

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member David Ferris
Board Member James Martinez
Board Member Alan Vaglivelov

Also present: Superintendent James Agostine
Assistant Superintendent John Battista
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi
Masuk Student Board Representative Kevin Brown
Masuk Student Board Representative Michelle Cobuzzi
Masuk Student Board Representative William Santee

Absent: Board Member Carlos Reinoso
Board Member Jerry Stevens

Call to Order

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

Chairman Lane asked for a motion to add a motion to Item A under New Business.

Motion to add a motion to Item A, for the Board will vote on tonight regarding Joining a Civil Lawsuit against the Bridgeport Board of Education for Magnet School Tuition

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: Board Member Vaglivelov asked for information regarding the lawsuit. Chairman Lane said she would provide details when it is discussed later in the meeting.

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez and Vaglivelov)-0

17-022

Report of the Chairman

There was no report at tonight's meeting.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine noted they received Debbie Wall's Retirement Letter. Debbie has been the K-5 ELA Coordinator for many years. She has been in our District for over 32 years.

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez and Vaglivo)-0

17-023

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Cobuzzi said there will be an in-school performance of the drama, *Much Ado About Nothing*, on March 28, and the production will run Thursday, March 30 through Saturday, April 1. *Student Representative Santee* said that the da Vinci Festival will take place Friday, March 31 and April 1. There will be a Catalyst Prep SAT Boot Camp on April 1 and 2. He added that spring sports will be starting shortly. *Student Representative Brown* said that the DECA competition took place last Monday, and many members placed in the States for their individual categories. The finalists will go to Anaheim to participate in a nationwide event. FBLA will hold their State leadership conference on Monday, March 27.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Fund Activity Statement

Ms. DiBlasi said that claims were significantly higher in February than they were at the same time last year. There are four claimants who have hit stop loss and eighteen claimants over \$50,000 at the end of February. She continued that the spending freeze is still in effect. *Chairman Lane* asked if *Ms. DiBlasi's* earlier projection of ending the year with \$1.1 million may be significantly lower. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that it is difficult to predict as there is no discernible pattern from month to month.

2017-2018 Budget Update

Superintendent Agostine said the Board of Finance is meeting tonight and tomorrow evening. They anticipate taking a vote on the Board of Education reductions tomorrow for the referendum on April 4. *Superintendent Agostine* continued that they have been in constant communication with the Board of Finance during the budget season and have been preparing for a 0% budget. In addition to the reductions in ECS monies in the Governor's proposed budget, there was an additional \$658,000 added to Special Education. *Superintendent Agostine* continued the necessary cuts to reduce the Board of Education from the current 2.5% to 0% are \$963,140. If the Special Education money

does not materialize, another \$658,000 in cuts would be necessary. He provided a copy of the Board of Education reductions showing both scenarios:

0% Budget If Special Education Grant Monies Are Received:

2 Nurses	\$75,000
K-5 Coordinators	\$243,000
Late Retirement	\$25,000
Equipment Replacement	\$31,000
Technology	\$100,000
Summer Professional Development	\$25,000
Curriculum Writing	\$30,000
Central Office Administrative Position	\$130,000
Stipends	\$5,000
Music Teacher	\$65,000
5 th Grade Band/Orchestra Stipends	\$16,450
Freshman Sports	\$20,000
Clubs and Activities	\$20,000
High School Teacher	\$65,000
3 Tech Paraprofessionals	\$67,500
Repairs	\$10,000
Teachers' College at the Elementary Level	\$40,000
One Bus	<u>\$64,974</u>
	\$1,032,924

0% Budget If Special Education Grant Monies Are Not Received:

From 1 st Column	-\$69,784
Assistant Principal	\$120,000
Instructional Supplies	\$55,000
6-8 Sports Fully Funded	\$26,000
Technology	\$100,000
Nurse	\$55,000
Reading Teacher 4 FTE	\$260,000
Data Specialist	\$52,000
Custodian	\$50,000
Summer Data	<u>\$11,000</u>
	\$659,216

Superintendent Agostine said that *Board of Finance Chairman Manjos* assumes that the State is cutting funding by \$4 million. The reductions are \$1.6 from the Board of Education, \$500,000 from the Town side, and \$1.2 from the Undesignated Fund Balance. *Board of Finance Chairman Manjos* is proposing putting in a contingency plan in the event the actual reductions differ from the assumptions. If there is any additional revenue, the Town Council determines how those funds are distributed though *Chairman Manjos'* recommendation is to do it proportionately.

Board Member Martinez asked how many other districts are "taking this gamble." It was noted that Monroe has one of the earliest referendums, and we are planning for an unknown.

Monroe Reads

Superintendent Agostine thanked the Monroe Reads Committee for their efforts in coordinating this annual event. At Jockey Hollow last Thursday, author, *Liz Moore*, who wrote *The Unseen World* gave a presentation.

daVinci Festival Invitation

The 4th Annual daVinci Festival for Grades K-12 will be held at Masuk High School on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1.

Presentations

Board of Education 2015-2016 District Profile and Performance Report (formally known as SSP Report)

Assistant Superintendent Battista provided the Board Members with the District report. The reports are available on line for every district and the individual schools. He explained that the first page provides information on the District such as enrollment, pupil expenditures, Chronic Absenteeism, and Suspension/Expulsion. In addition, the report includes the CERC Town Profile, State Reports and Publications, Special Education Reports, Educator Information, Students with Disabilities Information, Performance, Accountably, and Narratives.

Student Information - In 2015-2016, the District had no truant students and the percentage of Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension/Expulsion were significantly lower than the State average. Monroe has seen an increase in Diversity though that is also below the State average.

Educator Information - 100% of the District teachers are designated as Highly Qualified, and teacher attendance is much higher than the State average.

Special Education Information - The percentage of students with disabilities is slightly lower than the State rate as is the percentage of students outplaced.

Performance and Accountability - This system is a set of 12 indicators that detail how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life. Monroe is above the State average in ELA, Math, Science Performance, the number of AP Courses taken, and in College Entrance & Persistence for both the Class of 2014 and Class of 2015.

Narratives - Monroe has Improvement Plans & Parent Outreach through the Data Teams, Climate Committee and Surveys, the SRBI Process, PTOs and Parent Volunteers, various parent nights, and newsletters from both the schools and Superintendent. The District's efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation include curriculum. This includes multi-cultural perspectives, Magnet and Charter Schools, Positive Climate Committees in each school, PBIS, and Service Clubs.

Old Business

None

New Business

Chairman Lane said they want to join with other districts including Stratford, Trumbull, Fairfield, and possibly Shelton about how Bridgeport Board of Education is now going to be charging the District for our students to attend the Magnet schools at a cost of approximately \$93,000.

The maximum exposure to the District in legal fees is \$10,000 which is considerably less than what they may have to pay. *Board Member Vaglivello* asked if others cities charge tuition. *Superintendent Agostine* said that it is his understanding there is legislation that would allow them to charge, but Bridgeport is the only city doing it. Secretary Monaco asked if the attorneys had an opinion on the chances of the Districts being successful in the lawsuit. *Superintendent Agostine* said that he would not recommend the Board jumping into something open-ended and felt that the maximum cost they would incur was worth the risk.

Motion to Join a Civil Lawsuit Against the Bridgeport Board of Education for Magnet School Tuition Incurring a Maximum of \$10,000 in Legal Fees

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Discussion: None

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

17-023

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Motion: (D. Ferris)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

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

17-024

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary