

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monroe-Gregg School District
Monrovia Elementary Media Center
April 14, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Present were Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. James Shields, Mr. Scott Everett, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett and Mr. Paul Kaiser.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Call to Order

Mr. Jack Elliott, Board President, called the board meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Curriculum, Building Updates, and Other Reports

Student of the Month

Mr. Chris Sampson, Monrovia Elementary Principal congratulated fourth grader Dakota Lanham on being chosen as the Monrovia Student of the Month. Mr. Sampson described Dakota as a hard working, reliable student. Dakota is also kind and considerate of others.

Mrs. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Monrovia Middle School Principal, congratulated Danielle Gillespie on being chosen as the middle school Student of the Month. Danielle is a seventh grader who was described as a student with a positive attitude and a great work ethic.

Mr. Duffy Hagist, Monrovia Senior High School principal, congratulated senior Damon Speck as the high school Student of the Month. Damon was described as an outstanding student who will receive an academic honors diploma. Damon is a member of the National Honor Society, a class officer, and a Hoosier Boys' State delegate. Damon has also been very active in sports and was voted 2007 Mr. Football.

II. Curriculum Building Updates and Other Reports (continued)

Principals' Report

Mr. Sampson, Mr. Hagist, and Mrs. Monahan distributed their building newsletter and outlined the current and future activities in their buildings. Mrs. Mary Mann, Director of Special Education, also addressed board and audience members regarding current activities in the Special Education Department.

Mr. Kaiser and Board members thanked the building principals and Mrs. Mann for their reports.

III. Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 Regular Meeting and the Executive Session of the same date. Mr. Shields' motion was seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

IV. Claims

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to approve claims #9643 through #9808 in the amount of \$1,377,542.97. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett and carried 5-0.

V. Personnel

A motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to approve the employment recommendations as listed with the salary within the parameter of the approved salary schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

V. Personnel (continued)

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to approve an additional kindergarten position for Monrovia Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

The building principals and Mr. Kaiser spoke briefly to the Board and audience members explaining current staffing needs. Mr. Sampson spoke of the interviews he has conducted and the procedure/criteria being used for the interviews. Mr. Sampson and Mrs. Monahan outlined some of the benefits of having a counselor in their buildings; and Mr. Kaiser discussed the Special Education staffing.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Jack Elliott, board president, advised the audience that the board members receive their information packet a week before the meeting date. This allows board members the opportunity to ask the superintendent's office any questions they may have before the meeting. There were no comments or questions from the audience.

VII. Construction Updates

There was nothing to present at this time.

VIII. Quotes, Bids, Donations and Purchases

There was nothing to present at this time.

IX. Staff Development, Trips, and Projects

There was nothing to report at this time.

X. Other Business and Information

The motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett to approve the middle school textbook adoption recommendation for the English Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the high school textbook adoption recommendation for language arts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

XI. Policy and Guideline Considerations

There was nothing to report at this time.

XII. Committee and Community Reports

The next Strategic Planning Team meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2008 in the Hall Early Childhood Center. The meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Paul Kaiser, Superintendent, noted that the members on the Strategic Planning team are a diverse group. The Team will be presenting recommendations/options to the Board during either May or June, 2008.

XIII. Board Members and Superintendent Comments

Mr. Kaiser advised the Board regarding changes in the tax code which will require new language in a teacher's contract. He asked for a motion to approve the language change.

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to approve the contract language for 403 and 409 changes in the tax code. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

Mr. Kaiser asked each building principal to present their perspective on the Purdue Literacy Program.

The first speaker was Mr. Chris Sampson, Monrovia Elementary Principal. He listed several benefits of the program which included: access to current practice research, professional development "teachers teaching teachers", common assessment, provides for a literacy team within the building, compliments programs already in place, and provides a common thread for teaching literacy through the building. Mr. Sampson stated that the program has had a positive impact in the elementary building.

Mrs. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Monrovia Middle School principal, was the next speaker. She noted the need for a reading teacher at the middle school level. The reading teacher could teach the middle school students for a nine week rotation as well as in the Language Arts classes. The reading teacher could teach reading skills to low ability students on a one-to-one basis. The teacher could also act as a coach by teaching reading strategies to core teachers.

The final principal to speak was Mr. Hagist, Monrovia High School principal. The Purdue Literacy program is not currently offered in the high school, however, Mr. Hagist noted that students coming into high school having received the literacy training will already have reading skills in place. He also noted that the program was valuable for professional development in reading and writing skills.

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XIII. Board Members and Superintendent Comments (continued)

Mr. Kaiser ended this agenda item discussion stating that “we must make sure that every student is reading at grade level.”

XII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Board President, Mr. Jack Elliott

Board Secretary, Mr. Scott Everett

