

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Monroe-Gregg School District
Monrovia Elementary Cafeteria
June 9, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Present were Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. James Shields, Mr. Scott Everett, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, and Mr. Paul Kaiser.

This meeting began after the Additional Appropriation Hearing.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Jack Elliott, Board President, called the board meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

II. Curriculum, Building Updates, and Other Reports

Principals' Report

Mr. Chris Sampson, Monrovia Elementary Principal, noted that the elementary school recently honored their Volunteer of the Year. The Parent Teacher Organization President, Mrs. Julie Nagel, was selected for her involvement with the PTO as well as her support of students and staff.

Mr. Sampson also commended Mr. Randy Cross and his custodial staff for their hard work in the elementary building during the past two weeks. The custodial staff has made repairs and begun the job of preparing the elementary school for the coming school year.

The middle and high school principals were unable to attend this meeting. However, Mr. Elliott noted that they had previously submitted their building reports to the board.

III. Minutes

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 Regular Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Dorsett and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

The motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2008 Special Board meeting, but to table the addendum was made by Mr. Scott Everett. Mr. Everett's motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2008 Executive Session, seconded by Mr. James shields and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2008 Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James shields to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2008 Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

IV. Claims

The motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett to approve claims #9940 through #10093 in the amount of \$1,089,269.68. This motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

V. Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the employment recommendations as listed with salary within the parameter of the approved salary schedule. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett.

During the discussion period of this motion a motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to table the Personnel Report.

Mr. Kaiser asked for clarification. Mr. Everett replied that clarification was required regarding the general raise numbers. Mr. Kaiser asked that the Personnel Report be separated from the salary increase addendum. Mr. Shields and Mr. Everett agreed to separating the Personnel Report from the addendum.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the Personnel Report less the salary increase addendum. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett and carried 4-0.

Mr. Kaiser recommended that the board consider the realignment of the maintenance staff. He suggested that Mr. Brett Everett become Director of Maintenance and Mr. Randy Cross become the Director of Custodial and Grounds. Mr. Kaiser stated that both gentlemen would continue to report to the superintendent directly. He noted that Mr. Everett had been filling the position of Maintenance Director for the last few months and that it was time to formalize the position which would contribute to more efficiency for the corporation.

Mr. Shields asked if this change had been discussed with Messrs. Cross and Everett. Mr. Kaiser replied that they had not been told it would be presented this evening, but that the distinction between the two positions had been in place for several months. Mr. Kaiser advised that he would try to complete a job description for the positions shortly.

VI. Public Comments on Agenda Items

During this portion of the meeting, Mr. Terry Kenworthy, a Monrovia resident, spoke to the board regarding several items. He questioned the following items:

..... Why is the new Monrovia Branch library paying their sewer bill to the school corporation and not directly to the Town of Monrovia?

Mr. Kaiser replied that he had spoke with Mr. David Ross, Morgan County Library Director, and the Monrovia Branch Library will pay their sewer bill directly to the Town of Monrovia.

..... Mr. Kenworthy suggested that the Board change the format for speaking during a school board meeting. He noted that the current procedure was a “suppression of freedom of speech.”

Mr. Elliott, board president, advised the audience that board members receive their packet of information several days before a meeting. This allows board members to contact the Superintendent, or the corporation’s office staff with any questions they may have.

VII. Construction Updates

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to approve the GESP contract to develop cost estimates for the future MMS/MHS HVAC project.

After discussion and review Mr. Jack Elliott, board president, stated that this motion died for lack of a second.

VIII. Quotes, Bids, Donations and Purchases

The board received a request from Taher School Lunch Management Services to increase the school lunch prices by \$.10 (ten cents) a meal for the 2008-09 school year.

VIII. Quotes, Bids, Donations and Purchases (continued)

The motion to increase the price of all student lunches by \$.10 (ten cents) for the 2008-09 school year was made by Mr. Scott Everett. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. James Shields to table the construction of a storage building by Sunco Construction on the MHS campus, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0.

The motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to employ Odle, McGuire, and Shook as our project architect on any potential project for Monroe-Gregg Schools during the next eighteen month period of time. This motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 4-0.

IX. Staff Development, Trips, and Projects

There was nothing to present at this time.

X. Other Business and Information

The Hall Early Childhood Center was scheduled, however, there was nothing to present at this time.

XI. Policy and Guideline Considerations

Mr. Jack Elliott, board president, advised board and audience members that this agenda item was being deleted.

XII. Committee and Community Reports

Mr. Kaiser, superintendent, and Mr. Sampson, Monrovia Elementary principal, spoke briefly before the Strategic Planning Committee members spoke.

Mr. Kaiser noted that the elementary building was at 100% capacity even without any additional growth and he suggested that Board members meet with the Committee again in the fall. Also, Mr. Kaiser noted that he is in the process of securing portables for the elementary to use during the 2008-09 school year.

Mr. Sampson advised that there are no indications that the elementary school growth will be a “short-lived” trend and that currently we are not prepared for a surge in growth at the end of July.

Mr. Jack Elliott, board president, closed the board meeting at 7:15 and opened the discussion with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Strategic Planning Committee

The following were comments and/or suggestions from the Committee and audience members:

Mr. Ted Kender – Mr. Kender suggested that the Committee meet with board members after school begins for the 2008-09 school year. At that time more information may be available regarding enrollment numbers, House Bill 1001, and the leadership change in the corporation.

Mr. Kaiser responded that based on the corporation’s past history, the State is predicting one hundred new students. Also, he noted that usually you have less students after a class has graduated and that did not happen this year. He advised that more information will not be available until this fall.

XII. Committee and Community Reports (continued)

Strategic Planning Committee (continued)

Mr. Terry Kenworthy – Mr. Kenworthy, who is not a member of the Committee, suggested that in his opinion the current housing growth in this community will not continue and that “hopefully things would stabilize.”

Ms. Kim Hale, Carpenter Realtor – Ms. Hale, who is also not a member of the Committee, advised that things are slower, however, the Monrovia community is only twenty minutes from the airport exit. She noted that C.P. Morgan, builders of the Homestead community, are giving new home builders more information regarding actual costs than they have in the past. Also, there are industrial parks being built on the east side of Interstate 70 which may contribute to growth.

Ms. Tammy Everett – Ms. Everett, Committee member and real estate agent, advised that the homes that are still selling are in the the Homestead Community price range.

Mr. Ted Kender – Mr. Kender reminded board and audience members that Dr. Boyd’s study found that the majority of growth in this area would be coming not from new homes, but the purchasing of existing homes.

Mr. John Faulkenberg – Mr. Faulkenberg, a business owner in the community, spoke of the possibility of apartments built in the Eagle Pointe area. He suggested that they would need water, gas, and sewer services which are already in place.

Mr. Scott Everett, board member, asked that if an addition would be built onto the Elementary school, what would then become the student capacity? Mr. Kaiser replied that there could be an additional twelve rooms added which would raise the capacity to eight hundred students.

XII. Committee and Community Reports (continued)

Strategic Planning Committee (continued)

Mr. Kaiser, superintendent, spoke briefly outlining the dilemma facing school Corporations due to the change in property taxes with the one percent cap. A discussed followed among Mr. Kaiser and audience members regarding the impact of this tax change for the Corporation.

Ms. Connie Wicks – Ms. Wicks, a member of the Committee, read a prepared statement noting that serving on this Committee had been an enlightening experience for her. She suggested that the community take advantage of a new school which will increase a child’s potential to “make their dreams a reality.”

Mr. Terry Kenworthy – Mr. Kenworthy noted that a building is not necessary for a good education. He stated that the quality of education is decided by the teachers, parents, students, and the people who are in charge of the corporation.

Mr. John Faulkenberg – Mr. Faulkenberg spoke in favor a increasing the size of a school building. He noted that class size was a consideration for students and that students need a “chance in the world.”

Mr. James Shields, board member, spoke briefly noting that the taxes of board members increased when the new elementary was built along with the rest of the community members. He stated that the building was not extravagant and that there were certain building considerations that are mandated. Mr. Shields noted that a quality education for students is the goal.

Mr. Kaiser spoke briefly outlining the pros and cons of building onto the elementary, building a new middle school cafeteria, moving a grade level to the middle school, or using a portion of the Hall Childhood Center. He also spoke of the growth in other small communities that became large corporations.

XII. Committee and Community Reports (continued)

Strategic Planning Committee (continued)

Ms. Tammy Everett – Ms. Everett asked about prime time numbers and why we are no longer using those guidelines? Mr. Kaiser replied that Dr. Boyd stated that even eight hundred students in an elementary school was not too large an enrollment.

Ms. Everett asked what could be done short term to facilitate smaller classroom numbers? She suggested that the corporation could purchase portables and asked if that would lower classroom numbers.

Mr.. Kaiser replied that kindergarten classes are not permitted in portables and that additional teachers would decrease class sizes.

Mr. Kaiser and Ms. Everett then discussed the cost of additional teachers and how additional teachers would impact funding and classroom size.

Mr. Scott Everett, board member, suggested that the Committee and the board members meet again in August after more information regarding enrollment numbers is available. He noted that that the Corporation will purchase used portables, but will still need to meet together as a community and “figure something out.”

Mr. James Shields, board member, stated that this is an exciting opportunity and is a growing process. The board will do the “best they can with what they have at the time.”

The board thanked everyone for their input and for coming to the meeting.

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XII. Adjournment

The motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Board President, Mr. Jack Elliott

Board Secretary, Mr. Scott Everett