmen in support of

elementary and secondary educational programs.

Bishop McFarland reiterated to new Board members that it is protocol to confer with all committee members prior to the posting of meetings.

Mr. Muhammad commended 5th grade male students from Minnie Ruffin for attending the State of the City Address. He also commended Barkdull Faulk and Minnie Ruffin for placing 2nd and 3rd place in the Black Heritage Quiz Bowl. He announced that a Town Hall meeting is being planned for District 5. The tentative date is February 22nd at Minnie Ruffin Elementary.

Mrs. Dayton noted that a Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 16th at 8:30 a.m. at Jefferson Elementary.

Mr. Sharp announced that a Town Hall meeting is being planned for District 4. The date, time, and location will be determined.

Agenda Item 12: – Report of Superintendent

The Louisiana Department of Education has posted the cohort graduation rates. There was a 48.4% increase in 2005-2006 and 62.9% increase in 2009-2010; with a total increase of 29.9%. Dr. Linda Heard contributes the growth to the district's three grants: GEAR-Up, 21st Century and Safe and Healthy Schools. Dr. Harris congratulated the project directors on their success.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

The February 22nd Board meeting will be cancelled if there are no urgent matters that need to come before the Board for approval.

Action Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 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