

Monroe School District #1J
Regular Board Meeting
Held at Monroe High School
July 14, 2014

The board meeting was called to order by Chair Gamache at 7:02 P.M.

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

Also present: Employees Michelle Halstead, Whitney Connolly, Corinne Klein; Patrons Wesley & Kirsten Beckstead, Kim & Eva Hall, Christina Hinton.

Jennifer Gamache opened nominations for the election of officers. Nancy Burnett nominated Robert Warden as Chair. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

Robert Warden assumed the role as Chair and called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Nancy Burnett nominated Tony Stroda as Vice-Chair. Second: Jennifer Gamache. Motion carried 5/0.

Chair Warden read the listing of District Organization and Annual Procedural Business for 2014-15. Regular meeting times were changed to 6:30 PM during the months of November, December, January, and February. Tony Stroda moved to approve the listing as amended. Second: Nancy Burnett. Motion carried 5/0.

The listing of Bank Accounts and Signatures were reviewed. Mylrea Estell moved to approve the listing *excluding* the grade school secretary and principal account signers for the Monroe Grade School Activity Checking Account. Any additions can be submitted to the Board after the positions are filled. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

The minutes of the June 9 and June 25, 2014 Board meetings were reviewed and discussed. Tony Stroda moved to approve the minutes as written. Second: Jennifer Gamache. Motion carried 5/0.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

The bills were reviewed and discussed.

Chair Warden read a letter of resignation from Stacie Cheeke. Board members commented they understand why she is leaving, but she will be missed.

The list of surplus items was reviewed.

The 2013-14 financial resolutions were reviewed.

The 2014-16 Certified Negotiated Agreement was reviewed. Mylrea Estell commented that it was a pleasure to work with the teachers and believes they reached a fair settlement. Tony Stroda explained that there was a little boost in insurance benefits, a modest raise, and no furlough days.

Tony Stroda moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Second: Mylrea Estell. Motion carried 5/0.

There was no report from the City of Monroe.

Whitney Connolly reported that the Parent Group will meet later this summer to schedule their meetings for the new school year.

The thank you letters were read by Board Members. The Board thanked the community for “chipping in” where needed.

Wesley and Kirsten Beckstead submitted an Interdistrict Transfer request. Mr. Pickett reminded the Board that those requests should be submitted to him first.

Mr. Pickett’s administrative report included the following:

- He’s had a smooth transition in the Superintendent’s position so far. Christine Manley and Corinne Klein have been very helpful and Randy Crowson left files in great shape. The summer crew has also been helpful. This is an exciting time and he is thrilled to be here.
- The Building Secretary’s position will be posted tomorrow.
- Some of the newer carpet in one of the classrooms has pulled up at the edges as a result of last winter’s water damage. The insurance agent has had the carpet scheduled for repair and/or replacement as needed.
- Peter Wasak has replaced some rotten fascia boards at the grade school.
- He is very impressed with Dragon Pride. What an amazing group of volunteers. They are currently building a new shot put pit and retaining wall to reinforce an area of the track.
- The summer meal program is serving between 80-120 meals for breakfast and lunch each day. He would like to see a Farm to Table program.
- Becky Crowson has applied for the Head Cook position. He recommends hiring her in this position, then he will post a Site Cook vacancy at the grade school.
- Board members, staff and patrons are welcome to stop in at his office any time.

The Interdistrict Transfer Requests for Eva Hall, Silas Hinton, and the Beckstead family were reviewed. All have different reasons for requesting a transfer. After discussion of the new transfer laws, the Board requested that Mr. Pickett contact Lane Shetterly, attorney for the District, to help interpret the laws. The Board also requested feedback from Mr. Pickett, then perhaps a consensus can be made by Board members over the phone. Chair Warden spoke to the parents and explained that the Board would get an answer to them as quickly as they could.

Mr. Pickett explained that the K-8 Principal’s vacancy was posted in late June. He had five people review the applications. The top three candidates were ones that all of the screeners chose. Whitney Connolly is one of the three candidates. Interviews will be held on Thursday. An alternative to hiring a Principal is to hire a Dean of Students. If this were the case, he could fill the position of Principal. He has worked closely with high school Principal Bill Crowson, and the grade school staff.

Mr. Pickett provided sample superintendent goals to the Board. Mylrea Estell commented that she would like to review the evaluation process for the superintendent. Mr. Pickett read an email he received from Greg McKenzie offering a complimentary three hour workshop for setting goals. Tony Stroda would like to discuss a maintenance levy to include projects such as kindergarten classrooms and a new grade school roof. After general discussion, it was requested that an all day workshop be scheduled (three hours with Greg McKenzie, five hours with Russ Pickett) to work on goal setting for the superintendent and Board and to discuss possible levy issues.

Board members agreed to cancel the regular August Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Warden at 8:20 P.M.

Robert Warden, Board Chair

Christine Manley, Board Secretary