

MONROE-GREGG SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2019

By Mark Jaynes, Communications Coordinator

Weighted classes and how non-weighted class credits impacted some students were among the items discussed. Sara Parker, whose daughter is a senior, said her daughter was advised to take classes for High School credit while in Middle School. Now that she is a senior, credits earned in non-weighted classes are actually adversely affecting her overall grade point average. Parker says a simple solution can be found at Brownsburg and Franklin Community Schools which allows such students to choose if they want non-weighted classes to apply toward their GPA. Also addressing the Board on the topic was Monrovia High School Senior Andrew Willett. Willett presented the following scenario: he and another student are taking five weighted classes. He takes two non-weighted classes while the other student is either an aide or takes study hall. If they both receive all A's, his GPA is 4.7 and the other student would have a 5.0. The concern lies in such students being able to compete for National Scholarships.

Middle School parent Debbie Edwards also addressed the Board last night expressing concerns over the grading scale in her son's math class. She says homework grades are given a 100-percent or a zero. Upon a review of the Handbook Homework Policy, Edwards found it was not connected to the Corporation grading scale. Edwards adds she is not opposed to increasing expectations on students, but she feels the all-or-nothing approach to grading isn't effective. She also pointed out that testing in the class did follow the grading scale. She would prefer consistency.

Monroe-Gregg Schools Superintendent Dr. Kirk Freeman issued the following statement pertaining to both issues," The Board of Trustees will review information presented by patrons at the Board Meeting. After reviewing the information, they will determine what next steps will be for the School District on these issues."

In other matters, the Board accepted two generous donations. One from the Camic Family in the amount of 3-thousand dollars which was courtesy of those who participated in Jim's Journey, a 5K Fund Raising Run held earlier this year. That money will go to the Monrovia Athletic Department. Parks Outdoor Maintenance of Monrovia donated 1-thousand dollars to Monrovia High School which Principal Mike Springer said would be used to develop a Senior Study Lounge. Mr. Springer credited MIT Director Leslie Gillie for helping to secure the donation.

Monrovia Elementary Teachers and Students shared with the Board an innovative Outdoor Learning Concept. Students experience gardening, have developed a Butterfly Garden and they go outside every Friday to observe nature and create art projects. A request was made to expand the outdoor area in an effort to expand the program.

Just over 1.7 million in claims were approved. Elementary School Instructor Sarah Cleveland's Leave of Absence request was granted and Kelly Tyler was approved to cover that leave. Also in the Personnel Report, a couple of coaching hires were approved.

The Board okayed the 2020-2021 calendar. The first day for students will be August 5th. Semester one will be 88 days. Semester two, 92 days.

The Board approved a contract renewal for the Superintendent. His base salary is 112-thousand dollars per year. He is eligible for a yearly increase based upon his evaluation by the Board and added to his contract was a 450-dollar per month car allowance retroactive to July of this year. While unanimously approving the contract through 2021, the Board thanked Dr. Freeman for his commitment to Monroe-Gregg Schools while Freeman thanked his Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students for making his time here enjoyable.

Lastly, the Alumni Association honored Students of the Month. Emma Kingrey and Canton McIntyre at Monrovia Elementary; Ben Napier at Monrovia Middle School and Emily Hodge was chosen to represent Monrovia High School.