

## MINUTES

Monroe City School Board  
2006 Tower Drive  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at Monroe City School District Central Office, 2006 Tower Drive; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Traweek.

### Agenda Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Dayton, Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Krutzer, Mr. James Mickey Traweek, Mr. Clarence Sharp, Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr., Mr. Verbon Muhammad and Mr. Glynn Ludley

Administrative Staff: Dr. Kathleen Harris, Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence, Ms. Karla Bowlin, Dr. Phedra Brantley, Mrs. Betty Carroll, Mrs. Derenda Flowers and Mrs. Vickie Irwin

### Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to move Action Item X:C (Bond Resolution) to Action Item X:A-1 and to approved the remaining agenda items as printed. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### Agenda Item 6 – Point of Pride

Lincoln Elementary School is the recipient of a library redesign that was sponsored by the Heart of America Foundation and Capital One Bank. The school will receive a layout that improves function, new furniture and design, reading corner, custom mural, 750 new books and 2-3 age appropriate books for each student to take home. Also, Sallie Humble received \$1,500 for their library.

### Action Item 7 – Consent Agenda Items

Ms. DeSaree Player informed the Board that Carroll High School Band has been recommended by Governor Bobby Jindal to perform and participate in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. The band will be the official representative from the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Dennis Turner asked the Board to consider assisting the band on their trip to Washington, D.C.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board approved

consent agenda items; 7:A – Approval of August 23, 2011 minutes; 7:B – Human Resources Agenda; 7:C-i – Lee Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> travel to Washington, D.C. on April 23-28, 2012; 7:C-ii – Carroll High School Band travel to Washington, D.C. on July 2-6, 2012. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 8 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

None

#### Agenda Item 9 – 2011-2012 Budget Resolution

It was moved by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Ludley, to approve the 2011-2012 budget as printed.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that the Finance Committee recommended that the budget be approved with stipulations. She then offered a friendly amendment to add those stipulations to the motion. Bishop McFarland and Mr. Ludley did not accept the amendment.

The motion carried on a majority vote. In favor: Mr. Sharp, Bishop McFarland, Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Ludley and Mr. Traweck. Opposed: Mrs. Dayton stated that she is disappointed that the Finance Committee chair was not allowed to offer an amendment. Mrs. Krutzer stated that she is opposed because the recommendation from the Finance Committee was not considered.

#### Agenda Item 10:A – Adoption of Bond Resolution

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Muhammad, the Board approved a resolution giving authorization to grant preliminary approval relative to the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding three million six hundred thousand dollars (\$3,600,000) Sales Tax School Refunding Bonds, in one or more series, of the Monroe City School Board of the City of Monroe, State of Louisiana, making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said bonds; providing for the employment of Co-Bond Counsel; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Agenda Item 10:B – Policy First Read

The Board accepted the following policies as first read: BCBH, JB, JBD, IDFAB, BCBK, GBDA, IDCC, IDFA, and JBA.

#### Agenda Item 10:C – Redistricting of School Board Member Districts

Mr. David Creed of North Delta Planning Commission addressed the Board on the process for Board member redistricting. He noted that redistricting is done every 10 years when the Census is released. The population is divided among the seven districts; this gives the optimum number. Each district will have the same population within a 5% deviation. Board members will have input as to where district lines will be drawn. The cost for the service is approximately \$15,000.

#### Addition to the Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board added to the agenda, authorization to hire North Delta Planning Commission to assist the Board with redistricting. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:C-1 – Authorization to Hire North Delta Planning Commission

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board hired North Delta Planning Commission to assist with School Board redistricting. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:D – Right of First Refusal to Purchase Property

Attorney Lawrence noted that the district was given a ten year right of first refusal on the “Luffey property” that is adjacent to the new Administrative office on Tower Drive. If anyone makes an offer to purchase the property, the district has 30 days to match the offer; thereafter, the owners have the right to sell the property within 90days.

It was moved by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to continue the right of first refusal on the property adjacent to the Administrative office on Tower Drive. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:E – Approval of 2011 Property Tax Millages

On a motion by Mr. Muhammad and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the Board approved the following tax millages for 2011: Operational – 7.070 mills; Maintenance – 14.420 mills; Special – 6.150 mills and Debt Services – 17.00 mills. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:F – Awarding of Trash Pick-up RFP

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded the Trash Pick-up Service to IESI as recommended by the administration. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:G – Awarding of Pest Control and Management Services RFP

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp, the Board awarded the Pest Control and Management Services RFP to Smith Exterminating as recommended by the administration. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:H – Permission to Advertise for School Food Service Equipment

Bishop McFarland and Mrs. Krutzer asked the superintendent to look into cafeteria equipment issues. Mrs. Krutzer then stated that the supervisor for School Food Service should be monitoring the department’s needs. Dr. Harris noted that there are items in the district that need attention because there is not a routine schedule for maintenance and replacement. She stated that the Board needs to put a plan in place and allocate money for

scheduled maintenance.

On a motion by Mr. Sharp and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board authorized the administration to advertise for mixers, slicer, steamer, stove top, convection oven, tilt skillet, food processor, serving line and walk-in freezer. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:I – 2011-2012 Pupil Progression Plan

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the Board approved the 2011-2012 Pupil Progression Plan. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

#### Action Item 10:J – Permission to Contract with Attorney James Carroll

It was moved by Mrs. Dayton and seconded by Mr. Sharp, to contract with Attorney James Carroll in reference to an employee grievance case.

Mr. Muhammad asked if Mr. Lawrence is recommending this attorney. He stated that Attorney Lawrence should make the recommendation because he is the Board's attorney. Mr. Traweck indicated that additional counsel is needed for this matter because there is a conflict with the Board's attorney. Bishop McFarland asked if this is the recommendation of the superintendent. Dr. Harris stated that she is concerned that the district and president will do its due diligence to make sure that the attorney that is selected is truly a neutral party. Mr. Traweck stated that he inquired about an attorney and Mr. Carroll was recommended because of his experience in School Law. He further stated that he does not know this individual.

The motion carried on a majority vote. Bishop McFarland opposed.

#### Agenda Item 11 – Report of Board Members

Mr. Muhammad stated that he is concerned that students are carrying lots of heavy books. He asked if the district can use digital technology instead of traditional textbooks. Dr. Harris replied that that is a budgetary item. She also stated that homework assignments should be project based; thus, limiting the need to bring textbook home.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that the Finance Committee will meet monthly to monitor finances. Dr. Harris noted that the chair of the committee needs to work with the superintendent and president to set meetings; therefore, meetings may not be held monthly but staff will work together with the Board. Mrs. Krutzer replied that it is her desire that the Board show fiscal oversight responsibility to constituents and the public. She reported that the Louisiana School Board Association Board of Directors voted to terminate the Executive Director, Mr. Noltan Senegal. She stated that he was not involved in the theft of funds, but an employee of LSBA has been defrauding the association by funneling money through the Black Caucus account.

#### Agenda Item 12 – Report of Superintendent

Dr. Harris reported that earlier today she was in Baton Rouge with the acting State Superintendent and the Gates Foundation. The discussion centered on collaboration with the State Department.

Medical Magnet Program Report: Mrs. Shandra Naylor-Smith reported that staff is recruiting and working diligently to revamp the program. Currently there is a program manager, two registered nurses and a pharmacy instructor. Course offerings are certified nursing assistance, industry based certification, pharmacy technician program and sports medicine program. There are 40 students enrolled and a majority of those students are from Carroll High School.

2011 Summer Programs Report: Mrs. Teresa Foreman, Mrs. Christie Taylor and Mrs. Patricia Johnson reported on summer school programs. Only one junior high and seven elementary students did not meet the requirements for promotion – this was due to non-attendance. High school students were offered credit recovery and advanced placement. There were approximately 400 students that took advantage of these programs. Eleven students graduated this summer because course offerings. Summer programs were free and sponsored by GEAR-UP, 21<sup>st</sup> Century and 2001 Sales Tax.

Board Attorney Update: Bishop McFarland asked when the superintendent can bring the supervisor positions back before the Board. Mr. Lawrence asked if the matter has been reconsidered. He noted that it must be brought back by someone on the prevailing side and there must be two separate agenda items. Bishop McFarland asked if there is a ninety day waiting period. Mr. Traweek noted that this matter is addressed in Board policy.

#### Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

It was the consensus of the Board to forgo the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. A special meeting can be called if necessary. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Action Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Sharp. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

---

Mr. Mickey Traweek  
Board President

---

Dr. Kathleen Harris  
Superintendent