

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at Wossman High School, 1600 Arizona Street, Monroe, Louisiana 71202. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Father Adrian Fischer, Little Flower Catholic Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jamie Powell, Wossman High School. Wossman's ROTC Color Guard posted the National Colors.

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

Superintendent and Administrative Staff

Dr. James Dupree
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Dr. Tammye Turpin
Mr. Bobby Williams
Ms. Mamie Williams
Mrs. Teresa Foreman
Mrs. Julie Staley
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Dupree requested that authorization to purchase and install a chiller at Berg Jones Elementary be added to the agenda as action item 9:E-4. President Shelling requested that agenda item 9:B be changed to discussion only and that agenda item 9:C be changed from superintendent's credit card expenditures to all credit card expenditures.

On a motion by Mr. Traweek that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the agenda with changes as requested.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6 – Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the March 10, 2009 minutes as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7:A – Statement of School Performance

Dr. Dupree congratulated students from Wossman that scored 20 points and above on the ACT test during the last testing period. He noted that students from Carroll High School scored an average of 19 points on the ACT test.

He noted that gifted and talented students from Wossman traveled to Dallas, TX to view the King Tut Exhibit. Upon return, students completed artwork related to the exhibit. The display is located in the back of the room.

Agenda Item 7-B – 2009 Teachers of the Year

Certificates of Recognition were presented to:
Samantha Hano, J. S. Clark Magnet Elementary
Katrina Roberson, Lee Jr. High
Emalie Dunn, Neville High

Agenda Item 7-C – 2009 Students of the Year

Certificates of Recognition were presented to:
Rachel Augurson, J. S. Clark Magnet Elementary
Armand Arcillo, Lee Jr. High
Kelsey Canizaro, Neville High

Agenda Item 7-D - Recognition

Orchestra teacher Xuan Liu was recognized for receiving the District Festival Superior Concert Award at the District VIII Orchestra Festival on February 25th in Shreveport, LA.

Action Item 8:A – Forethought Consulting Contract

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board authorized Superintendent Dupree to enter into a contract with Forethought Consulting, Inc. to review and continuously update the policy manual and to provide a digital format of the policy manual for online access.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8:B – Feasibility Study

Mr. Charles Monroe briefly updated the Board on the feasibility study for a baseball field for Carroll High. He indicated that the City of Monroe is moving forward with the initial plan for the baseball facility. Mr. Handy inquired about the land behind the school. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Traweek agreed that the district has committed to partner with the City of Monroe to place the field across the street from Carroll and that the commitment should be honored.

Mr. Charles Shope of Architecture Plus presented the findings from the feasibility study for gymnasiums at Wossman and Lee. He stated that it would cost approximately \$4.5 million to construct a new gym and approximately \$1.5 million to renovate the existing gym at Wossman. Bishop McFarland stated that the feasibility study was to be conducted for a new gym not for a renovation. He further stated that once action is taken on an item, the directive should not be changed by anyone. President Shelling stated that this item is for information only; no action will be taken tonight. Mr. Shope commented that Lee is almost out of room and that the gym can not go in any direction without major demolition. The cost for a gym at Lee is approximately \$3 million. Mr. Traweek stated that the Board needs to move forward with these projects. He also stated that the Superintendent and Mrs. Flowers should be consulted on these projects. Mrs. Dayton stated that there are other needs, such as overcrowding at Lexington, that need to be addressed. She also indicated that the Board needs to look at the entire picture to see what is feasible.

Agenda Item 9:A– LSBA Consolidated Resolution

President Shelling noted that during the 2009 LSBA Convention, the assembly opposed State Superintendent Paul Pastorek’s proposal that would affect school boards across Louisiana. As a result of the delegate assembly, it was recommended that each school district adopt this resolution in support of LSBA’s opposition to the legislation.

Mr. Traweek asked that this item be tabled.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith to adopt the Consolidated Resolution opposing school board reform legislation suggested by State Superintendent Paul Pastorek as adopted by the LSBA delegation at its 2009 Annual Convention.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is not opposed to the resolution but she is not in full support; therefore, she will abstain at this time. She further stated that she was not privy to the information that was given at the convention.

In favor: Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shelling

Opposed: Mrs. Krutzer

Abstain: Mrs. Dayton, Mr. Traweek

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Agenda Item 9:B – Superintendent Performance Objective Measurements

Mrs. Dayton noted that a Committee of the Whole is tentatively scheduled for April 8th at noon. At that time the superintendent will furnish to all Board members a copy of his responses to date for the evaluation process. Mrs. Dayton will provide the Board a spreadsheet of timelines for the evaluation process. The Board will also look at the latest evaluation instrument.

Action Item 9:C – Procedures for Reviewing All Credit Card Expenditures

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton to refer this agenda item to the policy committee to develop procedures to review all credit card expenditures.

Mr. Handy stated that he is opposed because there are procedures in place to check credit card expenditures.

Mrs. Smith stated that she is opposed because the Board has authorized a contract with Forethought Consulting to review the policy manual.

In favor: Mrs. Dayton, Mrs. Krutzer, Mr. Traweek, Mrs. Shelling

Opposed: Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Smith

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Action Item 9:D – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the human resources agenda as presented by Mrs. Carroll.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:E-1 – Awarding of Bid to Industrial Roofing Construction, LLC

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board awarded a bid to Industrial Roofing & Construction, LLC for removal and replacement of roof at Cypress Point Elementary.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is recusing because Industrial Roofing Construction, LLC is a client of her firm. She further stated that she does not deal with anyone from the company.

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Action Item 9:E-2 – Permission to Contract with Industrial Roofing & Construction, LLC

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved a contract with Industrial Roofing & Construction, LLC for removal and replacement of roof at Cypress Point Elementary.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is recusing because Industrial Roofing & Construction, LLC is a client of her firm.

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Action Item 9:E-3 – Permission to Advertise for Bids for Video Conferencing Equipment

On a motion by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland the Board authorized the administration to advertise for bids for video conferencing equipment for all high schools.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:E-4 – Permission to Purchase a Chiller for Berg Jones Elementary.

On a motion by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board accepted a quote from Byrnes Mechanical for a turn-key project for the purchase and installation of a chiller at Berg Jones Elementary.

Attorney Lawrence noted that this is an extenuating circumstance because state testing will begin next week. He also noted that this public works project is less than the bid law limit and that repair and maintenance items are exempt from bid law requirements.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Updates

1. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Krutzer will contact Dr. Dupree to schedule a meeting for next week.
2. Personnel Committee: No update. Bishop McFarland asked that the work-session be shortened so that his committee can have a complete meeting.
3. Facilities Committee: Mr. Traweck stated that a meeting will be called as soon as possible to discuss pending issues. He stated that the Board as a whole, along with Mrs. Flowers, should meet because there are major decisions that need to be made.
4. Policy Committee: Mrs. Dayton stated that a meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, March 26th at 3:00 p.m.
5. Public Relations Committee: Mrs. Smith stated the Board as a Whole should meet with Mrs. Scott to receive updates.

6. Finance Committee – Mrs. Shelling noted that a portion of the next Board work-session will be dedicated to budget preparation.

Agenda Item 11 – President’s Reports and Announcement

1. Board Retreat – A very informative Board retreat was held on March 15-16, 2009. Attorney Dennis Blount discussed legal matters and legislative updates; Dr. Bradley Scott from IDRA - San Antonio, TX, discussed equality of programs in schools; and the Wolf Creek Group from Baton Rouge, LA provided Board development.
2. School Visits – School visits are calendared for April 27th – April 30th. The superintendent and Board president will schedule times. The press is invited.
3. Request for Board Meeting Items – Board members are asked to send items for the agenda on Monday prior to the Board meeting via email, phone or fax.
4. National School Boards Conference – The conference will be held April 4-7 in San Diego, CA. Several Board members will attend.
5. Louisiana School Boards Association Update: Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland, Mrs. Krutzer and the Board president attended the LSBA Convention in Lake Charles, LA. During the convention, Board members were asked to attend the BESE meeting to take a position on the proposals suggested by Superintendent Paul Pastorek. School Board members from across Louisiana did attend the BESE meeting. Before the meeting ended, Superintendent Pastorek met individually with BESE Board members. Afterward, he agreed to pull the item from the agenda. Also, BESE Board members introduced a resolution that would request the legislature to examine if there is a need to make changes to local school boards. The legislature will convene on April 27th. Superintendent Pastorek agreed to meet with board presidents and board of directors at a later date. A conference call was held with him on last Thursday regarding finances for the upcoming school year. Districts will be subsidized through stimulus money if there is a decrease in student enrollment.
6. Monthly BESE Meetings – President Shelling plans to attend all monthly BESE meetings until the proposals by Superintendent Pastorek are resolved.

President Shelling disseminated to the Board a list of the remaining school board meetings. She asked Board members to invite their ministers to offer prayer on their assigned date.

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent’s Announcements

1. Dr. Dupree noted that Dr. Bradley Scott of IDRA was in the district for three days. While in the district he met with the Board, and the internal and external steering committee for the community forum.
2. The focus of the Superintendents' Institute dealt with the Stimulus Package. It was noted that there will be no money for new construction projects. There will be special allocations for Title I and IDEA.
3. Secretary of State Jay Dardenne will attend the Academic Rally at Carroll High School on Friday, March 27th.
4. A Community Forum for Strategic Planning will be held at Carroll Jr. High on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

President Shelling asked if there were any public comments, questions or concerns. No public comments were made.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent