

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in a special called meeting, Monday, August 17, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Shelling. 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
Mr. Jessie Handy
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr.
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

Administrative Staff

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

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

President Shelling requested that the awarding of janitorial supplies be added to the agenda as action item 6:B, that an executive session be added prior to a report from Attorney Lawrence and that action item 8 (removal hearing for Dr. James Dupree) be deleted.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved with changes as indicated upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy.

Action Item 6:A – QSCB Resolution

Mrs. Flowers noted that this resolution authorizes her to sign a commitment letter with J. P. Morgan Chase Bank or another bank for the purchase of the district’s QSCB bonds at 0% to one-half of 1%. Bonds must be sold within ninety days and the identified projects must be completed within three years.

Mr. Traweek informed the audience that the gymnasium for Wossman and Lee would be funded by QSCB funds.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the sale of, not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) of Revenue Bonds, Series 2009 (Taxable QSCB), of the Monroe City School Board of the City of Monroe, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Flowers and Dr. Dupree for securing the QSCB funds.

Action Item 6:B – Awarding of Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board awarded janitorial supply bids as presented by the administration.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 6:C – Executive Session

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the Board convened in executive session at 4:45 p.m. to receive a report on the case of Dr. James A. Dupree vs. Monroe City School Board {Civil Action No. 09-1407}.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

At 5: 35 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session and the meeting continued.

Agenda Item 7 – Report on Dr. James Dupree vs. Monroe City School Board

Report from Attorney Lawrence: On today, the School Board Attorney met with Judge Robert James and Attorney Jim Madison, attorney for Dr. Dupree, in a status conference at the federal courthouse in Monroe. The conference addressed several preliminary concerns that were raised in filings that were made in federal court on behalf of Dr. Dupree. A claim was made that the Board may not be impartial in the process of making factual determinations on the fourteen charges that are a part of the removal notice. It was suggested that a third party hear the charges and make a factual determination as to whether or not there was a breach in policy or law. It was recommended that U. S. District Magistrate Judge Karen Hayes serve as a neutral third party that could hear the factual charges and make a factual determination. Based on feedback from the Board, it is amenable to allow Judge Hayes to serve in that role. Upon hearing the charges, she will submit a report to the Board of her factual determinations; thereafter, the Board will have the ultimate prerogative to determine whether or not to remove or not remove the

superintendent from office. The temporary restraining order and suspension of the superintendent will remain in effect.

Action Item 8 – Removal Hearing for Dr. James Dupree

Deleted

Action Item 9– Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m., upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy.

Mrs. Brenda Shelling
Board President

Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.
Educational Consultant