

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monroe-Gregg School District
Monrovia Elementary School Cafeteria
October 8, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Present were Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. Greg Gore, 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, spoke first congratulating fifth grader, Drue Kluemper on being chosen as the elementary school's Student of the Month. Mr. Sampson stated that Drue has been a good student throughout her school career and is an excellent role model.

Mrs. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Monrovia Middle School principal, congratulated Jared Smith a seventh grade student in the middle school. Jared was described as being well-mannered, and a perfect student.

Mr. Duffy Hagist, Monrovia Junior/Senior high principal, introduced senior Courtney Bradshaw as the high school's Student of the Month. He stated that Courtney is a true leader. She is a member of National Honor Society, show choir, and works part-time at a local nursing home. Courtney was described as conscientious and hard working.

II. Curriculum Building Updates, and Other Reports (continued)
Principals' Report

Mr. Sampson, Mr. Hagist and Mrs. Monahan outlined the current and future activities in their buildings. The principals distributed copies of their newsletters or activity reports to each board member.

Data Dashboard Handout

Mr. Paul Kaiser, superintendent, distributed copies of the Monroe-Gregg School District's Dashboard of Performance Indicators. These goals were formulated by a district-wide committee. The handout included an outline of the stakeholder group, the performance indicators and measures, and the implementation plan.

III. Minutes

The motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 board meeting, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

IV. Claims

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to approve claims #8755 through #8899 in the amount of \$2,824,232.64. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett.

Mr. Scott Everett questioned the recent letter from Endeavor Communication regarding the charge for all telephone calls made to cell phones from the schools. Board members suggested that a letter be drafted to express the Corporation's concern regarding the charge. Mr. Kaiser advised that he had discussed this issue with Endeavor and that he would draft a letter.

IV. Claims (continued)

Mr. Everett also questioned claims #8798, #8808, #8817, #8832, #8861, and #8882. Mr. Kaiser, superintendent, and Mrs. Dillon, Corporation Treasurer explained the above referenced claims. Mrs. Dillon noted that whenever the claim was from Fund 165 that the claim was for Hall Early Childhood Care.

After discussion and review, the motion to approve the claims packet carried 5-0.

V. Personnel

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

Mr. Greg Gore asked about hiring two new aides for the Special Education Department. Mr. Kaiser replied that instead of having the child attend Wayne Township, which would cost the Corporation approximately \$30,000, it would be more cost effective to hire another aide for Special Education. He noted that there was only one position which is being shared by two employees.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

The first speaker was Mrs. Dora Brown. Mrs. Brown stated that during the September board meeting she expressed her feelings regarding the Hall Day Care Center and she was disappointed that nothing had been done regarding the issues she brought up at the September meeting.

Mr. Paul Kaiser, Superintendent, replied that he would like to meet with her, when their schedules permitted, and discuss the budget process.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items (continued)

Mrs. Brown replied that the information she presented was “in the public eye and should be answered in the public eye.”

Mr. Gore assured Mrs. Brown that all purchases for Hall were being “tracked” and would be repaid to the Corporation. Mrs. Brown stated that she was concerned for the method in which things are being done. She noted that every month expenses are going to Hall and nothing is coming in and that the day care should be moved. Mr. Greg Gore reiterated that the board was tracking expenses and that every spread sheet will be repaid.

Mr. Kaiser, Superintendent, spoke briefly outlining some of the repairs there were needed to make the building functional. He stated that there would be an open discussion at the next board meeting. Mr. Kaiser noted that information will be shared publicly and the public will be kept informed.

The next speaker was Mrs. Sonjia Graf, a Gregg township patron. She asked for the qualifications of the people hired to assist special needs students and expressed her concern that hiring aides that are not qualified will not improve academic standards.

Mr. Kaiser replied that the Corporation cannot hire certified teachers for every position. The aides are high school graduates and they assist certified teachers. He then outlined the cost of hiring aides versus sending a student to an alternate school environment.

Mrs. Graf stated that more people would attend meetings if they had more input. Mr. Kaiser responded that any patron at any time is welcome in his office and that he has an open door policy.

Mr. Jack Elliott, Board president, advised that all of the board members are elected and their phone numbers are available to the public.

VII. Quotes, Bids, Donations and Purchases

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to accept the purchase price of \$5,500 to sell the north easement near the Gordon Hadley Stadium to the State of Indiana, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to accept the donation of \$150 from the Hood family to Monrovia Middle School seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

VIII. Staff Development, Trips and Projects

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the following requests:

- Bulldog Brigade traveling to Mason, Ohio on November 2, 2007
- Bulldog Brigade competing at the RCA Dome on November 15, 16, & 17, 2007
- Choir participating at the Butler University Jazz Fest, November 2 & 3, 2007
- Boys Basketball Team traveling to Athens, Ohio on November 17 & 18, 2007

Mr. Shields' motion was seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett and carried 5-0.

IX. Other Business and Information

Mr. Kaiser presented this agenda item to the board and audience members. He began by describing some of the areas in which a contract with Educational Services would be beneficial to the Corporation. Mr. Kaiser is requesting the board approve Educational Services to conduct a review of budget procedures, the 403B implementation of the new federal laws, and to conduct an audit of our Special Education Services.

IX. Other Business and Information (continued)

Mr. Kaiser, Superintendent, and Mrs. Kelly Dillon, Corporation Treasurer, spoke of Educational Services being helpful with implementing a bidding process for purchasing supplies from out-side vendors and in the area of making/saving money for the Corporation. Mr. Kaiser explained that the tax laws for 403B have changed and will now require more time and expertise from each school corporation in the State. Also, Mr. Kaiser stated that he and the Director of Special Education, Mrs. Mary Mann, had discussed conducting an evaluation of special education such as: is the department efficient, are procedures being followed, special education pre-school, and if dollars could be saved by doing things differently.

The board members asked about the fees charged for the services to be performed. Mr. Kaiser advised that the charge would be \$180 per hour or \$2,500 for each individual service performed. Mr. Kaiser said that the charge for the 403B service may be higher. Mr. Kaiser stated that the cost of Educational Services will be cost effective in the long run.

The motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to accept the contract from Educational Services to conduct a review of budget procedures for Monroe-Gregg schools, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 3-2.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to accept the contract from Educational Services to conduct the 403B implementation of the new federal laws.

During the discussion portion of this motion, Mr. Greg Gore asked that the motion be amended. Mr. Shields' motion was amended to include that *Mr. Kaiser and Mrs. Dillon keep strict tabs on the cost of this service. If the charges go above \$2,500, the services are to be cut off or reevaluated; and the Board should be notified for further direction.*

Mr. Shields' amended motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-1.

IX. Other Business and Information (continued)

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to accept the contract from Educational Services to conduct an audit of our Special Education with the stipulation that Mr. Kaiser and Mrs. Dillion keep strict tabs on the cost of this service. If the charges go above \$2,500, the services are to be cut off or reevaluated; and the board notified for further direction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 3-2.

An Agricultural Business Curriculum and a Business Career Academy

Mr. Kaiser presented the Agricultural Business Curriculum item noting that this was strictly a general discussion item and no board motion was needed at this time. He began his presentation by noting that the Corporation would receive \$450 for each student enrolled in an approved Agricultural Business class. The student would be enrolled in the eight grade and would receive high school credit which would count on the student's GPA. These classes would be considered career development classes which would encourage students to think about what they may want to do when they complete high school. There would possibly be three or four classes at middle school, but would also offer some classes in the high school. Mr. Kaiser would like to form an advisory committee and if there is interest, would come to the November board meeting and ask for official approval.

The board asked if the funding was stable and if there was available space for the classroom. Mr. Kaiser replied that the agricultural business funding is stable and there is a classroom available in the middle school which could be used part of the day.

Mr. Kaiser ended this discussion stating that he would put some numbers together and return to the board with more information.

IX. An Agricultural Business Curriculum and a Business Career Academy (continued)

Mrs. Moore, presented board members with a proposal from herself and Mrs. Lois Denton. Both teachers are members of the Monrovia High School Business Department. They requested the board approve a business magnet program at Monrovia High School targeting Tier Two students (25-75 Percentile GPA) for intensive course work and curriculum in business. The teachers would like to have twenty-five incoming freshmen identified and placed in a Business Foundation course next school year. These students would then progress through the course sequence over the next four years of high school.

Mr. Kaiser suggested that this program be put on the schedule for students who will begin scheduling classes in January for the 2008-2009 school year. If there is enough interest, this proposal will be presented to the board again.

X. Committee and Community Reports
CAC Report

Mr. James Shields attended the last Community Advisory Committee meeting. He noted that it was a good meeting, productive, and that it was well attended. He spoke favorably of the Monrovia School of Integrated Technology (MIT) program that will “pay off in ways yet to be seen.”

XI. Board Members and Superintendent Comments

Mr. Kaiser advised board and audience members of the increased enrollment in the school district. There were fifty-nine new students in the elementary, twenty-six students in the high school, and sixteen in the middle school. He advised that the new enrollments will have multiple effects on the Corporation. Some of the areas that will be affected are bus replacement, transportation, and debt services.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 8, 2007
Page 9 of 9

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 8:17 p.m.

Board President, Mr. Jack Elliott

Board Secretary, Mr. Scott Everett