

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Administration Office  
November 14, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Scott Everett, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M., in the Administration Office conference room. Board members in attendance were: Mr. Jack Elliott, Mrs. Nancy Dorsett, Mr. Jim Shields and Mr. Tim Pridemore. Also attending were Dr. Julie Wood, Superintendent; Mr. Steve Harris, Corporation Attorney; Mrs. Kelly Dillon, Treasurer; Mr. Mike Springer, Middle School Principal; Ms. Robin Robinson from the teachers union and interested patrons.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Mr. Everett called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 20, 2011; the work session minutes from October 24, 2011 and the executive session minutes on November 2, 2011. The motion was made by Mr. Jim Shields to approve, seconded by Mrs. Dorsett, motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

There were no additional items added to the original claims. Mr. Pridemore made the motion to approve claims #14604 through #14709 in the amount of \$1,339,333.22 as presented. Mr. Shields seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

There was one change to the original Personnel Report. Mr. Dan Goens is on paid "administrative" leave. The motion to approve the personnel recommendations as amended was made by Mr. Jack Elliott seconded by Mr. Shields, motion carried 5-0.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Middle School Principal, Mike Springer and Teacher, Katie Hagerty made an academic presentation to the board. The Middle School has developed and implemented a new program titled "Back on Track", targeted at a specific group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys who are struggling socially and academically. The overarching goal; is to help these students strengthen their core academic educational base, while reducing behavior infractions so that they enter high school with a more solid learning foundation. Please see attached information.

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

Special Education Director, Mary Mann spoke on behalf of the Special Education Department regarding the effects of not adopting a balanced calendar for the 2012-2013 school year for our Special Needs Students.

Monrovia Elementary Teacher, parent, and community member, Celina Clements addressed the board regarding her concerns for not adopting a balanced calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Clements stated that 85% of the staff is in favor of a balanced calendar, allowing them extra time to prepare and help students who may need additional remediation.

Mr. Chris Noel, long time elementary teacher, presented his educational opinion regarding the 2012-2013 school year calendar options. Mr. Noel stated it is not beneficial for students to be out of school for long periods of time, such as summer break; smaller breaks throughout the school year would help refresh students and staff, and it is not 50 years ago, we have to move forward. He also shared that the breaks would allow parents to take vacations during scheduled breaks, rather than pull their child out and miss an entire week of school.

Board Member, Jack Elliott presented his thoughts and reasoning for the continuation of a traditional calendar 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Elliott made the following statements: there is no data to support the claim of increased test scores when following a balanced calendar, Special Needs and Vocational Students may miss some days, but they will get their education, electrical cost will increase and we shouldn't allow Wayne Township to drive our decisions.

Mr. Elliott also stated Monroe-Gregg School District is a rural community with strong ties to the 4-H Program, if we start school early, this will hurt our attendance because students will be attending the County and State Fairs.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF BAND TRIP**

Dr. Wood asked the board for retro action approval for the band trip as presented. Mr. Elliott made a recommendation to approve and Mr. Shields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRIP**

Mrs. Dorsett made the motion to approve the Foreign Language Trip as presented. Mr. Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

After some additional discussion, Mr. Pridemore made a motion to approve the Balanced Calendar as presented, seconded by Mr. Shields. Motion failed 0-5.

Dr. Wood made a recommendation for the modified calendar to be approved with one change. Great American's Day will be a snow make-up day if needed. Mr. Shields made the motion to approve as presented with one change. Mr. Pridemore seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Everett adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

  
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Scott Everett, Board President

  
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Jim Shields, Board Secretary