

Monroe School District #1J
Regular Board Meeting
Held at Monroe High School
January 13, 2014

The board meeting was called to order by Chair Gamache at 6:45 P.M.

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

The meeting moved immediately into executive session as per ORS 192.660(2)(a) consider the employment of an employee.

The meeting returned to open session at 7:05 P.M.

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

Also present: Student Maddie O'Hare-Gamache; Patrons Abbey Gamache, Katie Bateman, Rachelle Payne, Sherrie Deaton, Tim Warden, Lorene Smith, and Sarah Egbert.

The minutes of December 16, 2013 and January 6, 2014 were reviewed. Tony Stroda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

After review, Tony Stroda moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

Rachelle Payne reported that the Parent Group will be meeting this week. They plan to vote on becoming a PTO.

Mr. Crowson reviewed the OSBA Labor & Employment Workshop brochure. This workshop is available for Board Members and Administrators.

Mr. Crowson explained the new Oregon Health Authority regulations regarding the Foodborne Illness Prevention Program. This information has been shared with Dragon Pride. Mr. Crowson explained that any group who uses the school district's facilities to serve hot food must abide by the new regulations.

Sarah Egbert presented a letter to the Superintendent and Board members. She requested that it be read aloud. Chair Gamache read the letter regarding criminal history verification checks on volunteers and the procedures in dealing with those volunteers. The letter also referred to the general lack of morale at the grade school. Mr. Crowson commented that he was disappointed that he was not notified earlier of their concerns.

There was general discussion with audience members regarding the lunch program. There was

concern that the meals at the grade school are not large enough. They asked if the children can get seconds? How are portion sizes set? Mr. Crowson explained that portions are set by the U.S.D.A. for this program based on grade level, not by the height and weight of a student. Students cannot be served seconds, but can bring food from home to add to their cafeteria lunch. All students must be served a carton of milk but if they do not drink it, the milk must be discarded and cannot be served to anyone else. Mr. Crowson explained that students are allowed to take extra portions from the salad bar. The Summer Food Program has separate regulations. The recycling program at Laurel School (Junction City School District) was discussed. Mr. Crowson would like to research the program further. Concern was also voiced that the cafeteria aide forces students to eat, that some staff member's children receive preferential treatment, and that staff members are taking food and milk home. Mr. Crowson assured the parents that he will talk to staff.

Lorene Smith asked if ten minutes additional class time each day was enough to make up all the snow days. Mr. Crowson explained that, in addition to the extra 10 minutes a day, he also revised the calendar by making three of the snow days count as furlough days, changing the previously scheduled furlough days to class days, and by cutting out some in-service and professional development days. By doing this, the graduation dates remain the same.

Mr. Crowson asked audience members for input on recesses for grades 5-8. Comments from the audience included: kids need at least 15 minutes to "run off steam" at that age; an exercise break is important to stay alert; and physical activity is important for a child's development.

Mr. Crowson extended an offer for anyone to come visit him at any time. His door is always open. Tony Stroda thanked the audience for being at the meetings. He appreciates their viewpoint. Mr. Crowson explained that he has assigned Dixie Floyd to attend the Parent Group meetings.

Mr. Crowson explained that the plumbing in the grade school classrooms 7 & 8 should be finished next week. The electrical wiring has been completed and the new classroom hot water tanks have arrived. He doesn't believe that insurance will cover the entire repair bills.

Enrollment was reported as 447 K-12 at the end of December. Two new high school students enrolled today.

Mr. Crowson explained that the classified employees' retro-pay information has been computed and sent to the ESD for processing.

There was general discussion regarding capital bonds to upgrade the heating system at the grade school.

Mr. Crowson announced that another newsletter will be sent out later this month or the first part of February. He has received several positive comments regarding the short newsletter with the list of "important" dates.

Mr. Crowson reviewed the Flash Alert information with the Board. Parents could sign up with the system and receive emails about school closures. With this system, parents without access to TV or radio can still be notified via email. This particular system has not worked for our district in the past, confusing us with other counties and districts. Board consensus is to try the service again.

The revised 2013-14 school calendar was reviewed. Mylrea moved to approve the revisions as presented. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

The Board appointed the following to the Superintendent Selection Committee: Lance Horning, Tim Warden, Bob Wilson, Abbey Gamache, Lark Wysham, Bill Crowson, Corinne Klein, Tim Johnson, Michelle Halstead, Beau Sisneros, Mary Persons, Dave Beatley, and Lory Bechtold. Chair Gamache explained that each Board member selected one volunteer from their zone, the same way they appoint Budget Committee Members. Katie Bateman voiced her opinion that this was the wrong way to make the selection, that it should have been by lottery. Mr. Crowson explained that Board Members are the elected officials and they have the right to make these type of committee appointments.

The Special Board meetings February 6, 2014 and February 11, 2014 were scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Crowson gave the Annual Report of the Compliance with the Standards. The district is substantially in compliance with all standards. The new Teacher Evaluation is due July 1, and the new Consolidated Improvement Plan (CIP) is due June 30; these items are included in the new standards.

A cake in honor of School Board Appreciation Month was shared with the Board members and audience.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:40 P.M.