

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at Wossman High School, 1600 Arizona Street; Monroe, Louisiana 71202. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Reverend Larry Stafford, First United Methodist Church. 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. Clarence Sharp  
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.  
Mr. Verbon Muhammad  
Mr. Glynn Ludley

#### Administrative Staff

Dr. Kathleen Harris  
Ms. Derenda Flowers  
Ms. Betty Carroll  
Dr. Valerie Batley  
Mrs. Jackie Matthews  
Dr. Tammye Turpin  
Mr. Andrew Hill  
Ms. Davona Howard  
Ms. Mamie Williams  
Ms. Karla Bowlin  
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

### Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, to approve the agenda as printed. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### Agenda Item 6 – Point of Pride

Rashida Swinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Minnie Ruffin Elementary School, won third place in the Braille Challenge on February 9, 2011 on the campus of the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired in Baton Rouge.

Carver Elementary School Chorus participated in the Southern Choral Classic Festival at Louisiana Tech. As a first time participant, the choir received a rating of excellent.

#### 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 February 15, 2011 minutes
- b.) Permission to travel:
  - i. 2011 Summer Institute for the Gifted students to the University of California-Berkley and the University of Texas-Austin
  - ii. Wossman High School JROTC to Lake Charles, LA; March 25-26, 2011
  - iii. Neville High School Band to San Antonio, TX; April 14-17, 2011
- c.) Personnel Report
  - i. Resignations/Leaves (C:2 to be deleted)
  - ii. Appointments

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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

None

#### Action Item 9 – Adoption of Board Policies

On a motion by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the following policies: ABE, BBBC, BE, CBB, CBD, DFE, DFL, DJED, EBC,GBC, GBDB, GBM, IDBB, IDFA, II, JBA, JBC, JBCC, JBCD, JBD, JCDAC, JCDAF, JCDB, JDA, JGB, JGFG, JGFHA, JH, JS, KA, KB, KBC, KE, KF, KFA, KG, KIB, KJJ, KKA, KLG, KLMA, LF, LH. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:A – QSCB Bond Resolution

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to adopt a resolution providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000.000) of Revenue Bonds (Taxable QSCB), Series 2011, of the Monroe City School Board of the City of Monroe, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of such Bonds and providing for the payment thereof; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Mr. Jason Akers, Foley & Judell, LLP, indicated that JPMogan Chase Bank has agreed to purchase the bonds at 0.40% interest rate. Deposits will be made into a Sinking Fund account and those deposits will be invested in safe government securities. At the conclusion of the term, monies deposited plus the investment earnings will be combined to repay the \$5,000,000. Funds should be available on April 21, 2011 and must be spent within three years.

Mr. Traweek asked if the district is committed to purchasing the bonds if the resolution is adopted.

Mr. Akers stated that the district is committed. He also stated that after this year the Qualified School Construction Bonds will no longer exist.

President Traweek asked Mrs. Flowers if this bond resolution is feasible.

Mrs. Flowers stated that she is not in a position to make that recommendation. However, she did say that the Board must incorporate this into next year's budget process.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:B – Financial Support for Carroll High School Dance Team

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved \$4,200.00 in financial support and also approved permission to travel for Carroll High School's Dance Team to New York, NY – April 7-10, 2011. The motion carried on unanimous vote.

Mr. Muhammad thanked Grambling State University for provided free transportation to the students. He stated that the Board should look into purchasing a charter bus for district use.

#### Action Item 10:C – Permission to Advertise for Surplus Sale

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for surplus sale items stored at Georgia Tucker. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:D – Permission to Advertise for Bids for Chillers and Boilers

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for bids for chillers and boilers. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:E – Permission to Advertise and Hire a Chiller Mechanic

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for a chiller mechanic. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:F – Permission to Contract with a Construction Manager

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board granted permission to contract with a construction manager for \$65,000, with a maximum of 1,000 hours for the full year contract. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:G – Change Order for the New Administration Building and Media Center

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board approved a \$38,151.00 change order for the new Administration Building and Media Center. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:H – Strategic Planning RFP

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to table the Strategic Planning RFP. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:I – Facilities Assessment RFP

It was moved by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to table the Facilities Assessment RFP until a Facilities and Finance committee meeting is scheduled. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Dr. Harris noted that tabled items will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Action Item 10:J 1-3 – Demographic Study, Salary Study and Diagnostic Study Contracts

Mrs. Krutzer stated that vendors, not contracts, have been approved. She indicated that Board policy states that all contracts are to be approved by the Board.

Attorney Lawrence indicated that he is unaware of the policy that Mrs. Krutzer is referring to. He stated that policy DJAA states that the Superintendent and Board President sign all contracts. The contracts must be examined and approved by the Superintendent or designee prior to the President signing the document. He asked Mrs. Krutzer to provide the policy she is referring to so that he can make sure that the two policies are in sync.

Bishop McFarland stated that the Board's Attorney is responsible for reviewing all documents to ensure that the district is protected.

Dr. Harris stated that she has moved forward expeditiously in bringing the studies to the Board, and that it is her desire that the studies will be fulfilled and completed as soon as possible.

Mrs. Dayton suggested that the Board meet with vendors so that all parties know exactly what the scope of work is. She also suggested that the presentations take place at the retreat. She stated that the RFPs have already been approved; therefore, no action is needed.

President Traweck asked Attorney Lawrence if action is required on this item.

Attorney Lawrence replied that it is not needed.

Dr. Harris stated that the Demographic Study contract has been signed. She then asked if she can move forward with signing the remaining contracts.

Mrs. Dayton stated that the contacts may need to be brought before the Board for approval.

It was moved by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to table the Salary Study and Diagnostic Study contracts. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Item 11: Report of Board Members

Mr. Sharp thanked the staff and community for a very productive town hall meeting. He also thanked Board member Vickie Dayton for her support. He congratulated Carroll High School boys' basketball team for winning the 3A State Championship.

Mr. Muhammad reported that he also had a productive town hall meeting in his district. He also reported that the Louisiana School Boards Association Conference was very informative.

Bishop McFarland stated that there are several personnel matters that need to be addressed by the Personnel committee. He noted that the new gymnasium at Wossman is near completion and a meeting will be scheduled to resolve the naming of the gym.

Mrs. Krutzer thanked the firm of Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale & Soignier for their presentation at the Finance committee meeting. She asked that another meeting be scheduled to review the financial information that was not presented.

#### Agenda Item 12: – Report of Superintendent

Dr. Harris noted that she was informed by Mrs. Krutzer that the Board voted for initial implementation of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy for 2010-2011 with full implementation in 2011-2012. The three high school principals will present their implementation plans.

#### 12:A – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Presentations

Mr. Patrick Taylor, Carroll High School: The current 9<sup>th</sup> grade initiative consists of core subject clusters, segregation of males and females, promotion of honors/AP classes, Credit Recovery Program, READ 180 and Freshman Transition Coach.

Mr. Brent Vidrine, Neville High School: Remedial courses for identified at-risk first-time freshmen, Summer Bridge Program for incoming freshmen, Credit Recovery Program, after school tutorial, Freshman Transition Coach. He noted that successful programs require dedicated and caring staff.

Mr. Sam Moore, Wossman High School: The program currently offers 9<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Bridge Program, Freshman Transition Coach, Grade/Credit Recovery, after school tutorial, test prep, READ 180 and partnership with feeder school. He added that it is important to have highly qualified certified high school teachers at the middle school level. He stated that administrators must include principals when making decision that have an effect on schools and programs.

It is the consensus of the high school principals that additional staff and space is needed and that programs must be individualized for each location. It is also the consensus of the principals that a true 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy cannot be implemented at this time.

12:B – Financial Report

Dr. Harris stated that financial reports are in Board packets. No questions were asked by Board members.

12:C – Report of Board Attorney

No report given.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

The April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be cancelled if there is no business to be conduct.

The Board President will poll the Board on a date for the board retreat.

Action Item 14 – Executive Session

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board convened in executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Bias -vs.- Willis, No. 2010-3762; 4<sup>th</sup> JDC-Parish of Ouachita.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:45p.m. and took no action.

Action Item 15 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mr. Mickey Traweek  
Board President

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Dr. Kathleen Harris  
Superintendent