

Monroe School District #1J  
Regular Board Meeting  
Held at Monroe High School  
February 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chair Estell at 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Mylrea Estell, Tony Stroda, Robert Warden, Nancy Burnett, Superintendent Randall Crowson, and Secretary Christine Manley.

Absent: Tim Warden.

The meeting moved immediately to executive session as per ORS 192.660(2)(d) to discuss negotiations and ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review employee evaluations and performance.

The meeting returned to open session at 7:30 P.M.

Members present: Mylrea Estell, Tony Stroda, Robert Warden, Nancy Burnett, Superintendent Randall Crowson, Secretary Christine Manley, and Student Council Representative Quintin Kreth.

Absent: Tim Warden.

Also present: Employees Christina Walker, Jim Mulanax, Jackie Crowson, Ken Elliott, Jim McLaughlin, Bruce Wald, Brenda Goracke; Monroe City Councilor David Ballard, and Tri-County News Reporter Jessie Higgins.

Tony Stroda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 4/0.

The Consent Agenda items were reviewed and discussed. Robert Warden moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 4/0.

Board members read thank you letters to Caryn O'Connor, AAA Oregon; Sheriff Diana Simpson, Benton County Sheriff's Department; and John & Donna Dillard, Monroe Telephone Company (copies attached).

The Board welcomed audience members to the "Meet the Staff" portion of the meeting.

Bruce Wald introduced himself and explained that he currently teaches Government, Global Studies, Psychology, and History. He gave examples of the curriculum he teaches in each class. He handed out a fun exercise for the board members to complete. (Assignment attached.)

After that very informative lesson, Jim McLaughlin showed his appreciation for following Mr. Wald. Mr. McLaughlin explained that he is in his fifteenth year at Monroe and teaches Economics, Personal Finance, Career Education, Computers, and Accounting. He has a student teacher this year from OSU. Answering the Board's question, he explained that prior to teaching at Monroe he taught the upper division Auditing course in the College of Business at OSU for

eight years.

Jim Mulanax introduced himself as the high school shop teacher. He currently teaches Woods, Welding, Small Engines and Principles of Technology. His goal is to open doors for some students to pursue careers in industrial arts. In Principles of Technology, the students will build a race cart from the ground up. His vision is to provide as many different classes as possible such as Mechanical Drafting, Diesel or Automotive Engines, and Robotics. He really appreciates the enthusiasm of the District and the Board.

Ken Elliott explained that he teaches everyone's favorite subject: English. He has been teaching at Monroe seventeen years. In addition to English he teaches American Literature, Drama, and Literature & Film. His remodeled room with the new windows and heat system make Room 1 the best it's ever been.

Jackie Crowson explained that she's been in the district thirty-something years. She teaches Reading and English. Her class will read a novel then watch the movie and discuss the differences. She also works with the Transitions class. She currently has employers in the community (Dari-Mart, Cornerstone Café, Sweet Spot Deli, and perhaps Sterling Bank and the gas station) who are willing to give the students work experience. She also has two students in the Community Services Consortium in Corvallis.

Christina Walker explained that she has been in the district for five years. She teaches the Reconnecting Youth class with a grant from the Health Department. She is currently working on letters for Senior students who are deficient in their credits. She also coordinates the Credit Recovery Class (summer school).

Tony Stroda thanked the staff for their service, dedication and for taking their time to come in. Speaking for the Board, he explained that they truly feel blessed with the staff.

City Councilor David Ballard shared a sample of the "new" city water with the Board and audience members for a taste test. The City will host a grand opening of the water treatment plant soon. Board members and general public are invited. They are hoping to have the sewer lagoon running by the end of the year. Randall Crowson commented that he has been informed by the City that the District will see significant increases in the water bills.

Student enrollment was reviewed. The District lost 11 students over Christmas, but is still up by 15 students this time last year.

Mr. Crowson explained that none of the State economic stimulus will be going to public schools. The funding for our District has already been reduced by \$185,000. The latest forecast shows an additional cut of \$255,000 from the May basic school support. Ways to cut now: discontinue the District newsletter at the end of the year and be very careful with building usage for outside groups.

Mrs. Goracke informed the Board that she is just trying to keep her students healthy. They had 58 students and ten staff members absent today due to the current virus. They are finishing the writing assessment, have finished the ACT Explorer test, are on the second round of reading, math, and science testing; and will start the ELPA (second language) next week.

Randy Crowson explained that he and Mrs. Goracke have been meeting with the teachers by grade level. Both Brenda Goracke and Bill Crowson will meet individually with their teachers to discuss budgeting for next year.

There was minor discussion about a four day school week. Mr. Crowson explained that it would not be his first choice to implement because it would, in general, hurt the classified staff. The school day would be extended, the teachers would still work on their contract, but the classified employees would be cut back 20%. Transportation costs would remain the same because it is paid on a contracted amount.

Mr. Crowson explained that he has found a few ways to save with the Kindergarten program. We are currently up to date on all textbooks so they may have to put textbook purchases on hold. Hopefully, they will make budget decisions around May.

Quintin Kreth asked about the Wrestling and Track programs. Mr. Crowson explained that the track program is a very inexpensive program and the participation is high. He doesn't believe the program would be cut. Participation is very low in the wrestling program. The Board will need to evaluate this program.

Mylrea Estell reported to the Board on her recent OSBA Bond Measure workshop. She pointed out that the schools who are the most successful in passing bonds survey their community and have an advocacy group working with the district. She expressed some reservations about presenting a Measure in this economic climate.

Randall Crowson explained that Corinne Klein also attended the workshop. However, she has been ill and was unable to attend this meeting. She will report to the Board on Local Option Levies next month.

There was some discussion regarding the cost of an election and the double majority laws. The subject was tabled until the March meeting.

The latest update on the Oregon Diploma was reviewed (see attached).

The letter from Northwest Association of Accredited Schools was reviewed. The high school received the highest rating of approval.

Quintin Kreth read the School Board Proclamation concerning Classified Employee Week March 2-6, 2009. Tony Stroda moved to approve as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 4/0.

The LBL-ESD Local Service Plan for 2009-11 was reviewed. Tony Stroda moved to approve as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 4/0.

A meeting was scheduled to review the certified evaluations on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 5:30 P.M. in the Superintendent's office.

The Classified Collective Bargaining offer for 2009-11 was reviewed. Robert Warden moved to approve as presented. Second: Nancy Burnett. Motion carried 4/0.

Mr. Crowson explained that he feels strongly that a letter needs to be written to the State Legislature requesting they release part of the Rainy Day Fund (Education Stability Fund) to public schools. The request is to receive adequate funding to educate our students. There was a board consensus for Mr. Crowson to write and send the letter. Mylrea Estell commended Randall Crowson for watching the budget forecast so closely.

Mr. Crowson asked the Board if they could think of ways the District can trim the budget, however small, to please let him know.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Estell at 9:30 P.M.

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Mylrea Estell, Chair

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Christine Manley, Board Secretary