

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Dr. Pamela Drumgole, Liberty Christian Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by DeEdrick Ellis, Clara Hall Elementary School.

Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Dayton
Mr. James Mickey Traweek
Mr. Jessie Handy
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

Board Member Absent

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Krutzer

Superintendent and Administrative Staff

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

Action Item 5 – Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Dupree asked that Action Item 7:G (appointment of principal at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School) be deleted from the agenda and that the approval to hire an architect to develop plans for a gymnasium at Wossman and Lee be added to the agenda as Action Item 8:D.

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved the agenda with the changes as indicated.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6 – Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the April 30, 2009 minutes as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7:A – Statement on School Performance

Dr. Dupree indicated that on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, the Louisiana Department of Education will release the 2009 March testing data. He stated that principals have made preliminary calculations and the district should have positive results this year.

Agenda Item 7:B –2009 Young Authors State Winners

Dr. Dupree recognized and presented awards to:
Jacqualyn Gains, Neville High – 1st place
Kerry Ann Doyle, Lexington Elementary – 2nd place

Mrs. Shelling read Kerry Ann Doyle’s poem, “Read a Book.” Board members congratulated the students on their achievements.

Agenda Item 7:C – 2008-2009 Outstanding School Support Employee Awards

The Louisiana Department of Education recognized the following support employees:
Neysa Newbill, Berg Jones Lane Elementary
Lorene Heard, Lee Jr. High
Susan Stewart, Neville High

Agenda Item 7:D – Academic Growth

The Louisiana Department of Education recognized the following schools for exemplary and recognized academic growth:
Berg Jones Elementary – Exemplary Academic Growth
Cypress Point Elementary – Exemplary Academic Growth
Minnie Ruffin Elementary – Exemplary Academic Growth
Madison Foster – Recognized Academic Growth
Neville High – Recognized Academic Growth

Agenda Item 7:E – Approval of Revenue Bonds for QSCB

Mr. Grant Schleuter of Foley and Judell, indicated that a presentation was made to the Facilities Committee regarding the Qualified School Construction Bonds. These bonds,

under President Obama's Stimulus Bill, will allow for 0% interest financing for school construction and improvements.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland the Board approved a resolution to giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) of Revenue Bonds, in on or more series, of the Monroe School Board of the City of Monroe, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said Bonds, making application to the State Bond Commission for the approval of said Bonds, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:F – Approval of Administrators' Contracts

Dr. Dupree indicated that the individuals listed are members of his cabinet that work directly with him. He stated that if it is the pleasure of the Board, he will place target objectives as an amendment to their extended contact.

Mr. Traweck stated that it would be difficult to follow-up or track those objectives.

President Shelling stated that the law requires that performance objective be made a part of contracts. She asked Dr. Dupree to bring to the Board a list of his cabinet members with contract extensions.

Mrs. Dayton stated that the research her committee was charged with has been completed and copies have been given to the Board President and Attorney. The information provided contains laws and examples. She indicated that she would give copies to Dr. Dupree if she had not done so.

It was moved by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mrs. Smith to table this agenda item.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 7:G – Appointment of Principal at Martin Luther King Middle

Deleted

Unfinished Business

Action Item 8:A – Forethought Consulting

Attorney Lawrence stated that the contract submitted by Forethought Consulting will provide the Board with a paper document only. An electronic form of the policy manual will require additional services at an additional cost of \$14,000 to \$22,000. Forethought can also track Board minutes and Legislative updates. The cost to keep the manual updated is approximately \$3,600 annually.

Mrs. Dayton indicated that it is imperative that the Board have a legal updated policy manual that is constantly updated.

Dr. Dupree asked Attorney Lawrence if the document would be the property of the district or Forethought.

Attorney Lawrence stated that he was told by the representative that the district would own the manual.

President Shelling noted that Attorney Lawrence and the Superintendent will negotiate the cost with Forethought and bring the contract back to the Board for final approval.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to contract with Forethought Consulting to update the existing manual, electronically format it for accessibility through the district's website and to continuously provide updates.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8:A – Superintendent's Performance Objective Evaluation/Measurements

Public Comment:

Mr. H. M. Butler asked if the sanctioning of the Superintendent had been dropped. He then asked why it was not on the Board agenda.

President Shelling stated that there was no indication that it would be on the agenda. She stated that the Superintendent would be evaluated soon.

Mrs. Dayton stated that a draft of the spreadsheet containing the performance objectives and the last evaluation instrument has been given to the Board President and Attorney. Once the instrument has been reviewed the evaluation process can move forward.

President Shelling indicated that there have been no changes made to the previous evaluation instrument.

Agenda Item 8:C – Policy/Procedures for Reviewing Credit Card Expenditures

Mrs. Dayton stated that research has been conducted on what other districts are doing regarding credit card expenditures. A meeting will be called in a few weeks to discuss the findings.

Action Item 8:D – Approval to Hire an Architect to Develop Plans for Gymnasiums at Lee Jr. High and Wossman High

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board authorized Superintendent Dupree to hire an architect to design gymnasiums for Lee Jr. High and Wossman High.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

New Business

Action Item 9:A – Resolution to Employ Phelps Dunbar LLP as Special Counsel for Board Training

Public Comment:

Mr. H. M. Butler asked why the Board needs to hire additional counsel when the Board has competent legal counsel.

President Shelling stated that each year Board members are required to obtain training. Attorney Blunt is authorized by the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide such training. She noted that Attorney Blunt provided services to the Board during the Board retreat in March.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the Board approved a resolution to employ Phelps Dunbar LLP Counselors at Law as special counsel to provide Board training in School Law.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B – Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the Human Resources agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9-C:1 – Permission to Travel: 2009 Summer Institute for the Gifted

Ms. Margie Godwin briefly updated the Board on Accelerated Reading statistics. She also asked the Board to approval travel for 23 students for the SIG program. Seventeen students will attend the University of Texas at Austin, five students will attend the University of California at Berkley and one student will attend Princeton University.

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved student travel for the Carmel Hill funded 2009 Summer Institute for the Gifted.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9-C:2 – Approval to contract with the University of Louisiana at Monroe

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board approved a contract with ULM to provide staff development through the Louisiana Department of Education Mathematics/Science Partnership Grant.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9-C:3 –Approval to Implement the STAR Over-aged Middle School Program in lieu of ResCare

Dr. Turpin indicated that the scope of this program was presented to the Curriculum Committee. She stated that the Department of Education required that the district use a discipline alternative provider last year; however, Monroe City School students will be better served with a curriculum based program. The STAR program will allow additional students to be served for less money.

Public Comment

Mr. Michael Schilsky, ResCare representative, addressed the Board on the ResCare Program. He thanked the Board for allowing his company to serve students in the district. He stated that it is unfortunate that many programs are not allowed to run its course to see if they are successful. He thanked Dr. Turpin and Mrs. Dana Mullins for their support.

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board authorized the administration to implement the STAR over-aged middle school program in lieu of the ResCare Program.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mrs. Smith and Bishop McFarland opposed.

Action Item 9-C:4 – Permission to Combine Clara Hall and Jefferson Under One Accountability Site Code

Dr. Turpin stated that the purpose of this proposal is to put all student information for Louisiana Department of Education purposes under one site code. After the new site code is issued, all school performance and other data will be under the same grade structure as other elementary schools in the district with grades PK-5. The principals and staff will remain the same.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to combine Clara Hall and Jefferson Elementary Schools under one Accountability Site Code.

Mrs. Dayton stated that she is concerned about holding two principals accountable for one site code. She also stated that the two sites are under utilized.

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

Action Item 9-D:1 A and B – Permission to Advertise for RFP

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for RFP for pest control services and trash pick-up services.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9-D:2 – Sole Source: American Education Corporation

This agenda item is for information only. No action needed.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Updates

- A. Curriculum Committee: No report.
- B. Personnel Committee: The committee discussed principals' and administrators' contracts and temporary staff.
- C. Facilities Committee: Mr. H. M. Butler asked Mr. Traweek if Georgia Tucker could be used for a Central Office facility. Mr. Traweek indicated that the building does not have adequate space, and the cost to renovate the building would be costly. He stated that with the purchase of the Tower Drive property, all central office administrators will be in one location.
- D. Policy Committee: No report.
- E. Public Relations: Mrs. Smith stated that a meeting will be called and Mrs. Scott will update the board on public relation matters.

Agenda Item 11 – President's Reports and Announcement

President Shelling stated that school site visits were conducted at all schools. At each school site Board members took notes on school needs. She thanked the staff at schools for their hospitality.

Staff members were thanked for a great school year.

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Dupree announced that notices have been sent to the media regarding summer feeding programs. He noted that summer school will begin June 1st.

He thanked the staff for a great school year and wished everyone a safe summer.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mr. Handy.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
President

James A. Dupree, Ed.D.
Superintendent