

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Administration Office
June 8, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by board president, Nancy Dorsett at 6:36, in the Administration Office conference room. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. Scott Everett, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, Mr. James Shields and Mr. Greg Gore. Also attending were Dr. Jerry Wolfe, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney, building principals, Mrs. Michele Moore, representing MGTA, Mrs. Carol Dirlam, Food Services Director, and interested patrons.

BUILDING INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM PRINCIPALS

Mrs. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Monrovia Middle School principal, was the first speaker. She began by commending the middle school's Junior National Honor Society for raising \$1,500 for the Rich Dimmick Fund; the middle school awards program was successful; and the middle school has an open position in language arts and reading.

Mr. Chris Sampson, Monrovia Elementary School principal, spoke next. He began by commending the elementary school Volunteer of the Year, Trisha Smith. Mr. Sampson also noted that there were 250 volunteers in the elementary building during the past school year and they are greatly appreciated. He also thanked the elementary staff for their hard work and commitment. He ended his presentation by thanking Dr. Wolfe for his leadership to the Corporation and to him personally.

Mr. Duffy Hagist, Monrovia Junior/Senior high school principal thanked the board members for their participation during the recent graduation ceremonies. He noted that the seniors earned \$336,000 in scholarships and the graduation rate was 93.7%. Mr. Hagist advised that there were a few changes to the student handbook and that the M.I.T. program had nineteen students that received a diploma. He thanked the board for allowing the high school to implement the M.I.T. program. He also thanked Dr. Wolfe for his leadership during the past year.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes of two Executive Sessions on May 11, 2009, the Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2009, the Executive Session of May 18, 2009 the Special Meeting of May 18, 2009, and the Executive session of May 27, 2009 was made by Mr. Jack Elliott.

Mr. Scott Everett asked for the following corrections to the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2009:

CONSIDERATION OF ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN - The vote should be 4-1

CONSIDERATION OF HALL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER – Include until a private company has been licensed

Mr. Elliott's motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 4-0. Mr. James Shields was not available for this vote.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

After consideration and review the motion to approve claims #11547 - #11672 in the amount of \$1,190,720.00 was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The motion was made by Mr. Scott Everett to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Everett's motion was seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 4-0 with one abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, board president, asked if there were any comments or questions from the audience.

Mr. Ted Kender, a parent of two high school students and a band parent spoke on behalf of the parents and students involved in the summer band program. He noted that the marching band has represented Monroe-Gregg at events during the fall and have received considerable sponsorship.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

Mr. Kender's presentation focused on three different perspectives. He stated that from a band student's perspective the program teaches self-worth, perseverance, hard work, and life skills not only in music, but in life.

Another perspective Mr. Kender presented was as a parent of a band student. He noted that the parents are dedicated and supportive of their students. The parents travel with the students during competition and donate a considerable amount of time.

The final perspective presented by Mr. Kender was that of the school board. He did not understand why the summer band program might be eliminated other than cost. Mr. Kender believes that the summer band program is a good value for the school board. The summer marching band program turns into dollars for the fall marching season. He also noted that the Indianapolis Public Schools received \$240,000 in May from the VH1 Save the Music Foundation. Mr. Kender concluded his presentation by thanking the board members.

The next speaker was Ms. Brenda Morgan. Ms. Morgan identified herself as a Monrovia graduate who has been involved for many years as a band volunteer and assistant. She stated that the band boosters work with the band hand-in-hand. Ms. Morgan believes that the summer marching band program is valuable for a marching season and that it takes years to build a good band. She stated that Mr. Brian Willett, band director, has rebuilt the program and that it is in the best interest of everyone involved to continue the summer program. She also thanked the board for their time.

The next speaker was Mrs. Cathy Kender. She noted that her daughter is a drum major that joined the band during fifth grade. Mrs. Kender spoke of all of the hard work that students have put into the program and if the program is cut, won't that affect the self-esteem of the students? She stated that the band students are a "great group", and the band program is growing.

Mrs. Michele Moore, representing the Monroe-Gregg Teachers' Association, began by thanking Dr. Wolfe for his leadership. She then noted that the summer school teachers had agreed to accept substantially less than their hourly rate and she asked for clarification regarding what constitutes ECA and summer work.

Mrs. Mary Mann, Director of Special Needs, thanked Dr. Wolfe for his leadership and also for allowing Natan Dilley to act as interim director while she was off work due to a car accident.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

The final speaker was Mr. Terry Kenworthy. Mr. Kenworthy noted that the board had a “tough job” because of the current economy and that some things will have to be cut.

CONSIDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL

Mr. Duffy Hagist, high school principal, presented this agenda item. He stated that there were currently 48 students enrolled in summer school. The only courses that the State will pay for are Category I courses which are: English, Economics, United States Government, United States History, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I, and Earth and Space Science. The teachers, Mrs. Goodpaster, Mr. Tronc, and Mr. Springer and working for less than usual. They have agreed to work for only what the State will pay the corporation.

The motion to approve the high school summer school program was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. Greg and carried 5-0. Board members thanked the teachers for participating in this program.

CONSIDERATION OF SUMMER BAND

The board received a request from Mr. Brian Willett to fund the summer school marching band program. Mr. Willett’s request included the number of hours he and Dr. Lilly would be working but not the dollar amount. Dr. Wolfe noted that the cost to fund the program would be approximately \$6,000.

The motion to approve the summer school band program was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 3-2.

Mr. Gore commented that he would rather use the money to fund the summer school instructional classes.

Dr. Wolfe stated that the State has indicated that the funding for 2010 will be \$50,000; however the increment will be approximately \$39,000 to \$40,000. Chapter I and the Special Education program are currently providing for some of the expenses. He noted that there will be hard decisions to be made and possibly some programs to be cut. Currently, some stimulus money will be given to the Corporation, but the State will then reduce the monies they would have allotted.

Mr. Jack Elliott asked how many students were in the summer band program and Mr. Willett noted that there were forty-eight students. Mr. Elliott suggested that the band consider a “pay to play” approach in the future.

CONSIDERATION OF SUMMER BAND (continued)

Mr. Shields noted that this allows students to have ownership of the program and used the example of summer youth camps.

Mr. James Shields was the final speaker during this agenda item. He spoke of the number of hours in the summer program and questioned if something could be done with the number of hours that would make it more equitable.

CONSIDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK CHANGES

The motion to approve the high school handbook changes were made by Mr. James Shields seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK CHANGES

The motion to approve the middle school handbook changes were made by Mr. James Shields seconded by Mr. Jack Elliott and carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF OCR AGREEMENT

Dr. Wolfe recommended approval of the agreement between the Corporation and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). He noted that non-compliance could result in a lack of Federal funding. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Mr. James Shields and seconded by Mr. Everett.

During the discussion period of this agenda item, Mr. Elliott stated that it was unfortunate that this issue could not be resolved by the parties involved and that he was voting for the resolution reluctantly. Mr. Gore stated that he was also voting reluctantly for the resolution. He felt that the Corporation treated each athlete as fairly as possible. The corporation currently spends \$58 for each female athlete and \$51 for each male athlete.

Mr. Shields pointed out that the Resolution Agreement indicated that the resolution involved the junior high. The Agreement should say middle school. Dr. Wolfe replied that the name change would be easily corrected.

Mr. Shields' motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF REMEDIATION GRANT RESOLUTION

Dr. Wolfe requested board approval of a Resolution to move from *Program Number 17400-Joint Services/Special Education = (\$22,324)* to *Program Number 16100 – Remediation Testing = \$22,324*.

The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett, and carried 5-0.

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF CAFETERIA BID

The cafeteria bid, from Taher, Inc., was the only bid received and Dr. Wolfe recommended approval. The motion to approve the cafeteria bid from Taher, Inc. was made by Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Elliott and carried 5-0.

The board invited Mrs. Carol Dirlam, Food Services Director, to speak. Mrs. Dirlam explained that Taher, Inc. was a food service management company that is contracted to run the Corporation's lunch program. She noted that there were no price increases this school year. Mrs. Dirlam also thanked the board and stated that she looked forward to another year with the Corporation.

OTHER

During the May, 2009 board meeting the board gave permission to apply for a temporary loan from the bond bank to meet cash flow requirements. Dr. Wolfe advised that the Corporation did not qualify at that time. The Corporation now qualifies and he asked for permission to apply again.

The motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

The board thanked Dr. Wolfe for returning as Interim Superintendent noting that they were very appreciative of his service. Dr. Wolfe replied that he "hoped we've done some good."

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ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, board president, adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Nancy Dorsett, Board President

Scott Everett, Board Secretary

