

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Vickie Krutzer.

Agenda Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Dayton
Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Krutzer
Mr. James Mickey Traweek
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.
Mrs. Stephanie Smith

Board Member Absent

Mr. Jessie Handy (ill)
Mrs. Brenda Shelling (previous commitment)

Administrative Staff

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

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6 – Approval of Board Minutes

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the minutes of March 9, 2010 as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:1 – Permission to Travel

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board authorized travel for Wossman High School JROTC to Atlanta, GA; April 30 – May 2, 2010.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:2 – Appointment of an Acting MIS Operations Administrator

Mr. Gray noted that there has not been an active head of the MIS Department for some time; therefore, he is recommending Mr. Victor Chi for the position.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Victor Chi as Acting MIS Operations Administrator.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Dayton asked that an outside source evaluate the MIS Department.

Action Item 7:3 – Permission to Advertise for a MIS System Analyst

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for a System Analyst.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:4 – Permission to Enter into a MOU with Dr. Linda Heard to write the i3Grant

Dr. Turpin noted that the GEAR-UP Grant will end in one year and the district is looking to replace the grant. The Developmental Grant is up to \$5 million and will be written specifically for MCS. There are two additional grants up to \$30 million that will be written as a consortium with Bienville Parish and Madison Parish. These grants are intended for innovative programs to address student achievement or student growth; closing achievement gaps; decreasing dropout rates; and increasing high school

graduation rates. Bienville Parish will serve as the fiscal agent; therefore, MCS will not be responsible for Dr. Heard's fees.

Mrs. Dayton asked that the administration explore the possibility of utilizing local persons to write grants in order to reduce the substantial fees charged by Dr. Heard.

Dr. Turpin noted that most grant writers require an upfront fee to write grants – Dr. Heard is paid only if the grant is awarded.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved a MOU with Dr. Linda Heard to write a Federal Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8:A – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the human resources agenda of March 25, 2010 as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 8:B – 2010-2011 School Calendar

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the 2010-2011 school calendar as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Dayton stated that a master calendar should coincide with the Board calendar.

Agenda Item 8:C – Appointment of a Superintendent Search Firm

President Traweck stated that Board members were asked to submit names of potential search firms. Two names were submitted: BWP and McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C. The firms were thoroughly researched and material was distributed to Board members.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the hiring of McPherson & Jacobson to conduct the superintendent search.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

President Traweck noted that McPherson & Jacobson have two consultants that live in Louisiana.

Action Item 8:D – Purchasing of Modular Buildings for Lexington and Minnie Ruffin

Public Input: Mr. Reagan Martin stated that there have been conversations regarding 6th graders at Lexington Elementary being sent to Lee Jr. High to alleviate overcrowding. He asked Board members to do whatever is necessary to keep those students at Lexington.

Mrs. Hodge stated that Lexington is in need of three classrooms. If the buildings are not ordered immediately, there will not be adequate space for students when school begins.

Mrs. Dayton stated that because of time, action should be taken on this matter tonight. She then asked if this could be considered an emergency.

President Traweek stated that overcrowding can be a fire hazard; therefore, it is an emergency.

Attorney Lawrence stated that the law gives the Board the authority to declare what an emergency is. He further stated that health and safety issue are always considered emergencies.

It is the consensus of the Board to change this item from discussion to action.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to designate this item as an action item; to authorize the administration to proceed with the purchasing of modular buildings for Lexington Elementary School and Minnie Ruffin Elementary School based on assessment made by the administration; and to declare the need for temporary buildings an emergency.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9 – Superintendent’s Reports and Announcements

None

Agenda Item 10 – President’s Reports and Announcements

President Traweek noted that bids for Wossman’s and Lee’s gymnasiums will be opened next week. If needed, a meeting will be called to approve the bids.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Committee Updates

Policy Committee: Date and time to be announced.

Curriculum Committee: Date and time to be announced.

Action Item 12 – Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board convened in executive session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. The proposed consent decree and transportation issues associated with *Andrews - vs. - Monroe City School Board*, No. 11,297 {USDC-W.D. of Louisiana}
2. Worker's Compensation case of *Bui -vs.- Monroe City School Board*, No. 09-10271 {OWC, Division 1E}
- 3.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:10 p.m. and took the following action:

Action Item 12:1 –*Andrews - vs. - Monroe City School Board*, No. 11,297 {USDC-W.D. of Louisiana}

On a motion by Bishop McFarland that was seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the Board authorized the attorney to submit the electronic signature on the existing final draft of the consent decree for presentation to the Federal Court for approval and implementation.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 12:2 – *Bui -vs.- Monroe City School Board*, No. 09-10271 {OWC, Division 1E}

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton that was seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board authorized the superintendent and attorney to negotiate a contract with the Law Firm of Haynes Harkey and Associates to assist Monroe City School District with Worker's Compensation claims.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda 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 Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.
Interim Superintendent