

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2101 Roselawn Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in a regular session, Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the Monroe City School Board Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Shelling. Prayer was offered by Deacon Betty Coffman, St. Auburn Episcopal Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ricky York.

### 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

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

### Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### Action Item 6 – Ratification of the Written Contract of the Interim Superintendent

Public Input

Ms. Gloria Walker congratulated former Superintendent Dupree and the staff at Clara Hall and Jefferson for being removed from the academically unacceptable status. She also commented that the salary for the interim superintendent is too high. She asked the Board to consider cutting his pay by half and giving the remaining half to employees as pay raises.

On a motion by Mr. Traweek and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board ratified the written contract appointing Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr. as Interim Superintendent of Schools.

The motion carried on unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 7 – Ratification of the July 28, 2009 Human Resources Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board ratified the personnel agenda of July 2009 as recommended by Mr. Gray.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Unfinished Business

#### Agenda Item 8:A – Presentation: Lee Jr. High Gymnasium Project

Mr. Douglas Breckenridge of Architecture Plus presented the architect design for the Lee Jr. High gymnasium project. Construction documents should be ready by mid December; thereafter, the project will be ready for bids. The complete project is estimated to be \$3,500,000 - \$4,000,000.

#### Agenda Item 8:B – Update: Wossman Gymnasium Project

To be taken out of sequence.

#### Action Item 8:C – Internal Auditor Policy

Mrs. Dayton commented that this position will be a resource for the Board and administration. Safeguards have been put in place to ensure that no one person can abuse the position.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Dayton, to approve the Internal Auditor policy as presented.

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

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

The motion failed.

Action Item 8:D – Second Reading: Credit Usage Policy

No action taken on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8:E – Forethought Consulting

Attorney Lawrence noted that the President Shelling has signed the contracts and the documents will be mailed to Forethought immediately.

Mrs. Dayton stated that the policy committee would continue with the standing meeting date and time of Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m.

New Business

Action Item 9:A – Recommendation to Implement a Hiring Freeze

Mrs. Smith asked that this item be placed on the agenda. She suggested that the hiring freeze be in effect during Mr. Gray's term.

Mrs. Dayton commented that she does not want to hinder Mr. Gray if he needs assistance.

President Shelling stated that the freeze could be lifted if Mr. Gray needs additional staff.

Mr. Handy asked that a Finance Committee meeting be scheduled as soon as possible. He also asked for a report on the fund balance when Dr. Dupree departed and what has been spent under the interim superintendent.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, to implement a hiring freeze on administrative level hires in the Monroe City School District Central Office.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:B – Recommendation to Implement a Freeze on Administrative Staff Pay Increases

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board implemented a freeze on administrative staff pay increases, excluding applicable step increases that become due.

Mr. Handy stated that Central Office employees have not been given a raise and all others have. He asked the Board to revisit this at a later date.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Because of a previous commitment, Mr. Traweek left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Action Item 9:C1 – Human Resource Agenda for August 24, 2009

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the human resources agenda for August 24, 2009.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:C2 – Human Resource Agenda for September 1, 2009

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the human resources agenda for September 1, 2009.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9:D – Student Transfers

Mrs. Irwin stated that no students have been transferred to schools out of zone by her department. Only one student has been allowed to attend school outside their zone and that transfer was approved by the Board President and Interim Superintendent. She noted that some special education students are attending schools out of zone because of specialized needs.

Mrs. Foreman reported on School Choice. Due to the school's failure in 10<sup>th</sup> grade English for 2007-2008, Carroll High School was the only school that was required to offer School Choice. Sixteen transfer requests were denied because students were not zoned for Carroll High. Of the remaining students, thirty-six were assigned to Neville, thirty-three were assigned to Wossman and three chose to remain at Carroll. To make an equitable disbursement of students, names were drawn in a lottery process.

Bishop McFarland stated that he was not aware that the district determined what school Choice Students could attend.

Mrs. Foreman commented that when there are a large number of requests the district is allowed to make the final decision.

President Shelling stated that if the district is in this position again, a plan needs to be brought before the Board for approval.

Agenda Item 9:E – Update: Textbooks

Ms. Mamie Williams presented a report on student textbooks. This year's statewide textbook adoption is Grammar. She noted the cost and quantity of books ordered for each school. She also reported on K-3 consumable writing and math books. As needed, books are transferred between schools. Junior and senior high students have a set of books for school use and a set for home use.

Action Item 9:F1 – Permission to Piggyback on Ouachita Parish School District for Automated Fuel Management

Attorney Lawrence noted that he has prepared a resolution that needs to be adopted in order to piggyback with Ouachita Parish School District for an automated fuel management system.

It was moved by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mr. Handy, to adopt a resolution authorizing the district to piggyback on Ouachita Parish School District Bid No. 1-10 for Automated Fuel Management.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:F2 – Awarding of Bid: School Food Service Equipment

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board awarded the School Food Service Equipment bid as indicated on the spreadsheet.

Mrs. Smith asked Mrs. Weaver to give a brief report on the equipment being bided.

Mrs. Weaver reported that the district received \$100,000 in Stimulus Funds. Each School Food Service department was asked to submit an item they would like to have.

Mrs. Krutzer asked Mrs. Weaver to provide a report on items listed in the Facilities Need Booklet that have been completed. Mrs. Krutzer and Mrs. Smith agreed that all cafeterias need to be reevaluated.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9:F3 – Approval of QSCB Resolution

President Shelling noted that this resolution is exactly the same as the one that was on the August 17<sup>th</sup> agenda. At that meeting, the Board authorized Mrs. Flowers to sign-off on the QSCB bonds, now that an interim superintendent is in place; Mr. Gray has the authority to sign-off on those bonds.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, 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.

Agenda Item 9:F4 – July 2009 Financial Report

Mrs. Flowers was absent from the meeting due to illness. No report given.

Agenda Item 10 – Committee Reports

- A. Personnel: Bishop McFarland – No report
- B. Facilities: Mr. Traweek – No report.
- C. Transportation: Mrs. Krutzer – A meeting is proposed for Thursday at 12:00 noon.
- D. Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Krutzer – No report
- E. Insurance: Mr. Handy – No report.
- F. Finance: President Shelling – The next Board worksession will be dedicated to finance and staffing.

Agenda Item 8:B – Update: Wossman Gymnasium Project (taken out of sequence)

Mr. William McElroy reported on the progress of the design of Wossman High School's gymnasium. He presented the building information model, general master plan and the baseball field relocation plan. He noted that the gymnasium's design is complete. The project should take approximately fourteen months to complete.

Agenda Item 11– Interim Superintendent's Reports and Announcements

Mr. Gray thanked the Board for their support and vote of confidence.

Agenda Item 12 – President's Reports and Announcements

- A. Board members are asked to submit suggested days for a one-day retreat.
- B. Next week, the Board President, Board Attorney, Mr. Gary, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Dayton will travel to Washington, D. C. to visit with the Department of Justice to discuss the Consent Decree.
- C. The next meeting will be held at Neville High School.

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 Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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Mrs. Brenda Shelling  
Board President

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Mr. Julian M. Gray, Sr.  
Interim Superintendent