

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in a special called meeting, Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Reverend Dale Walker. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Reverend Roosevelt Wright.

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
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

President Shelling stated that tonight's meeting was initially scheduled as a hearing for Dr. James Dupree. Because of a court decision today, a hearing will not be held at this time. She called for a motion to convene in executive session to discuss litigation regarding this matter.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton to convene in executive session to receive information on the matter of Dr. James Dupree.

Mr. Handy asked that the information be received in open session.

Mrs. Krutzer withdrew her motion and Mrs. Dayton withdrew her second.

Mrs. Smith asked if the report deals with the email that was sent by the board attorney. She stated that she does not have a problem going into executive session as long as the public is updated on the information that is received.

Bishop McFarland stated that since the report will be shared with the public, there is no need for an executive session.

Attorney Lawrence noted that the report should be added to the agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith to replace action item 2 (removal hearing for Dr. James Dupree) with a report from the board attorney on the judge's ruling.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 2 – Report on Dr. James A. Dupree vs. Monroe City School Board

Report from Attorney Lawrence: On yesterday, Tuesday, August 11th, the case of Dr. James A. Dupree vs. Monroe City School Board was filed in federal court. At 1:00 p.m. today, information was received indicating that an order would be issued granting a temporary restraining order in favor of a request made by Dr. Dupree. Approximately one hour ago the actual order was received and immediately forwarded to all board members. The order contained specific terms issued by Judge James, the Federal Judge in Monroe. All proceedings have been stayed, and the judge has ordered a status conference at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17th with myself and the attorney for Dr. Dupree. The order also indicates that Dr. Dupree's suspension is to remain in effect through Monday; the same day as the status conference. In accordance with the federal rule, Dr. Dupree must post a \$2,500 bond as security. Upon the conclusion of the status conference with the judge, a directive will be given by the judge. It is expected that there will be some type of hearing.

President Shelling called for questions from Board members.

Bishop McFarland stated that since the suspension is through August 17th, Dr. Dupree can return to work on August 18th.

President Shelling noted that the results of the hearing would determine whether or not the superintendent returns to work.

Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Handy and seconded by Bishop McFarland.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
Board President

Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.
Educational Consultant