

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Rev. King Dawson, New Macedonia Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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

Dr. Kathleen Harris
Mrs. Derenda Flowers
Mrs. Betty Carroll
Mrs. Vickie Irwin
Mr. Andrew Hill
Ms. Mamie Williams
Attorney L. Douglas Lawrence

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approve the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Points of Pride

None

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comments

None

Action Item 8 – Consent Agenda Items

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of September 9, 2010 Board Minutes
- b. Personnel Report Resignations/Leaves
- c. Personnel Report Appointments/Terminations
- d. Bus Operators' Contract

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Krutzer asked that it be noted on the human resource agenda when a retiree is rehired.

Action Item 9 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

None

Agenda Item 10:A – Policy GBDB/Employment of Retired Personnel

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved policy GBDB as presented.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 11:A: Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved a resolution recognizing the week of October 3-9, 2010 as Fire Prevention Week.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 11:B – First Read: Policy Manual Section I

Dr. Harris noted that section I is being presented as a first read.

Mrs. Shelling stated that policy IHE/Promotion and Retention and the policy dealing with referrals to the SBLC should be reviewed at the same to ensure that they are consistent.

Dr. Harris stated that staff and principals have been in discussion about grade point average for activity participation.

Rev. Wright asked if the 2.0 grade point average refers to all activities or just athletics.

The board accepted the following policies as a first read: IA, ID, IDA, IDAA, IDBA, IDBB, IDCA, IDCH, IDCJ, IDDC, IDDE, IDDF, IDDG, IDDH, IDE, IDFA, IDFAA, IDG, IDH, IEB, IFA, IFAA, IFAB, IFBGA, IFCB, IFCD, IFD, IFDA, IHA, IHAB, IHAD, IHC, IHD, IHE, IHF, II, IKC, IKDB, IKDC, IKI, BCHB, EDD, EE and EFA.

Mrs. Smith asked that the policy committee meeting and the principal's meeting be held at the same time. Board members are asked to email questions and concerns to Mrs. Smith prior to the meeting. The principals/personnel committee meeting is scheduled for October 7th at 9:00 a.m.

Action Item 11:C – Occupational Therapy Contract

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved a contract with Sharbono Occupational Therapy Consultants to provide occupational therapy for Monroe City School students.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11:D – Sole Source Justification

It was noted that the purchase of supplemental curriculum material for 21st Century is a sole source item and is for information only.

Action Item 11:E – Awarding of SFS Paper and Cleaning Supplies Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board awarded SFS-11-04 paper and cleaning supplies bid as indicated on the spreadsheet.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 11:F – Awarding of Janitorial Supplies Bid

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board awarded MC11-O6 janitorial supplies bid as indicated on the spreadsheet.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 11:G – Approval of Superintendent's Moving Expenses

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved the superintendent's moving expenses as presented.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 11:H – Process for Selling Georgia Tucker

Attorney Lawrence stated that the board must fix the minimum sale price and the mode of sale for the Georgia Tucker property. Once the price is fixed, the board must approve an ordinance. He noted that the City of Monroe has ownership of one-third of the property.

Mr. Handy stated that the City of Monroe should have an active role in the selling of the property because of partial ownership.

Mrs. Shelling asked that this item be referred back to the facilities committee.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mrs. Krutzer, the board approved the initiation of proceedings to authorize the sale of the Georgia Tucker property.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 12 – Report of Board Members

Curriculum Committee: TBA.

Mrs. Krutzer announced that she has been appointed by LSBA to serve on the Federal Relations Committee.

Insurance Committee: Third Party Administrators RFPs are currently being reviewed.

Transportation Committee: TBA

Finance Committee: A meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 28th at 12:00 noon at Central Office.

Bishop McFarland stated that Dr. Harris has been in the district for several months and still has not had a reception. He asked that the reception take place next week because Mr. Harris will be in Monroe at that time.

President Traweck asked Bishop McFarland to chair the committee. He then appointed Mrs. Dayton and Mr. Handy to serve on the committee.

Facilities Committee: All projects are on schedule. The roof will be placed on Wossman's gymnasium soon; thereafter, work can begin inside. The windows/doors project at Neville is complete. It was noted that the committee will begin meeting the Monday prior to the week of board meeting so that requested items can be placed on the agenda.

Agenda Item 13 – Report of Superintendent

Action Item 13:A – Gifts

Dr. Harris noted that Dr. Dan Holt is donating 45 telescopes to elementary and middle/junior high schools. It was also noted that he will personally deliver the telescopes to the schools.

On a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board accepted the gift of 45 telescopes from Dr. Dan Holt.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

As a courtesy, Dr. Holt extended an invitation to teachers to use the massage chairs in his office free of charge.

Agenda Item 13:B – Project ARC

Project Arc is a pilot program that will accommodate 16 over-age students at the Career Development Center. Junior high principals and several members of the senior leadership team came up with a plan to address the needs of these students. These 8th grade students will earn credits that will be banked toward their 9th grade year as soon they pass the 8th grade LEAP. A behavior coach, counselor and a certified teacher will have to be hired for this program. Also, the program will require the READ 180 component at a cost not exceeding \$43,000.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Handy, to add the purchase of READ 180 to the agenda as an action item.

Mrs. Krutzer asked for a total price on the project.

Dr. Harris stated that the cost is approximately \$250,000. Principals have constructed this program with their own background knowledge and experiences and she is supportive of the program. Parents of these students do not want them to pursue a GED; those students later become dropouts. If projects are not supported because of cost, it is difficult to encourage principals to be creative and innovative which keeps the district where it is.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that it will be difficult for her to support this project when there are other needs.

Dr. Harris stated that the issue of over-age students is something that the board has asked the administration to address.

Mrs. Dayton stated that these students can be sent to the one-on-one Learning Tech program, which has a proven track record, for a fraction of the cost. She then asked Dr. Harris to explore other alternatives that might be more cost effective.

Dr. Harris replied that one alternative has been suggested and that particular alternative will be explored.

Mrs. Smith stated that it is hard to put a price on saving students; therefore, she will support this program.

Mrs. Shelling asked Dr. Harris to provide the board with a complete listing of all program changes with total implementation cost.

President Traweek voiced his concerns about the cost to implement this program. He stated that he can not be supportive at this time.

Mrs. Smith stated that she will withdraw her motion being that it will take the full board to add this item to the agenda and it is apparent that it will not happen. Mr. Handy withdrew his second.

Agenda Item 13:C – Proposed Demographic Study

Dr. Harris is asking the board for approval to move forward with a demographic study. This will require putting out a bid for a RFQ/P for a demographer to do a demographic study of the district.

Addition to the Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Bishop McFarland, to add to the agenda authorization to bid RFQ/P as an action item.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Bishop McFarland, the board authorized the administration to seek RFQ/P for a demographer.

Rev. Wright asked the cost of a demographer.

Dr. Harris indicated that the cost ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 13:D – Board Attorney Update: Act 750

Attorney Lawrence noted that Act 750 is a state mandate for local school districts to provide free transportation to nonpublic school students. Act 750 was in conflict with the existing desegregation orders, which did not authorize the Monroe City School District to transport nonpublic schools students. The Judge's order grants "relief from judgment" to the district, so that Act 750 can be honored without violating the orders of the court, and puts to rest any claim that the district is engaging in activity that violates federal court desegregation orders.

Agenda Item 14 – Future Meetings

Finance Committee Meeting: September 28, 2010; 12:00 noon

Board Meetings: October 5, 2010 and October 19, 2010; 6:00 p.m.

Action Item 15 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. upon a motion by Bishop McFarland and seconded by Mr. Handy.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Dr. Kathleen Harris
Superintendent