

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2016

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member Jeff Guttman
Board Member James Martinez
Board Member Carlos Reinoso, Jr.
Board Member Jerry Stevens
Board Member Alan Vaglivelo

Absent: Masuk Student Board Representative Ali Moraveck

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

Call to Order

Chairman Lane called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Exemplary People - Masuk Girls Basketball Program-Harold Swaffield Sportsmanship Award.

The award, presented by IAABO # 9 Board of Officials, is presented to the program (players, coaches, and fans) that demonstrate the most consistent level of good sportsmanship on and off the court. *Superintendent Agostine* said this was a great honor as sports is not just about wins and losses, it is about sportsmanship and how players conduct themselves and represent Masuk. *John DeGennaro* said that, as a former coach, he knows what the award represents and how difficult it is to win. This is the second consecutive year that Masuk has won.

Report of the Chairman

There was no report at tonight's meeting.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (C. Cascella)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: None

Motion passed: 9 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0

16-014

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Masuk Student Representatives-*Student Board Representative Caplash* said there will be a PTC meeting on Wednesday, and there is no school on Thursday and Friday. The Spring Sports Parent Meeting will be held next Monday evening and many of the winter sports have ended. *Student Board Representative Gupta* said there will be a Junior Scholarship Quest and Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter presentation next Tuesday night. He added that Quarter 3 ends on March 31. The Spring Drama, *Cards on the Table*, by Agatha Christie, will be presented April 1 through April 3. The third annual daVinci Festival will also be held on April 1 and 2. *Board Member Vaglivello* added that *Student Board Representative Caplash* broke an existing record for the swim team.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Review of the Fund Activity Statement

Ms. DiBlasi said there were three vendors at the mandatory walk through on February 22 and one bidder, Sodexo, the District's current food service provider. She continued that claims for February were similar to what they were last year, and two individuals hit stop loss in February. *Ms. DiBlasi* continued that the Turf Field is now in the approval stages with the Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning and Zoning. Due to the mild weather, there may be savings on utilities.

Budget Update

Superintendent Agostine said that the Board of Finance indicated they wanted to cut \$220,000 from the Board of Education budget. He said that the loader and F550 were put on the Town side and will be bonded. \$100,000 was reduced from medical. \$50,000 was reduced due to the renegotiated fuel costs, and \$60,000 was put back for the Kindergarten position that is necessary due to the increased enrollment. *Superintendent Agostine* continued that he applauded the Board of Finance's efforts in working with the Board of Education, and he felt they could manage the reduction at this time.

Monroe Reads

Superintendent Agostine said that he and *Dr. Zmary* had the opportunity to watch the Yale Heavyweight Crew practice, in Derby, last week.

CEN (CT Education Network)

Superintendent Agostine said that the District relies on CEN to run operations such as internet and educational accesses and if the State doesn't fund it, it will cost the District approximately \$1,000 a month.

Turf Field Update

Superintendent Agostine said that there was a Turf Field meeting last week, and there are two approvals that need to get through Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands. Those meetings will occur in April, and the District wanted to get the contract and RFP out as soon as possible. Due to the timing, they have spoken with *Pat O'Hara*, and he did not have any issue with the RFP going out before the approval process. The goal is to have shovels in the ground by June 15. The issues are regarding the proposed height of the new light fixtures, and there needs to be a text amendment to the regulations.

Board Member Reilly-Monaco asked about the timeframe once ground is broken. *Superintendent Agostine* said there is a 90 day construction window which comes to early September. He added, to be on the safe side, games will be scheduled for the first week of October. *Student Board Representative Gupta* asked about the fill the District has selected. *Superintendent Agostine* said the one they have selected is 60% sand and 40% coconut husk.

Presentations

There were no presentations at tonight's meeting.

Old Business

Curriculum Proposals-Second Review-Vote Anticipated

1. New Course and Materials-Finance and Investing-Grades 10,11, 12
2. New Course-Facing History and Ourselves-Honors-Grades 10,11,12

Motion to approve New Course and Materials-Finance and Investing for Grades 10, 11, 12 and New Course-Facing History and Ourselves-Honors for Grades 10,11,12 as presented

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (A. Vaglivello)

Discussion: None

Motion passed: 9 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0

16-015

New Business

Food Service RF

Superintendent Agostine said that 49 Districts in the State, including Monroe, had to go out to rebid due to the faulty template that was supplied. Three companies attended the walk through. However, Sodexo, the District's current provider, was the only bidder. *Ms. DiBlasi* provided the Board Members with an RFP Proposal Evaluation Form to score and complete.

Sodexo has met the following qualifications:

- They are registered to do business in the State of Connecticut.
- They have been doing business in Monroe for more than five years.
- They have provided a surety letter and a copy of a performance bond.
- They have provided financial statements from three other districts similar to Monroe.

- They have provided three years of financial statements

The Proposal Format and Contents include:

- A letter of Transmittal
- An Executive Summary
- A bid bond in the amount of 5% of total sales
- A digital copy for the State Department of Education

Sodexo has provided all of the above materials. In addition, there is a guarantee of a return to the school cafeteria account of \$10,000, for the first year, and break even years 2-5 if the District keeps all the buildings on the National School Lunch Program. There is a guarantee of \$25,000 for the first year and break even years 2-5 if the District takes Masuk off the National School Lunch Program and keeps Jockey Hollow and the elementary schools on the program.

The Evaluation Criterion which adds up to 100 points includes:

- Price
- Experience, References and Service Capability
- Financial Condition/Stability-Business Practices
- Accounting and Reporting Systems
- Personnel Management and Training
- Innovation/Promotion of the Child Nutrition Programs
- Involvement of Students, Staff, Patrons and Community
- Menus, Concepts of Service, Food Quality and Use of USDA Foods
- Recommended Staffing
- Creative Promotion at the High School Level to entice higher participation

Board Member Guttman asked if Sodexo was ready to go off the National School Lunch Program. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that going off the National School Lunch Program at the high school could increase participation with more creative choices and eliminate some of the waste; *Chairman Lane* asked the Student Board Representatives for their input. Both representatives agreed that some of the food they required to take, the vegetables and fruit, is wasted or thrown away. The Board members wanted to have further discussion on the option of removing Masuk from the National School Lunch Program but that does not prevent them from voting on the RFP. *Student Representative Caplash* asked about the USDA's preference for multiple bids; *Ms. DiBlasi* said districts can't force anyone to bid, and the trend across the State is to have a single bidder. Sodexo trains their employees annually in safe food serving, civil rights, and OSHA.

Ms. DiBlasi continued that some of Sodexo's proposals for increasing participation include adding a food truck to Masuk, offering afterschool meals at Masuk, expanding the coolers at Jockey Hollow, adding Smoothie Bars at some of the schools, culinary competitions, and more exhibition cooking/demonstrations.

Motion to approve Sodexo as the food service provider for the District

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (J. Guttman)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0 16-016

Approval of Weather Contingency Plans for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Superintendent Agostine said as we now have the regional calendar, we can use the weather contingencies we have this year, and build them out for the new two years.

Motion to approve the Weather Contingency Plans for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 as presented

Motion: (C. Reinoso)

Second: (J. Martinez)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0 16-017

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (J. Stevens)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0 16-018

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary