

**MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monroe, Connecticut**

**Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 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 Jerry Stevens  
Board Member Alan Vaglivelo

**Absent:** Board Member Carlos Reinoso, Jr.  
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.

**Report of the Chairman**

**Newtown Public Schools**

*Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr.*, Superintendent of Newtown Public Schools, and *Kathy Gombos*, Principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School, addressed the Board. They wanted to come to the Board for a final time to thank the Board and District for their love and support over the past three years. *Ms. Gombos* stated, "Your decision to allow us to stay together has probably made the largest impact on our healing." They presented the Board Members with Sandy Hook t-shirts and a plaque of student artwork for Central Office. *Dr. Erardi, Jr.* said that the first phone call they received was from *Superintendent Agostine* and that he "represents the District with the class and character that is expected of the absolute best." He reiterated that saying thank you would never be enough. *Superintendent Agostine* said that it has been our pleasure to be there for Sandy Hook. *Ms. Gombos* invited the Board members to visit the new Sandy Hook School after July 15.

## **Recognition of Student Board Representatives**

*Student Board Representatives Kanu Caplash, Amit Gupta and Ali Moraveck were recognized for their contributions and service for the 2015-2016 school year.*

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Motion to amend the May 2, 2016, BOE Minutes**

**Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)**

**Second: (J. Stevens)**

Discussion: Secretary Reilly-Monaco noted the Voting Record and Meeting Minutes from May 2, 2016, need to be amended to reflect Vice-Chairman King's absence.

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0**

16-029

### **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (J. Stevens)**

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine noted the appointments of Lauren Morrissey and Alyson O'Grady. Ms. Morrissey will join Fawn Hollow as a Kindergarten teacher, and Ms. O'Grady will be the music teacher at Monroe Elementary. Superintendent Agostine also announced Andrea Einhorn's resignation, as the Assistant Director of Special Education. She has accepted a directorship in New Fairfield.

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0**

16-030

## **Reports of the Committees and Liaisons**

### **Student Board Representatives**

*Student Board Representative Gupta announced Matt Winkler and Alexa Valenzisi were awarded the Superintendent's Award. There will be a pre-prom assembly on Wednesday, May 18. The prom will be on Friday, May 20. Capstone presentations will take place next Thursday, May 26. The Senior Banquet and the High Honors Breakfast will be June 3, and the senior class trip to Six Flags New England will be on May 27. Student Board Representative Caplash added the Choral concert will be on Thursday evening, May 19, the Strings Concert will be next Tuesday, May 24, and the Jazz Concert will be on Thursday, May 26. Underclassmen awards will be presented on May 31, and the Sports awards will be on June 2.*

### **Turf Field Committee**

*Superintendent Agostine said that Planning and Zoning granted their final approval and the District is awaiting the conclusion of the appeals process. Once the appeals process is completed, contracts can be signed, and the contractors could be on site as of June 15. Dalling Construction, a Stratford based company and the lowest priced qualified bidder, was the winning bidder for the General Contractor. The plan going forward is to have the Board accept the Turf Committee's recommendation for the turf field and the oil tank and recommend to Town Council as Town Council gives the approval to enter into a contract. Superintendent Agostine continued that the portion of the contract that was accepted by*

the manufacturer of the material, Shaw, came in at approximately \$100,000 lower than initially anticipated. *Rick Henderson* is gearing up for fundraising activities as is the High School Booster Club.

### **Public Participation**

There was none at tonight's meeting.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

*Ms. DiBlasi* said that Insurance claims went down in April. She estimated that they will end the year in the lower range of the 18-23% reserve. She added that the Turf Infill bids were received on May 4, and the Building Committee selected the contractor at their meeting on May 5. Bids for the actual construction were received on May 11, and the Building Committee selected a contractor at their meeting on the 12. *Ms. DiBlasi* added that Connecticut Tank Removal was the winning bidder for the Stepney oil tank removal. She continued that ordering for Fiscal 17 was opened today, and current purchase orders are in the process of being closed.

### **Board Attendance-Jockey Hollow Middle School Recognition Night, June 13<sup>th</sup> and Masuk Graduation, June 14**

*Superintendent Agostine* reminded the Board Members of the dates.

### **Presentations**

There was none at tonight's meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Policy#5131.3**

#### **Motion to approve Policy #5131.3 as presented**

**Motion: (G. King)**

**Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0**

16-031

### **New Business**

#### **Motion to accept the Turf Field's Committee recommendation to recommend Dalling Construction for the General Construction of the Masuk Turf and Field Project to the Town Council and to enter into contract with them**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (J. Martinez)**

Discussion: Vice-Chairman King asked when they anticipated the fields to open.

Superintendent Agostine said that Milone & MacBroom estimated it would take 90 work days of good weather to complete the work so mid to late September is a realistic

timeframe. All of the early home games will be played away. Secretary Reilly-Monaco asked if those games could be changed to home games if the fields are ready. Superintendent Agostine responded that Mr. DeGennaro could confirm, but he did not see why they couldn't be changed.

**Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0** 16-032

**Motion to accept Connecticut Tank Removal as the contractor for the removal and replacement of the Underground Storage Tank at Stepney Elementary School and to recommend that Town Council enter into contract with them**

**Motion: (J. Martinez)**

**Second: (G. King)**

Discussion: **Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0** 16-033

**Adoption of the 2016-2017 Annual Budget**

**Motion to adopt the 2016-2017 adjusted budget as presented**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (G. King)**

Discussion: Ms. DiBlasi provided the Board Members with a print-out that showed the areas where they reduced the budget after the Board of Finance reduced it by \$200,000. The areas included Teachers-Regular Ed-Certified Staff, Medical and Drug Insurance, Natural Gas, Heat Energy and Equipment-New Non Instructional. Superintendent Agostine said that it was important to review the reductions before the start of the new fiscal year so there is a good starting point to compare to when the following year's budget is being prepared.

**Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0** 16-034

**Poll Board for 2016-2017 Professional Development**

*Superintendent Agostine* said that the professional development the Board has received has made them more aware of the day and day operations of the District than many Boards of Education.

*Chairman Lane* said that a presentation on Special Education Law may be helpful. *Assistant Superintendent Battista* suggested an overview of the Curriculum Council may be useful as well as a presentation on the 504 process. Communications, Teacher Goals and Student Data were also suggested topics. *Board Member Stevens* asked for a review of the academic timeline for students at Masuk. *Student Board Representative Gupta* suggested having presentations on student climate and issues.

**Request of Additional Sick Time for Two Employees for 2015-2016**

**Motion to approve additional sick time for two employees for the 2015-16 school year**

**Motion: (J. Stevens)**

**Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)**

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine said the two individuals were very appreciative of the Board's consideration. Board Member Guttman said that as this was being brought before the Board, it is a serious matter, and there was no question on which way to vote.

**Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivero)-0**

16-035

**Electricity Consortium**

*Ms. DiBlasi* said that the consortium is looking at the possibility of entering into a contract that would lock in energy pricing from January 2017 through June 2020. She continued that locking in the rates would provide the District with steady budgeting for the next three budget cycles. The forward pricing is comparatively low to current pricing.

*Ms. DiBlasi* added that the Consortium is locked in with Nextera, and they are looking to get pricing from Constellations. Because it is a long-term contract, there is some risk involved if prices decrease during that time period.

*Superintendent Agostine* said that though 2020 seems like a long way away, it could help stabilize the budget and get the District better pricing, it is something to consider pursuing. *Board Member Guttman* asked if the contract could be negotiated to protect the District if prices fell below a certain level. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that though they can't hedge on a floor, they would pose the question.

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (J. Stevens)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivero)-0**

16-036

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco  
Board of Education Secretary