

Monroe-Gregg School District

135 South Chestnut Street
Monrovia, IN 46157
Phone (317) 996-3720
Fax (317) 996-2977



AGENDA MONROE-GREGG SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ADMINISTRATION CENTER

January 11, 2010

5:30 P.M.

Executive Session

School Board President, Nancy Dorsett called the executive session to order at 5:32 P.M. The following agenda items were discussed and no other subjects were addressed except those allowed under IC 5-14-1.5.6.1

Executive Session: 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(A)(D)(9)

(2) For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following:

(A) Collective Bargaining

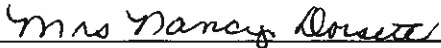
(D) The purchase or lease of real property by the governing body up to the time a contract
Or option to purchase or lease is executed by the parties

(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees


Meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

ATTENDEES

Board members in attendance were Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, Mr. Scott Everett, Mr. Greg Gore, Mr. Jim Shields, Dr. Julie Wood, School Superintendent, and Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney



Board President, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett



Board Secretary, Mr. Scott Everett

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Administration Office
January 11, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board president, Nancy Dorsett at 6:33, in the Administration Office conference room. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Scott Everett, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, Mr. James Shields and Mr. Greg Gore. Mr. Jack Elliott was unable to attend. Also attending were Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent, Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney, Ms. Robin Robinson, representing MGTA, and interested patrons.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent, recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the Executive Sessions of December 10, 2009 and December 14, 2009; the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2009, and the work session of December 10, 2009.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve all meeting minutes seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

The Corporation Superintendent, Dr. Julie Wood recommended Board approval of claim #12441 through #12522 in the amount of \$3,296,182.79.

Mr. Greg Gore asked Dr. Wood to explain to audience members why the claim packet amount was higher than normal. Dr. Wood explained that the temporary loans must be paid by the end of the year and the least payment was due.

After consideration and review the motion to approve the claims packet was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Wood recommended approval for the Personnel Report as presented. The motion to approve the personnel recommendations was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent, asked if there were any comments or questions from the audience.

The first speaker was Mrs. Jasmine Robertson. Mrs. Robertson began by noting that she has children enrolled in the school district; and that she was speaking on behalf of the youth football and basketball leagues. Mrs. Robertson's concerns were regarding Agenda Item #6 Use of School Facility Guidelines and Rental Fee Schedule. She said that she understood that schools were operating with a deficit and may need to charge something for the use of school facilities; however, she asked that the charges be reasonable. She further explained that the leagues are operating with a slim budget and any facility cost would, by necessity, be passed on to the parents. For some players the cost might prohibit them from playing youth sports altogether. Reasonable facility fees would allow more children to participate. If it is an issue with custodial fees, parents are willing to clean up themselves and will be responsible with the school's resources.

Dr. Wood replied that the rules and regulation in the proposed guidelines apply to all community groups. However, the rental/usage fees do not apply to the community programs provided for children in the Monroe-Gregg school district. A custodial fee may be changed for clean-up required outside the normal custodial work hours. Electrical fees will be waived unless the facility is being used for a longer period of time.

Mr. Scott Everett stated that outdoor facilities usage will not incur a fee; and Mr. James Shields noted that Agenda Item #6 Use of School Facility Guidelines and Rental Fee Schedule is a guideline, not policy.

The final speaker was Mr. Terry Kenworthy, a concerned community member. He questioned if the community would be allowed to make suggestions regarding the current financial situation noting, that "there are a lot of good ideas out there." Dr. Wood said that she was planning on a community meeting at a future date.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITY GUIDELINES AND RENTAL FEE SCHEDULE

Dr. Wood began her presentation of this agenda item by noting that effective February 1, 2010 there will be no facility use on Sundays. She then proceeded to read, for board and audience members, sections of the proposed guidelines governing the use of school facilities.

Dr. Wood also explained the attachment to the guidelines which was a facility use comparison for surrounding schools with the recommendation for the fee usage for the Monroe-Gregg School District.

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY

The first reading of Board Policy #7434-Property was held during the December 14, 2009 board meeting. During the discussion period of this proposed policy several board members expressed reservations regarding some of the language. Dr. Wood asked that the board approve the first reading noting that she would change the language for the second reading.

The motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy #7434 was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 4-0.

2010 BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

Dr. Wood, Superintendent, presented this agenda item. She began by discussing the need for budget cuts to the general and transportation funds. She advised that she had asked Mr. Cary Hargis, Athletic Director, to help with possible solutions for some of the transportation funding.

Mr. Cary Hargis, Athletic Director, presented the board with a draft copy of the high school's Transportation Savings Plan. Some of the suggestions were: cheerleaders will sell tickets for a fan bus and will ride the bus themselves to the event; the athletic department would absorb the cost to license coaches to drive buses to the event; and possibly an activity fee per sport. Mr. Hargis noted that the coaches are supportive of driving a bus. The coaches have suggested that they will "trade off" and drive during their off season.

The middle school's plan was also presented by Mr. Hargis. Some of the middle school's ideas were: elimination of 6th grade athletics, eliminate B team basketball games, limit boys teams to twelve members, and limit cheerleaders to six per grade level as a travel squad.

2010 BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

Mr. Greg Gore, board member, said that the board appreciated the Athletic Department's ideas noting that the board would look at all of the ideas and try to figure out a way to deal with the short fall.

Dr. Wood further noted that some programs may have to be cut. She mentioned that the band and choir programs and other clubs may also have to pay some of their transportation costs to and from activities.

BUS DRIVER BENEFITS – C.D.L. PHYSICAL REIMBURSEMENT

The current board obligation states that the Corporation will "pay for C.D.L. physicals for full time drivers, not to exceed \$200.00." Mrs. Gina Speck, Transportation Director, submitted a proposal that effective January 1, 2010, the school district would only reimburse the cost of a C.D.L. physical examination with proof that the bus driver has submitted the cost of the exam to their insurance company; and the corporation will only pay up to \$50 of the amount not covered by the insurance company.

The motion to approve this change was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 4-0.

Dr. Wood stated that there are other transportation areas that are being considered such as: sub pay, per mile cost, a bus stop instead of door-to-door, and using the Versa Trans software for creating bus routes.

RACE TO THE TOP – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Dr. Wood advised that the State of Indiana was required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to be considered for \$89,000 in federal stimulus monies. She noted that signing the memorandum does not obligate the Corporation, but if the memorandum is not signed the Corporation is not eligible for any funds.

After the board expressed some concerns and reservations regarding the requirements of this program, Dr. Wood stated that she would "like to keep us in the game."

The motion to approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 3-1.

PERMISSION TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS

There may be times, throughout the calendar year, when the Corporation must transfer appropriations between accounts and/or funds. Dr. Wood requested board approval to make the necessary transfer so that line items and funds are not in the negative on June 30th and December 30th when State Financial Reports are due.

The motion to approve the transfer was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

This update was presented by Dr. Wood. She began by noting that the amount of shortfall is greater than expected. She had been notified that the Corporation will not receive \$244,000 in federal stimulus money and that the actual amount the district is losing will amount to approximately \$950,000.

The superintendent is “looking at everything” including activities, supply accounts, and possibly reconfiguring the building grade levels. The fifth grade classes may move out of the portables and relocate in the middle school building; and the eighth grade students may move to a self-contained hallway. Dr. Wood is also looking at staffing for certified and classified staffing, hours and days worked, furloughs, some programs that are offered, and reconfiguring what a work week is for some employees. She will be meeting with the community and the teachers’ association for more ideas.

Dr. Wood explained that the reason for the shortfall is that property taxes are no longer being used to support schools. School corporations can no longer go the property owners and ask for an increase in taxes. She suggested that audience members urge their legislators to rescind the tax cuts and to vote “no” on property caps.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 11, 2010
Page 6 of 6

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, board president, adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Nancy Dorsett
Nancy Dorsett, Board President

Scott Everett
Scott Everett, Board Secretary