

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Administration Office  
November 9, 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 6:30, 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. Julie Wood, Superintendent, Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney, Ms. Robin Robinson, representing MGTA, building principals and interested patrons.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent, recommended that the board approve the minutes of the Executive Sessions of October 12, 2009 and November 3, 2009 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2009.

The motion was made by Mr. Greg Gore to approve all meeting minutes seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

The Corporation Superintendent, Dr. Julie Wood recommended board approval of claim #12166 through #12300 in the amount of \$1,148,720.34.

After consideration and review the motion to approve the claims packet was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Wood recommended approval for the Personnel Report as presented. The motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)**

Mr. Duffy Hagist, Monrovia High School principal, spoke recognizing Ms. Sue Dodd who recently retired after forty years of service to the Corporation. Mr. Hagist noted that she was a “great lady” who will be missed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent, asked if there were any comments or questions from the audience.

Mr. Terry Kenworthy, interested patron, asked why the public comment was scheduled for earlier in the meeting when the audience might not know what was being discussed and not later after items had been presented. He also asked if the audience would be allowed to comment or ask questions, after the agenda item had been discussed.

Dr. Wood responded that there was an information packet available for the audience to look at before the meeting and that an audience response before an agenda item was discussed allowing the board members to have input before making a decision. She also noted that *Audience Input on Agenda Items* may be moved to a later position in the meeting, but patrons cannot comment on every agenda item.

Mr. Kenworthy stated that he did not agree with that policy. He said, “The meetings don’t take that long and the public that you serve should have a right and opportunity to comment.” Dr. Wood noted that many school boards do not offer any comments from the public.

Mr. Jack Elliott, board member, suggested that the board take Mr. Kenworthy’s suggestion under advisement and come back at the next meeting with a revised process which is more equitable for community members to speak. Mr. Elliott suggested moving audience input until the end of the meeting or possibly a limited discussion time after each agenda item.

Mr. James Shields, board member, advised that prior to each board meeting the board packet of information is available in the Superintendent’s office.

Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney, cautioned that a board meeting must be controlled and is not open to debates. He stated that the board answers all legitimate questions.

### **SABBATICAL REQUEST**

Dr. Wood recommended that the board not approval a sabbatical leave for Mrs. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Monrovia Middle School principal.

The motion to deny the sabbatical request was made by Mr. Scott Everett seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 3-2.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT**

Dr. Wood noted that during the recent audit the auditors made several recommendations. One recommendation was that her administrative contract should include an addendum stating that she is given “holidays and school vacation days.” She noted that Mr. Harris, Corporation Attorney, was aware of the addendum.

The motion to approve the addendum was made by Mr. Everett, seconded by Mr. Shields and carried 5-0.

Another recommendation was that the board should retroactively approve the use of the Corporation credit card for former superintendent, Mr. Paul Kaiser. Mr. Kaiser had received verbal permission for use of the credit card, but nothing was in writing. Dr. Wood recommended the board retroactively approve his use of the credit card.

The motion to retroactively approve Mr. Kaiser’s use of the Corporation credit card was made by Mr. James Shields seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

### **SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY**

During the October 9, 2009 Regular Board meeting, the board approved the first reading of policy 0144.2 Board Member Ethics and policy 2464 Programs for High Ability Students.

Dr. Wood requested board approval for both policies as presented. The motion to approve both policies was made by Mr. Scott Everett. Mr. James Shields asked that the motion be amended to separate the two policies and vote on them individually.

The motion to amend Mr. Everett’s motion to include separating the two policies and vote on them individually was made by Mr. Shields. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

**SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY (continued)**

Mr. Shields disagreed with the wording of the policy which states: “A *school board member should respect his/her relationships with other members of the Board by: recognizing the integrity of his/her predecessor and associates and the merit of their work.*” Mr. Shields stated that he wanted future board member to be able to question his decisions as a board member. Dr. Wood noted that even if she did not agree with her predecessor, she would do her best not to speak poorly of them.

Dr. Wood requested board approval of policy 0144.2 *Board Member Ethics* and reminded board members that this policy was approved by the Indiana School Board Association.

The motion to approve policy 0144.2 was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett, and carried 3-2.

Policy 2464, *Programs for High Ability Students*, was presented for approval by Dr. Wood. The motion to approve this policy was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett, and carried 5-0.

**ISTEP AND END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

The superintendent, Dr. Julie Wood, advised board and audience members that this agenda item required no action and was an update from the building principals and the Director of Special Needs.

Each building principal presented their ISTEP results and remediation ideas for each grade level as well as their preparations for the upcoming school year. Some of the areas discussed were: identifying specific needs per grade level, standards based targeted assistance for each grade level, and a remediation agenda.

Mrs. Mary Mann, director of Special Needs, presented a report outlining areas of need in each building and the methods being used to remediate students.

**PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE AND BORROW FOR TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANT**

Dr. Wood requested board permission to advertise and borrow for tax anticipation warrant. This is necessary when State monies from property taxes are not received.

The motion to allow Dr. Wood to take this action was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

**PERMISSION TO MOVE PRE-SCHOOL FUND**

Due to the fact that the pre-school is no longer supported by the property tax fund, Dr. Wood requested that as part of that transition the fund would be closed and moved to the general fund.

The motion to move the pre-school fund to the general fund was made by Mr. Scott Everett seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

**PERMISSION TO MOVE HALL EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

Dr. Wood asked permission to move the Hall Early Childhood Fund into general funds so that the account does not end in deficit on December 31, 2009.

The motion to move the Hall Early Childhood Fund to general fund was made by Mr. James Shields seconded by Mr. Greg Gore and carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. James Shields to close The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Gregg Board of School Trustees at 7:12. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**HEARING ON THE THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE**

The motion to open the special meeting was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. James Shields and carried 5-0.

Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney, presented Exhibit A. He began his presentation by stating that the Corporation has the opportunity to borrow two million (\$2,000,000) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008. The resolution approving issuance of qualified school construction bonds was previously approved. Mr. Harris noted there were two corrections. The interest rate should be changed to two percent (2%) not 5.50% and the clause the acquisition of land on which such facilities are to be constructed with part of the proceeds of such issue should be deleted.

Mr. Harris opened the meeting up to discussion of the Resolution Authorizing Execution Third Amendment to Lease. There were no questions or comments from audience members.

The motion to approve the Resolution as amended was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Greg Gore.

**HEARING ON THE THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE (continued)**

Board member, Greg Gore, asked Dr. Wood to explain to audience members the intended use of the money. Dr. Wood informed the audience that the funds would be used to repair and update the heating and cooling system and replace leaky windows. She stated that, "our goal is to be more energy efficient." Dr. Wood further noted that through November 1, 2009 the Corporation had paid \$34,000 more in energy cost than by the end of 2008.

After discussion and review the board voted on Mr. Shields' motion to approve the amended Resolution. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Harris presented Exhibit B – Resolution Approving Issuance of Qualified School Construction Bonds and Continuing Disclosure Undertaking for board approval. He began by thanking the Building Corporation for their involvement and noted that this is the same Building Corporation that helped with the building of the elementary school.

Mr. Harris reiterated that the document contained two errors: 1) the interest rate is not to exceed 5.05% and 2) the acquisition of land on which such facilities are to be constructed with part of the proceeds of such issue. The interest rate should be 2% and the second statement should be deleted.

Mr. Harris asked if there were any questions from the audience. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Gore spoke briefly explaining that the monies are being used for upkeep and improvements to the schools. The money will not be used to build only to maintain.

The motion to approve the Resolution Approving Issuance of Qualified School Construction Bonds and Continuing Disclosure Undertaking was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Scott Everett and carried 5-0.

The motion to close the Hearing was made by Mr. Greg Gore, seconded by Mr. Jack Elliott and carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:28

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:28 by Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, board president.

**QUALIFIED CONSTRUCTION ZONE BOND WORK FOR JR/SR SCHOOL PROJECT**

Dr. Wood requested direction from board members regarding how they wanted to proceed with this project.

Mr. Scott Everett suggested the board meet in a work session to itemize priorities before any decisions are made. After discussion and review the consensus was to meet in a work session within the next few weeks before proceeding with the project.

**OTHER**

Dr. Wood spoke briefly noting that Governor McDaniel had advised that even with the loss of State revenue he would try to protect schools. However, during a recent teleconference with the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Bennett, superintendents were advised to wait to hear more before entering into big ticket items or bargaining. She also spoke of a loss in the District's ADM, cost containment, and the need to protect the District going into the future.

Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, Board President, was the final speaker. She complimented two students who spoke at Mr. Rick Dimmick's memorial service. Mrs. Dorsett then congratulated the band students on their recent achievements, Mr. Hutchins for the football sectional win, and the varsity cheerleaders on their recent competition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees was made by Mr. James Shields, seconded by Mr. Jack Elliott and carried 5-0.

Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, board president, adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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Nancy Dorsett, Board President

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Scott Everett, Board Secretary

