

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member David Ferris
Board Member Carlos Reinoso
Board Member Jerry Stevens
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

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

Absent: Superintendent James Agostine
Masuk Student Board Representative Kevin Brown

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-Students Enrolled into the Military

Principal Kobza said it was his pleasure and honor to recognize the following students who have enrolled into the military to serve after graduation:

Evan Murray-Air Force ROTC

Thomas Shiskin-Marines

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: (J. Martinez)

Discussion: None

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

17-036

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Cobuzzi said that the Freshman formal will be held this Friday and a “Dancing with the Stars” event will also take place this week. *Student Representative Santee* added there will be AP testing for the next two weeks. The pre-prom mock crash will be on May 9. The prom will be at the Waterview on Friday, May 12.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight’s meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Stepney Roof

Assistant Superintendent Battista said the Stepney Roof project passed 63-3, and the project will begin in late May. The asphalt and tar work will be done over the summer when the students are not present.

Assistant Superintendent Battista reviewed the answers to the Board of Education questions regarding freshman sports budget cut. There was a question regarding what would happen if the surcharge increases to \$300 with a family cap of \$1,250. The response was that the surcharges collected are projected to increase by \$39,348.69.

Another question regarding Freshman Sports - If they were to be fully funded by the parents, what would the cost be per student athlete? The response was “based on the number of freshman participants in 2016-2017, the cost that would be \$122.70 more to the current \$250.00 per student athlete for a total of \$372.70.

There was also a request for information on the number of SWC schools that had freshman teams, how many games were scheduled, and how many were postponed. The data was provided in the Board packet. It was also noted that Masuk’s surcharge is the highest compared to other SWC schools, and it is at the top of the range compared to other schools in our DRG. *Board Member Stevens* asked how the rates would be impacted if the State cuts were lowered than anticipated. *Chairman Lane* said that if money comes back to the Town, there would be a split between the Board of Education and the Town, and both Board of Finance and Town Council would have to approve it.

Annual Recognition Ceremony

The Annual Recognition Ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 1, at the Waterview.

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Assistant Superintendent Battista said that Masuk ranked number 13 out of high schools in Connecticut and 881 in the National Ranking. This earned them the Silver Award.

Ms. DiBlasi also noted that Sodexo has updated the menus for all the schools on the website, and they now provide the nutritional content. There will also be new food truck vendors, Taco Laco, and Frosty Bear at Masuk at the end of the year for students.

Presentation

One to One Chromebooks-Jack Zamary

Dr. Zamary provided the Board information on the One-to-One Technology Pilot Proposal. One-to-One technology is one device per student. A device is a laptop, Chromebook, iPad, etc. He noted the more than 50% of today's jobs require some degree of technology skills, and that percentage is projected to increase to 77% in the next decade. In addition, IT jobs grew 26% from 1998-2008, and it is anticipated that by 2018, IT employment will grow by another 22%. One-to-One technology also plays an integral role in curriculum and instruction as Monroe's teachers have created "assured experiences" that embed technology and research in every grade level K-12.

Dr. Zamary continued that BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) will continue within the proposed pilot. The benefits of One-to-One versus BYOD include:

- Access to Technology
- Device Security
- Appropriate App/Software Access
- Teaching and Support on a Single Operating System
- Secure Testing

Currently, the ratios of students to device are 1.3 students per device in Grades PK-5, 1.7 students per device in Grades 6-8, and 1.4 students to a device in Grades 9-12. *Dr. Zamary* noted that Monroe Public Schools students and staff have created an average of 150 files per individual.

The One-to-One Study was presented to the Curriculum Council and the study included:

- An overview of One-to-One
- Survey to gather information from the committee
- Review of data
- Comparisons with other districts
- Development of pilot proposal

The feedback on One-to One from other districts have been extremely positive as it was noted there are increases in technology use, student problem solving, and creativity as well as a change in the nature of teaching and learning. There is also improved equity for all learners by providing tools accessible to all, increased authentic learning experiences and increased collaboration within and beyond schools.

Dr. Zamary said that the One-to-One pilot will occur during the 2017-18 school year with approximately 50 students in the American Studies class at Masuk. There is no cost to the taxpayers. The pilot will be funded through E-Rate grant funds. *Dr. Zamary* also provided a draft agreement for users which connects to the District's "Acceptable Use Policy" and provides three options for families including no insurance, insurance at a cost of \$50 per year, and bring your own device. The feedback on the pilot program will include video interviews/surveys with students and teachers. It will also include questions about the successes and challenges. The data will be shared with the Board Of Education to determine the next steps.

Motion to move forward on the One-to-One Chromebooks Pilot Program

Motion: (D. Ferris)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: None

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

17-037

Old Business

Anonymous Alert Update

Assistant Superintendent Battista said there has been mostly positive response to the Anonymous Alerts program. There has been 1 credible report at the Elementary level, 1 substantiated report at Jockey Hollow. At Masuk, there have been 15 credible reports, 2 of which were substantiated.

New Business

Non-Public Transportation

Assistant Superintendent Battista noted the District is responsible for providing transportation to St. Jude's, as it is the law for a district to provide transportation to both parochial and private schools. There is an amendment to the State statute that says for school years commencing in September 2016 and ending in July 2025, the local/regional Boards of Education within 15 miles from a specified catchment area (Shelton) shall participate in a pilot program. With St. Jude's closure, parents have the option of enrolling their children at St. Lawrence, in Shelton, and the law requires that parents have to request transportation 30 days prior to the start of attendance. The District has to provide transportation if there are 10 or more students from Monroe attending, but they do not have to offer house stops. The District can request reimbursement from either the parents or the school. *Ms. DiBlasi* said the anticipated annual cost for the busses is \$40,000, as they need to take a bus off of both Tier 1 and Tier 2 runs. To date, it is not known how many students will be attending St. Lawrence.

Transition Plans and Appointments-Vote Anticipated

Chairman Lane said that *Assistant Superintendent Battista* will be appointed as Interim Superintendent and *Jack Zmary* will be appointed as Assistant Superintendent. She said a formal search committee will be formed in September, and the committee will be comprised of Board Members, teacher representatives, administrative, and parent representatives. The committee will work with a search firm that specializes in Superintendent searches. Once the committee selects a firm, the firm will seek qualified candidates and present them to the Committee. *Chairman Lane* noted it is a lengthy process.

Motion to appoint John Battista as Interim Superintendent for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: None

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

17-038

Motion to appoint Jack Zmary as Assistant Superintendent

Motion: (A.Vaglivelio)

Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 9 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelio)-0

17-039

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Motion: (C. Reinoso)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 9 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelio)-0

17-040

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary