

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Reverend Ike Byrd, Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Aja Winslow.

### 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

#### Administrative Staff

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

#### Board Members Comments

Mrs. Smith asked to make a statement before the adoption of the agenda. She stated, "On January 26, 2009 you accepted the role of president of the Monroe City School Board. In your acceptance speech, you stated that if any member does not feel that you are doing a good job as president they can publicly ask you to step down and you will do so. I do not feel that you are doing a good job. There was a commitment made on July 14, 2009 to set a meeting for the dismissal of the superintendent until I returned on July 21, 2009. You changed that meeting. I feel as though you are not serving above-board and you are not communicating with all board members. To my knowledge, you are mostly

communicating with three board members. With that, I publicly ask you to step down as president of the Monroe City School Board.” She then asked Mrs. Shelling if she would step down.

President Shelling stated that the meeting would proceed.

Mrs. Smith stated that she was not against the meeting being held on July 16<sup>th</sup> in reference to Carroll High School, but there was an agreement to wait on the meeting regarding the superintendent. She stated that Mr. Julian Gray is addressing the board, and he does not have a contract with the school system. She further stated that there are personnel issues that need to be addressed, and there is no superintendent to make recommendations.

Mr. Handy asked Attorney Lawrence if it is legal for the board to take action on personnel matters without a recommendation from the superintendent.

Attorney Lawrence noted that there is a category of agenda items that require the superintendent’s recommendation and those deal primarily with personnel matters. The superintendent’s recommendation is not required on items and matters that regard non-personnel matters. The law and board policy deals with the superintendent’s recommendation being required for personnel issues. The board also has the right to suspend the superintendent. Now, there is a situation where there is no superintendent present, and there are decisions that need to be made regarding personnel. The law does not address this issue at all. Once the superintendent’s issue is resolved, the matters can be ratified.

Mr. Handy stated that the educational consultant should report to the superintendent.

Attorney Lawrence stated that a stipulation of the suspension is that the superintendent shall not attend to the affairs of the district.

Mr. Handy noted that the board should do what is fair and honest; the process on July 16<sup>th</sup> was not fair. He also noted that he received his agenda less than twenty-four hours prior to the special called meeting being held. He reiterated that all Board members should have been present for that meeting.

Bishop McFarland also asked President Shelling to step down. He said he is concerned that Mr. Gray’s name is on the agenda, all paperwork and the letterhead. The superintendent is suspended but he is still the superintendent. He asked how the Board could suspend the superintendent and issue checks with his signature.

Attorney Lawrence stated that Dr. Dupree is still the superintendent and ex officio treasurer for the board. His name is on the check master, and check signing does not require any action by the superintendent.

Mr. Handy asked Attorney Lawrence if it is legal to take action on the principal of Carroll High and the hiring of an educational consultant without a recommendation from the superintendent.

Attorney Lawrence stated that it is a requirement that the superintendent make the recommendation for a principal. The problem is the simultaneous conditions of the superintendent being under suspension and the need for a principal at that school. It was proper to hire an educational consultant because that person was being hired not as an employee, but as an independent contractor. There is no requirement for the superintendent to make a recommendation for an independent contractor that answers to the board.

Bishop McFarland stated that Dr. Dupree sent an email indicating that he is recommending Rev. James B. Johnson as principal of Carroll High, but board members decided to place who they wanted at that school.

Rev. Ike Byrd addressed the board on the disorderliness of the meeting.

#### Action Item 5 – Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved the agenda as printed.

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

#### Action Item 6 – Adoption of the Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to approve the July 14, 2009 and July 16, 2009 minutes as printed.

Bishop McFarland and Mr. Handy asked that the minutes be voted on separately.

Mr. Traweek and Mrs. Krutzer accepted the friendly amendment

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to approve the July 14, 2009 minutes as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Dayton to approve the July 16, 2009 minutes as printed.

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

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

The motion carried on a majority vote.

Bishop McFarland stated that there is a mistake on the first page of the minutes.

Mr. Handy stated that the minutes reflect that he was present but he was absent.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton to amend the July 16, 2009 minutes to reflect that Mr. Handy was absent and Mrs. Shelling was present at the meeting.

Attorney Lawrence asked if the Board, by unanimous consent, agrees to the change. All were in agreement.

The July 16, 2009 minutes are approved as amended.

#### Agenda Item 7:A – Presentation: Gymnasium at Wossman High School

Mr. William McElroy of M3A Architecture presented preliminary drawings of the new gymnasium at Wossman High School. He noted that the square footage of the new building is less than that of the existing building. Because fixed bleachers are being used, the seating capacity is greater.

#### Action Item 7:B – Contract Approval with Architecture Plus for Gymnasium at Lee Jr.

On a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved a contract with Architecture Plus for the design of the gymnasium at Lee Jr. High.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy stated that he is opposed because of needs at all schools.

#### Action Item 8:A – Approval of the 2009-2010 Board Meeting Schedule

President Shelling noted changes to the calendar as requested by Bishop McFarland.

#### Rescheduling of the Superintendent's Hearing

Bishop McFarland requested that the hearing for the superintendent be rescheduled from August 10<sup>th</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved the board meeting schedule with changes as requested by Bishop McFarland and rescheduled the removal hearing for the superintendent to August 11, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy opposed. He stated that there should not be a hearing.

Agenda Item 8:B – Second Reading of the Internal Auditor Policy

Mrs. Dayton noted that this is the second reading of the policy. The committee will provide a job description and salary for the position. No action taken.

Action 8:C – Approval of the Forethought Consulting Contract

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved a \$19,000 contract with Forethought Consulting to digitalize the Policy Manual.

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

Agenda Item 8:D – Credit Card Usage Policy

Mrs. Dayton indicated that Mrs. Flowers presented a draft of the credit card usage policy to the committee. This policy is being presented as a first reading.

Agenda Item 8:E – Time and Place Policy

Mrs. Dayton noted that the Policy Committee should have a document ready for presentation as a first reading at the next board meeting.

Agenda Item 9:A – Consideration and/or Acquisition of an Automated Substitute Worker Assignment System

Mr. Jeremy Buckley of Frontline Placement Technologies presented to the board a substitute worker placement service. He indicated that teachers may request substitutes via phone or the internet. The district can also control the types and amount of items that can be entered.

Mrs. Smith asked if this recommendation came out of a committee.

President Shelling stated that she placed this item on the agenda because it has been discussed previously.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that she learned of the system at the NSBA Convention.

Mrs. Walker stated that she is concerned that this item is being brought up at this time.

President Shelling asked Mr. Hill to work with Mr. Buckley to develop a plan specific for Monroe City Schools. She asked that Ms. Gloria Walker be involved in the research of this system.

Action Item 9:B1 – Approval of the Human Resources Agenda

Bishop McFarland asked Attorney Lawrence if the Board could ratify the human resources agenda.

Attorney Lawrence noted that the law does not cover what happens when the superintendent is under suspension. The district is up against the deadline of making decisions about staffing because school will begin in a few weeks. He stated that his recommendation is that the board bring the human resources agenda back for ratification if it is approved tonight.

Bishop McFarland stated that persons have worked in the district long before they are brought to the Board for approval.

President Shelling suggested that the Board Attorney get an Attorney General's Opinion on this matter.

Mr. Traweck stated that if the Board does not approve the human resources agenda, the district might lose good employees.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mr. Traweck to approve the human resources agenda as printed and to bring the matter back for ratification.

Mr. Handy and Bishop McFarland stated that this item should be tabled.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland and Mrs. Smith opposed. Mr. Handy stated that he is opposed because there is no recommendation from the superintendent.

Attorney Lawrence asked if the Board wants him to request an Attorney General's Opinion. He then asked that a resolution be adopted to make the request.

#### Addition to the Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer to add to the agenda authorization to seek an Attorney General's Opinion on hiring personnel in the absence of a superintendent.

Mr. Handy opposed. The motion failed due to a lack of a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Krutzer noted that any citizen could request an Attorney General's Opinion.

#### Action Item 9:B2 – Approval to Increase the Pay for Substitute Teachers

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved a pay increase for substitute teachers, effective August 1, 2009, due to a federal mandate to increase minimum wages.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy and Bishop McFarland opposed. Mrs. Smith stated that she is opposed because this matter should be brought back after the superintendent issue is resolved.

Action Item 9:C1 – Approval of the 2009-2010 Revised School Calendar

Mrs. Irwin stated that at the last meeting, the board approved the realignment of the 2009-2010 school calendar to reflect the 2007-2008 school calendar. Teachers will work 182 days and students will be in attendance 174 days. Instructional time will return to 370 minutes.

On a motion Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board approved the revised 2009-2010 school calendar as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland and Mrs. Smith stated that this matter should wait until the superintendent issue is resolved.

Action Item 9:C2 – Approval of the 2009-2010 Pupil Progression Plan

On a motion by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved the 2009-2010 Pupil Progression Plan as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy, Bishop McFarland and Mrs. Smith stated that this matter should wait until the superintendent issue is resolved.

Action Item 9:D1 – Approval to Contract with JBHM for a School Improvement Consultant

On a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board authorized approval to contract with JBHM for a School Improvement Consultant for Carroll High School.

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

Action Item 9:D2 – Approval to Contract with JBHM for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Project

On a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board authorized approval to contract with JBHM for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Project.

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

Action Item 9:D3 – Approval to Contract with National Teacher Network

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board authorized approval to contract with National Teacher Network to purchase the Key Elements of Algebra Success Program.

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

Action Item 9:E1 – Permission to Advertise for Bids

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board authorized the administration to advertise for: Indoor bleachers for Lee Jr., risers for Neville High and School Food Service equipment.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy and Mrs. Smith opposed.

Action Item 9:E2 – Awarding of Bids

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, the board awarded bids to low bidders for instructional supplies, paper and cleaning supplies.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Mr. Handy and Mrs. Smith opposed.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Committee Updates

- A. Facilities: Mr. Traweek – Other schools' needs should be addressed. The committee will seek guidance from Mrs. Flowers on funding.
- B. Curriculum: Mrs. Krutzer – No report
- C. Policy: Mrs. Dayton – No report
- D. Finance – President Shelling – No report

Agenda Item 11 – President's Reports and Announcements

President Shelling noted that a meeting was held on July 20<sup>th</sup> with Central Office administrators, principals and Mr. Gray to address the transition.

A Back-to-School breakfast is being planned for all staff.

Ms. Walker inquired about the cost of the breakfast.

President Shelling indicated that the breakfast is being sponsored by the district. She also indicated that additional sponsors are being pursued.

If any board member is interested in attending the LSBA Data Driven Decision Making Workshop in Baton Rouge on August 24, 2009, contact the board clerk for registration.

Agenda Item 12 – Educational Consultant's Announcements

No announcements.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Gray for the work he has done. She asked that his contract and job description be brought to the board at the next meeting.

Action Item 13 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Traweck and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mrs. Brenda Shelling  
Board President

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James A. Dupree, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools