

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2015

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member Jeff Guttman
Board Member James Martinez
Board Member Shannon Monaco
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

Absent: Superintendent James Agostine
Secretary Mark Hughes
Board Member Crouch

Also present: Assistant Superintendent John Battista
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi
Masuk Student Board Representative Kanu Caplash
Masuk Student Board Representative Amit Gupta
Masuk Student Board Representative Ali Moraveck

Call to Order

Chairman Lane called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Exemplary People - Jimmy Waite, Masuk High School Custodian

Mark Schwartz introduced *Mr. Waite*, a Masuk custodian since 2003. He said that *Mr. Waite* supports those in the classroom. He can fix anything, serves as a mentor to students who have had trouble with school, and is a patient tutor.

Report of the Chairman

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (S. Monaco)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Monaco and Vaglivello)-0

15-074

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Student Board Representatives - *Student Representative Caplash* said that this week is Spirit Week - a week of themed days, culminating in a Pep Assembly and Homecoming Game on Friday. Both he and *Student Representative Gupta* will be competing for the title of Mr. Panther.

Student Representative Moraveck said that next Wednesday, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will take place, and the seniors who were inducted last year will now induct the new juniors and seniors into the Society. Cross Country SWCs will be this Wednesday, all Fall Sports will be concluding in the next two weeks, and then Post Season will begin.

Student Representative Gupta said that *Principal Kobza, Mrs. Odoy*, and several seniors visited Jockey Hollow to talk about the benefits of attending Masuk. The first quarter will end on Friday, October 30, and the Post Prom kick-off will take place this Thursday.

Curriculum - *Board Member Vaglivo* said that the Curriculum Council is proposing a new text replacing one that is approximately 20 years old. The cost of the book is \$215 each, but only 25 copies will be needed. *Board Member Guttman* asked if there was the option to get an on-line version. *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said that there is. However, the book needs to be purchased to get the on-line version.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Review of the Fund Activity Statement - *Ms. DiBlasi* said that the insurance balances are going up as all the employees have returned. She added that she and *Assistant Superintendent Battista* attended a seminar on the Affordable Health Care Act. *Ms. DiBlasi* added that spending continues to be monitored, and there have been meetings with the Turf Field Committee.

.6FTE Counselor-Update - *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said there were 39 applicants and the interview committee (comprised of administrators, teachers and a parent) narrowed it to 14 candidates to interview. Second interviews and a demonstration lesson for the top 5 will take place within the next week.

Turf Field Soil Test - *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said that soil tests were taken on Monday, October 12.

Ad Hoc Presentation Feedback - *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said that the Ad Hoc Presentation took place at a Joint Boards Meeting last week, and the feedback the District has received has been very positive. He added that the presentation and materials are available on-line.

Assistant Superintendent Battista added that Masuk's Career and Technology Department was recognized by the State for a Program of Excellence; of the five schools nominated, Masuk was the sole winner.

Presentations

Technology Literacy Curriculum - *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said that this presentation is on the Tech Literacy Curriculum they have been working on in the past year. *Dr. Zmary* said that the Technology Literacy Curriculum is embedded into all the grade levels from K-12. He

defined Digital Literacy as “the ability to read, understand and interact fluently with a variety of digital tools such as computers, tablets, mobile phone, and e-readers.” *Dr. Zmary* continued that while students spend an average of 32.5 hours a week in school, they spend approximately 56 hours per week on media.

There are three levels of Curriculum Work:

Written Curriculum, which took place in the 2014-2015 School Year

Taught Curriculum, which is taking place this school year

Learned Curriculum, which will take place this year and beyond

Dr. Zmary continued that the levels of curriculum are embedded in the District’s Mission Statement: “The mission of the Monroe Public Schools is to ensure that all students reach their full potential as innovative thinkers (the learned curriculum) and responsible citizens through a challenging, inquiry-based curriculum (the written curriculum) delivered by skilled, dedicated and engaging educators (the taught curriculum).”

There are four different standard sets in the Written Curriculum including Technology Standards (ISTE), CT Core, Smarter Balanced Assessment and Library Standards (AASL). *Dr. Zmary* continued that the Written Curriculum also states specific skills and the competency goal. He provided an example of what the Written Curriculum would look like for the fifth grade standard “publish with peers.” The specific skill was word processing and the competency goal read, “type multiple paragraphs with appropriate capitalization, underline, italics, internal and end punctuation spacing and identification.”

Dr. Zmary discussed the Taught Curriculum; he is meeting with teachers, library media specialists and tech integrators throughout the year to create “assured experiences.” The “assured experiences” are places where technology must occur to achieve the given outcomes for each grade level. The process assures that content will be covered and assures continuity of outcomes across grade levels.

The Learned Curriculum is the Assessment Component, and it is going to be built into the assured experiences being created. Assessment is essential for showing what the students have actually learned and gives diagnostic information about what the District needs to do in terms of future revisions to curriculum and instruction. *Dr. Zmary* continued that each assured experience will result in products that will show student outcomes and can be used as models for future learning.

Dr. Zmary continued there is a new state statute that they are working to have embedded in the curriculum for next year. As of July 1, 2016, “the public schools program of instruction shall include the safe use of social media.....computer programming instruction...”

BOE Professional Development-District Student Data

Assistant Superintendent Battista provided the Board members with a copy of the Student Assessment Results Report. The information is also available on the website. He said there are new terms to be familiar with; the SBAC now uses the word “claims” rather than “strands.” The Meeting Minutes
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data in the report is in chronological order, and the report concludes with data analysis and improvement strategies. *Assistant Superintendent Battista* reviewed Formative Assessments and Summative Assessments. The data being presented tonight is a Summative Assessment, where the goal is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark. He continued that the improvement strategies will focus on Formative Assessments, as these are benchmark assessments that inform instruction. *Ms. Casinelli* reviewed the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Results: DRG B Overall District Rankings (Grades 3-11) ELA and Mathematics Percentage at Performance Level 3 and 4. ELA Percentage at Performance Level 3 and 4 is 84.6% and Math is 59.7%.

The Overall State Rank for Grades 3-11 ELA is 5th of 191 districts and Mathematics is 37th of 189 districts. She said that the District was trying to find math resources so the results may take a bit longer.

Ms. Casinelli also reviewed the test results for the English/Language Art scores, Math scores and CMT and CAPT Science.

Principal Kobza spoke regarding the test results for Masuk. He said that the focus was on the SAT, and they made a 52 point gain in the past year, and the number of students participating also increased. He continued that we are around the State average on the ACT test. *Principal Kobza* also noted there was an increase in the number of students taking AP courses and the total number of exams taken was 148 more than the previous year. He concluded that the drop-out rate is one of the lowest.

Assistant Superintendent Battista said that the data presented tonight is a snapshot in time, and it is a positive reflection on the work the District has been doing. He said that they are not happy with the Math rating in the DRG for grades 6-8, and he and Superintendent Agostine have already met with the Math Coordinator and the Curriculum leaders. There is a plan for improvement, “we are looking at the co-teaching model and what support is being offered for mathematics. In addition, the District is looking at a later testing window to maximize instruction opportunities.”

Assistant Superintendent Battista continued that we are at the top of our DRG for the SBAC ELA and at the top of the DRG for math in grades 3, 4, and 11. He added that the District made significant gains in the SATs and had the highest percentage of students taking the test.

Old Business

There was none discussed at tonight’s meeting.

New Business

Curriculum-Architecture and Drafting Text Book-First Review - The Board reviewed a text book proposal from the Curriculum Committee, *Technical Graphics Communications*, for the Drafting 1, Architecture 1, and Architecture 2 courses at Masuk. The current text in use has not been updated for many years.

Policies-First Review

Vice Chairman King stated that the policies being presented for First Review are Policy #5114, Students, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process and Policy #5144.1, Students, Use of Physical Force. Both policies will be voted on at the next Board of Education meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (S. Monaco)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Monaco and Vaglivello)-0

15-075

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Monaco
Acting Board of Education Secretary