

MINUTES

Monroe City School Board
2101 Roselawn Avenue
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

The Monroe City School Board met in regular session, Thursday, September 9, 2010 at the Monroe City School District Media Center, 2009 Auburn Avenue; Monroe, Louisiana 71201. The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by President Traweek. Prayer was offered by Rev. Alex Earl. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Henry Butler.

Agenda Item 4: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Krutzer
Mr. James Mickey Traweek
Mr. Jessie Handy
Mrs. Stephanie Smith
Mrs. Brenda Shelling

Board Members Absent

Mrs. Victoria "Vickie" Dayton (prior commitment)
Bishop Rodney McFarland, Sr. (prior commitment)

Mrs. Shelling stated that board members have been waiting thirty minutes for a quorum. If a member will be late because of personal reasons, contact should be made with the board president to either cancel or change the meeting.

Administrative Staff

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

Action Item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the board approved the agenda as printed.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6 – Points of Pride

U. S. Secretary of Education Visit: As part of an eight-state tour, U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited J. S. Clark Magnet School on August 26th. Secretary Duncan participated in a discussion on the importance of exercise and good nutrition for healthy bodies and minds.

STAR Academy: The STAR Academy provides accelerated and concentrated instruction for students that are at least 2 years academically behind. The goal of the program is to move to a more age-appropriate grade level and improve their academic performance in reading and mathematic. Last year 100% of 7th graders who were enrolled in the STAR program for the 2009-2010 school year are now on a high school campus or enrolled in a GED program.

Child Nutrition Program: In November 2009, MCS received a Healthier U.S. School Challenge Grant application. The application was submitted with J. S. Clark as the site. In March 2010, the grant was awarded; with Monroe City Schools being the only district in northeast Louisiana to receive the \$10,000 grant. J. S. Clark has also been awarded the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Grant in the amount of \$34,050.

Math/Science Partnership: The Mathematics and Science Partnership program, a federal formula grant program and state competitive grant competition, is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in math and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Although the Monroe City School District has approximately 82% Free and Reduced Lunch, math scores in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been above the state average for the last two years and science is currently above the state average in grades 3, 4, and 5.

President Traweek announced that former Neville graduate Alex Presley has been selected for the Major Leagues by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Note: Mr. Handy arrived at 12:40

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comments

None

Action Item 8 – Consent Agenda Items

On a motion by Mrs. Smith that was seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the board approved the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of August 17, 2010 Board Minutes
- b. Personnel Report Resignations/Retirements/Leaves
- c. Personnel Report Appointments

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 9 – Consent Items for Separate Consideration

None

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

Dr. Harris noted that this item is for information only. The policy will be placed on the next agenda for adoption.

Action Item 10:B – In-Kind Donation for Lexington’s Wonder Lab

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board authorized in-kind donations of \$10,000 for the Lexington Elementary School’s Wonder Lab.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Shelling and Mrs. Smith commended Mrs. Page King and the committee for bringing this project forward.

Mrs. Krutzer stated that this is the kind of hands-on learning that is needed in the district.

Dr. Harris stated that the Wonder Lab at Lexington is a test project. If successful, the project can be replicated at other schools.

Action Item 10:C – VAL-ED Assessment

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board approved the VAL-ED Assessment for use in Monroe City Schools.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:D – Local Evaluation Plan for Certified Employees

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board approve the implementation of changes to the Local Evaluation Plan for certified personnel.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:E – National Board Certified Employees Stipends

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board awarded stipends to National Board Certified employees.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:F – 2010 Millage Rates

Mrs. Krutzer asked if the 2010 millage rates will increase property taxes.

Mrs. Flowers replied that the increase will be minimal.

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mr. Handy, the board approved the following millage rates for 2010:

Operational – 7.070 Mills
Maintenance – 14.420 Mills
Special – 6.150 Mills
Debt Service – 17.00 Mills

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:G – RFP for a Comprehensive Personnel and Salary Study

On a motion by Mrs. Shelling and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board authorized the administration to issue a RFP for a comprehensive personnel and salary study.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Action Item 10:H – Advertisement for Bids for Neville Fieldhouse Project

Mr. Tim Brandon stated that the project is ready to bid. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by mid summer.

Mrs. Krutzer asked if there is a contingency fund.

Mr. Traweck replied that contingency funds are always built into the budget.

On a motion by Mrs. Krutzer and seconded by Mrs. Shelling, the board authorized the administration to advertise for bids for the Neville fieldhouse project.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Report of Board Members

None

Agenda Item 12 – Report of Superintendent

Building Implementation Plans: The objective is to increase student achievement, decrease dropout rates, increase graduation rates and to increase ACT scores. A framework has been structured with principals and the senior leadership team. All building principals have provided implementation plans and those plans are being evaluated. Once a month, a team will walk through every building looking for specific climate and instructional evidence.

Mrs. Shelling asked if freshman coaches will be used for discipline or academics.

Dr. Harris stated that there is a program description with very specific duties.

Mrs. Smith requested a copy of the job description.

Facilities Assessment Process: The assessment will provide a consistent and comprehensive survey of the district's facilities by a highly qualified consultant that identifies the current status of the buildings and their components, provides information on the useful remaining life of buildings, identifies and prioritizes major maintenance deficiencies, and provides cost estimates to repair or replace deficiencies. A committee consisting of both district staff and school board members will be established to cause the development of a Request for Qualifications/Proposals. With accurate information about facility needs and costs, and tools for prioritizing requirements, MCS can develop a defensible five-year capital improvement plan and budgets for school repair and construction initiatives that will have the support of the school board and the community.

Mrs. Krutzer asked if the plan includes rezoning.

Dr. Harris replied that zoning will be looked at.

Board Attorney Update: It is expected that Judge James will issue an order next week that clarifies the district's obligations in light of Act 750 regarding the transportation of non-public school students.

Agenda Item 13 – Future Meetings

Board Meetings: September 21, 2010 and October 5, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

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

Action Item 14 – Recess/Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Shelling.

The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mickey Traweek
Board President

Dr. Kathleen Harris
Superintendent