

**MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monroe, Connecticut**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 6, 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 Vaglivello

**Absent:** Masuk Student Board Representative Kanu Caplash  
Masuk Student Board Representative Ali Moraveck

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Report of the Chairman**

**2016 Retiree Recognition**

*Superintendent Agostine* and the Board recognized the 2016 retirees and presented them with a personalized gift from the District. The 2016 Retirees are:

Elaine Buturla  
Judy Dwyer  
Johanna George  
Janet Halpin  
John Howard  
Ruth Lubbers  
Penny Odell  
Dianne Sawicki  
Serena Stanley  
Brenda Weir

## **Acceptance of First Selectman's Charitable Donation**

*First Selectman Vavrek* presented the Board of Education a donation, raised by the First Selectman's First Annual Golf Outing, to be distributed to several Masuk clubs and groups including:

- Parent-Teacher Club
- All Sports Booster Club
- Robotics
- Music Parents Association

Each group received \$4,300 for a total donation of \$17,200. *First Selectman Vavrek* said he was honored to donate to these groups. The 2017 Selectman's Annual Golf Outing will be held on May 24, 2017. *Chairman Lane* thanked *Sue DeGeorge* for asking to have the presentation at the Board of Education meeting tonight.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (J. Martinez)**

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine noted the appointments of Darleen Fensore, Assistant Director of Student Support Services at Central Office; Jaclyn Flynn, Social Studies Teacher at Jockey Hollow; Minjoo Park, Math Teacher at Jockey Hollow

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

16-037

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

### **Masuk Student Representatives**

*Student Representative Gupta* said that that exams started for seniors on Friday and underclassman exams will be begin on Thursday. The Senior Breakfast will be next Tuesday morning. In sports, Volleyball and Softball teams are in the State semi-finals, and the State Opens for track were held today.

### **CES**

*Board Member Reinoso* went to the CES meeting last Thursday and said that they were provided with a summary of the legislative issues that were addressed by CES this past session. He shared a copy of the Impact Summary with the Board of Education Members. *Board Member Reinoso* added that *Evan Pitkoff's* contract has been extended as head of CES.

## **Public Participation**

There was none at tonight's meeting.

## **Superintendent's Report**

*Superintendent Agostine* said that most positions have been filled though they will need to fill the position vacated by *Darlene Fensore*.

*Superintendent Agostine* stated that Turf Field Committee has had several meetings, and the decision has been made to relocate all outdoor activities offsite during the construction phase. The anticipated start date is June 15, and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony. The topsoil will be going to the Town and to Stepney Elementary. *Superintendent Agostine* added there was a pre-construction meeting today at Town Hall with the departments and individuals who will be involved with the project. He also asked for the Board's approval to order the lighting for the Turf Field now, as it is included in the bonding and the bonding authorizes going forward with them. The Board was in agreement.

*Board Member Guttman* asked if there is a contingency in case the road was damaged when moving the heavy equipment. There is and it was noted that a bridge will be built across the track to prevent damage. The Stepney oil tank replacement should be finalized at the next Town Council meeting.

*Superintendent Agostine* reported that they had a first meeting with Garland in preparation of the next bonding project, which will be the replacement of the Stepney roof, scheduled for Summer 2017. Garland has advised that, in order to get the best price on a project of this size, an RFP should go out in January.

*Superintendent Agostine* said that a sizable limb fell at Monroe Elementary, and they have begun an aggressive tree trimming project. They will be very aggressive in taking down all the trees in the playground and pre-school playground.

## **Presentations**

Perkins Innovation Grant - *Mark Schwarz*, Masuk High School Assistant Principal. *Mark Schwarz* asked for the Board of Education's permission and approval to move forward on a grant opportunity in the Career and Technical Education Department. He said that it requires Board of Education support to move forward, and the deadline is Friday, June 10. The Grant is an innovation grant, up to \$30,000, which offers federal money to be distributed by the State Department of Education to schools in the State.

Last year, the Career and Technical Education Department asked for and received a grant to support the development of Banking and Finance, a new course that will be offered in the fall. The Perkins Innovation Grant will provide funding to make improvements to a school store in the high school and to the Career and Technical Education programs that support the school. *Mr. Schwarz* said the funds can be used to improve infrastructure in the store or to get items that can be used in the classroom for instruction beyond just supporting the school store. Some of the opportunities include the purchase of 3-D printers, mannequins, new signage, and security items. The Board agreed to amend the

agenda by adding the Approval of the Perkins Innovation Grant to the agenda.

**Motion to amend the Agenda by adding Item D, Approval of the Perkins Innovation Grant, Under New Business**

**Motion: (S. Monaco)**

**Second: (J. Stevens)**

Discussion: None

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

16-038

**New Business**

**Motion to Approve the 2016-17 Rates/Fees Schedule, Tuition Fees, and Facilities Use Fees as presented**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (C. Cascella)**

Discussion: Ms. DiBlasi said the lunch prices at Masuk have not been established yet though there will most likely be a la carte pricing. The lunch increase for the other schools is 15¢.

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

16-039

**Motion to Authorize Planning for the Stepney Roofing Project for the Summer of 2017**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

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

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine said there are some structural changes needed on the roof and that this project completed the large capital improvement projects for the District

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

16-040

**Motion to Approve the 2016-2017 Healthy Food Certification**

**Motion: (J. Martinez)**

**Second: (C. Reinoso)**

Discussion: Ms. DiBlasi said that though Masuk would be leaving the National School Lunch Program, it will still be healthy food certified but the District will not be reimbursed.

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

16-041

**Motion to Authorize Masuk to pursue the Perkins Innovation Grant**

**Motion: (J. Stevens)**

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

Discussion: None

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

16-042

**Superintendent's Review/Contract Renewal**

**Motion to Enter into Executive Session inviting Superintendent Agostine for the Superintendent's Review/Contract Renewal**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (C. Cascella)**

Discussion: None

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

16-043

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn at 9:12 p.m.**

**Motion: (J. Guttman)**

**Second: (C. Cascella)**

Discussion: None

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

16-044

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco  
Board of Education Secretary