

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

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Chair Estell at 7:30 P.M.

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

Also present: Employees Verna Murphy, Cheryl Smith, Catherine Otto, Dixie Floyd, Wendolyn Unrein, Connie Madsen, Lauren James, Will Wright, Mary Hanamoto, Bill Crowson, Brenda Goracke, Corinne Klein; and Tri-County News Reporter Jessie Higgins.

Tony Stroda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

The Consent Agenda items were reviewed and discussed. The following items were added:

3.D. Approval to hire: Leslie Perdue, Temporary Special Education Aide through 08-09

4.D. Letter from OEA, Principles of Technology grant

Robert Warden moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

Board members read communications from Oregon Department of Education, Jordan Wiard, Transitions students, OEA, and a thank you letter to George Wisner (copies attached).

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

Connie Madsen introduced herself as the Kindergarten teacher. She explained that she was a student at Bellfountain School, OSU and U of O. She has 24 students this year, one great community volunteer, and so many parent volunteers they have to rotate weeks. Verna Murphy and Kim Martinez also work in her room. She shared photo books of class activities.

Verna Murphy introduced herself as a Title I Aide for Mrs. Madsen. She starts her day at 7:35 A.M., arriving before Mrs. Madsen and prepares some class work. As soon as the students arrive, she supervises and organizes them, checks attendance, helps them at lunch, works with them in class and helps them get on the bus. She then has playground supervision for the upper grades. She has very busy days.

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teaching team of Catherine Otto, Dixie Floyd, and Wendolyn Unrein introduced themselves. They demonstrated many of their lessons. These were very fun lessons and very hands on for the students.

Cheryl Smith introduced herself as a Title I Aide. She has worked in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom for 13 years. She starts her day at 7:30 each morning. She works with the students in reading. She love the work she does.

Lauren James explained he started as a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. He has worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

grade students for several years. He currently has 25 students. Among other activities, they have a garden area outside the classroom where they also feed the birds year round. The kids always add something each year. Among other activities, the students just finished a Rainbow Trout project. They hatched trout from eggs, then released them into a local pond. They had 75% success rate.

Will Wright explained that he started in 1991. He has a nature trail started at the grade school that he would like to finish. He is also the safety officer for the school. He has attended a lot of workshops. He explained that Verna Murphy has also worked in his room. Kim Martinez works in the study hall in the afternoon. He commended the work that they do.

Mary Hanamoto introduced herself. She has been in the district for 19 years, and this will be her last. She explained a science lab lesson. She also brought writing samples from the students.

Randall Crowson commended the teachers and aides for their hard work. The Board members thanked the staff for their time and dedication. Our students are fortunate to have the staff work with them.

A break was taken from 8:35-8:41 P.M.

There was no public input.

Superintendent Crowson reported that student enrollment is holding steady. They are just starting the budget process today. It looks like we'll get through to the end of the year without cutting days. He is trying to save as much as possible into the new year. They are still looking at buying some textbooks for next year.

The new web site is almost ready. It may be launched at the end of this quarter. LBL-ESD paid for the design and implementation of the site. Christine Manley and the building secretaries will maintain the pages, with the high school students adding to the activities page. There will be links to the parent portals as well as community sites. Brenda Goracke explained that the grade school parent portal is now open. She asked the three Board members who have grade school students (Tim Warden, Nancy Burnett, and Mylrea Estell) to check it out.

Mr. Crowson announced that they have sent their second letter to OSAA opposing the new league configuration. They object to Culver being in the new league as it would not only increase travel time and costs, but also pose a potential travel hazard in bad weather. In addition, only six of the schools play football. This would mean that Monroe would need to pick up five non-league games.

Mr. Crowson announced that the Honor Society Banquet will be held this Thursday. Approximately sixty-five people have signed up to attend.

He will report again in April and May to explain where the district will save money for next year.

Interviews for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics teacher will be scheduled for March 17.

Mr. Crowson reviewed the changes to the Excise Tax for Benton County. There were no objections.

Corinne Klein reviewed the differences between General Obligation Bond and Local Option Levy (see attached). The Board's consensus is to research costs for an advisor. Perhaps someone from OSBA would attend a board meeting.

The deadline to file for Board positions is March 19. Robert Warden has filed for his zone. Tony Stroda will file for his zone. Tim Warden explained he has moved out of his zone and cannot file. He would be willing to serve if there are no applicants and he was appointed.

Bill Crowson explained the Cooperative Sponsorship Application between Monroe and Alsea School Districts. We have done this in the past. After review, Tony Stroda moved to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship between the two school districts. Second: Tim Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

Mr. Crowson reminded the board members of the Special Board Meeting next Monday in his office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Estell at 9:50 P.M.

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Mylrea Estell, Chair

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Christine Manley, Board Secretary