

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Administration Office  
April 11, 2011**

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, Mr. Jim Shields at 6:31 P.M., in the Administration Office conference room. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. Tim Pridemore and Mr. Scott Everett. Also attending were Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent; Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney; Ms. Robin Robinson representing MGTA; Mrs. Kelly Dillon, Corporation Treasurer; Mr. Jacob Hagist, High School Principal; Mr. Chris Sampson, Elementary School Principal; several teachers; staff members and interested patrons.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

School Board President, Jim Shields called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session from March 14, 2011; and the Executive Session from March 23, 2011. The motion was made by Mr. Jack Elliott to approve meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Tim Pridemore, motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Mr. Scott Everett made the motion to approve claims #13928 through #14020 in the amount of \$982,949.87 as presented. Mr. Jack Elliott seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no changes or additions to the personnel report. The motion to approve the personnel recommendations as presented was made by Mr. Scott Everett, seconded by Mr. Tim Pridemore, motion carried 4-0.

### **ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC PRESENTATION**

Before presenting the Elementary Project Achieve, Principal, Chris Sampson spoke regarding Linda Hampson's retirement. He thanked her for all her years of service and expressed how much she would be missed by the staff at Monrovia Elementary.

Mr. Sampson presented a power point presentation on the cluster concept, Project Achieve. (see attached) Several elementary teachers will be going a school in Kentucky, to observe Project Achieve in action next week. This school has experienced huge success with this teaching concept. The staff is in almost total support of this program. They voted 26 to 2 in favor of this new instructional format. If everything can be worked out, the elementary plans to implement it for the 2011-2012 school year.

Board Member, Jack Elliott asked if there were any problem areas with using the clustering concept. Mr. Sampson explained Special Education and Professional Development time are the two biggest issues that we are working on, but we believe these can be addressed. Mr. Sampson stated, "If we can not support our teachers, we are not going to move forward with this".

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Monrovia Elementary Parent, Mrs. Tammy Everett, asked how students would be placed in classes if the elementary moves to the cluster concept. Mr. Sampson explained they try to blend the classes based on test scores.

Mrs. Everett asked how Science and Social Studies would be taught with this concept and Mr. Sampson stated it would be the home room teachers' responsibility for teaching both subjects.

### **CONSIDERATION OF SHOW CHOIR TRIP**

Mr. Jack Elliott made the motion to approve the Show Choir Trip to Anderson University as presented. (the detailed recommendation is attached) Mr. Tim Pridemore seconded, the motion carried 4-0.

### **TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION**

Mr. Barry Neuman, Monroe-Gregg Technology Director updated the Board. See attached power point presentation for details.

### **EARLY RELEASE / LATE ARRIVAL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Wood started the discussion by explaining the issues regarding Professional Development time and the pros and cons for late arrival or early release one day per week.

The elementary is in favor of the Professional Development time, especially if they move forward with Project Child. The middle school is split 50/50, they believe it is important but have concerns. The high school is opposed, they understand professional development is important, but this will take away from instructional time.

If students start late, there are concerns regarding students being dropped off early and what this might do to our attendance rate. If students are released early, this causes concerns with after school activities for the older students and younger students going home alone.

Dr. Wood will take this item back to discussions and see what ideas they can come up with after more brain-storming.

### **CONSIDERATION FOR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**

Dr. Wood asked the board to approve all day kindergarten for all students at no cost. Board President, Jim Shields ask to table this item until next month. After much discussion, and all concerns were addressed, Mr. Scott Everett made a motion to approve as presented, Mr. Pridemore seconded. The motion failed 2 – 2

This item will be brought back next month for another vote.

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Dr. Wood reminded everyone there would be a special meeting on Wednesday,  
April 13, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Shields adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M

  
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Jim Shields, Board President

  
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Nancy Dorsett, Board Secretary