

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2017

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Board Member Christine Casella
Board Member David Ferris
Board Member James Martinez
Board Member Carlos Reinoso
Board Member Jerry Stevens
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

Absent: Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Masuk Student Board Representative William Santee

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

Chairman Lane noted that tomorrow is the Referendum, and polling places are open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. *Chairman Lane* acknowledged receipt of a \$200 donation to be used by the STEM library from Allan and Joan Cameron.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine noted the District has received Olivia Pruszko's resignation letter as she is relocating out of state.

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelov)-0

17-026

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Cobuzzi said the third quarter ends on Wednesday, and spring sports have started. The first tennis match is against Bethel. *Superintendent Agostine* asked where the team has been practicing. *Student Representative Cobuzzi* replied they have been practicing at the East Village Park courts though they hope to play at least one game on the new courts. *Student Representative Brown* said that the students will take the SAT tests on Wednesday.

Safety & Security Committee - *Board Member Ferris* said the Committee met on Monday, March 27. *Board Member Ferris* continued that under Health and Safety, they reviewed the quarterly Workman's Compensation Report, and the CIRMA representative was in attendance. He added that the Climate Surveys for parents will be ready to go out this week, and the Anonymous Alert app can be downloaded now. In addition, *Dr. Zamary* provided an overview on Security.

CES - *Board Member Reinoso* said the next meeting will be held shortly.

Finance Committee - *Chairman Lane* said that the Committee met this evening, and they discussed medical and the Stepney Roof Project. She said that even if the budget passes tomorrow, the District still needs to know what the State figures will be before announcing specific cuts.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Agostine said the Secretarial Bargaining Unit contract negotiations will take place tomorrow afternoon. He added that *Assistant Superintendent Battista* and *Ms. DiBlasi* are working on procuring a food truck vendor for Masuk.

da Vinci Festival Review

Superintendent Agostine said that the da Vinci Festival was a great event and was very well received. *Assistant Superintendent Battista* said that *Julia Strong*, the Fine Arts Coordinator for the District, did an excellent job, and the staff was dedicated to making it a success. It was noted that the Festival encompasses all the arts including visual, robotics, the culinary arts, and music.

Budget Update and Reminder of the Referendum

Superintendent Agostine encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow and reiterated that they can't make any final decisions until they get more information from the State. He noted that the Board of Finance has put in a \$1 million contingency into the budget due to the unknown amount the District will receive for ECS. The proposed distribution will be 65% to the Board of Education and 35% to the Town though this requires approval by both the Board of Finance and Town Council.

Chairman Lane asked if MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) was in effect. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that there is a proposal to change the way it looks, but currently they cannot go below 0%.

Update on Stepney Roof Review

Superintendent Agostine said Town Council has tentatively scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, provided there is a quorum, to approve the vendor. *Board Member Stevens* asked *Superintendent Agostine* if he felt Town Council would grant approval for the project. *Superintendent Agostine* replied that he was optimistic.

Board Member Reinoso added that he heard a lot of positive feedback from the community on the da Vinci Festival including those who do not have children attending *Masuk*. *Superintendent Agostine* stated that the District values the arts and the festival highlighted the progression of learning and skills over the years.

Old Business

There was none at tonight's meeting.

New Business

Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for July 2017 through June 2018

Motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting dates for July 2017 through June 2018 as presented

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: There are a few Tuesday meetings due to holidays and a Professional Development Day. Board Member Stevens asked when the End of Year Celebration was being held. Assistant Superintendent Battista said that the date is June 1 at the Waterview.

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0

17-027

Approval of the 2017 Jockey Hollow Recognition Night and *Masuk* High School Graduation

Motion to approve Tuesday, June 20, 2017, for Jockey Hollow Recognition Night and Wednesday, June 21, 2017, for *Masuk* High School Graduation

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0

17-028

Policies-First Review

The policies for first review tonight are:

Policy # 5143 Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism

Policy # 5134 Married and Pregnant Students

Vice-Chairman King said they are combining Cheating and Dishonesty to make it more encompassing. It will become Policy # 5121.3. He added that both policies for first review adopted CAGE policy. They will be voted on at the next Board of Education meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (Lane, King, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivo)-0

17-029

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Reilly Monaco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Acting Board of Education Secretary