

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
May 15, 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 Carlos Reinoso
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

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

Absent: Board Member Jerry Stevens
Masuk Student Board Representative Kevin Brown
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

Recognition of Board Member Alan Vaglivello
Chairman Lane and *Superintendent Agostine* led the Board in recognizing *Board Member Vaglivello* for his 10 years of service on the Board.

Recognition of Student Board Representative
Chairman Lane and *Superintendent Agostine* led the Board in recognizing the Student Board Representatives, *Kevin Brown*, and *Michelle Cobuzzi*. and *William Santee* for their service to the Board this year.

Acknowledgement of Donations
Chairman Lane acknowledged with gratitude that Big Y Foods has donated \$500 to each of the schools as part of their commitment to education as well as the celebration of their re-modeling.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: Superintendent Agostine noted there is an additional retirement. Due to a change in circumstance, Debbi Charles will retire at the end of the school year. There will be a reception for retirees on June 5, at 7:00 p.m., prior to the Board meeting.

Motion passed 6 (Lane, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Reinoso, and Vaglivelo)-0
(Board Members King and Martinez were not yet present for this vote.) 17-041

Reports of the Committee and Liaisons

Student Board Representatives

Student Board Representative Cobuzzi said that the Prom was held last Friday at the Waterview and the theme of the Post Prom was A Night at the Museum. The Strings concert will be on May 18, and the Chorus concert will be held on May 23. Spectagala will take place on Friday and the theme is the 1960s. On Wednesday, representatives from Yale will give a tobacco survey. AP Testing has concluded and 599 AP tests were taken. Senior apparel day was today and on Thursday, AP students will have the opportunity to see Hidden Figures at Edmond Town Hall. Capstone presentations will be next Wednesday and on the 27; a group of students will perform plays, written overnight, that are generated by student ideas. *Student Board Representative Cobuzzi* continued that the Senior trip to Six Flags will be on Friday, May 26.

Pension Committee

Board Member Ferris said that the Committee met last week and voted on a 4010(a) plan.

CREC

Board Member Reinoso said more will be discussed at the meeting on June 1.

Finance Committee

Chairman Lane said at the Finance Committee Meeting tonight, they were updated on insurance and the budget. She added that they are looking to finalize their budget at the June 5 meeting. The update they received from *Representative Sredzinski* on the Governor's proposed budget was worse than initially presented, but all the numbers may not be known until the fall. *Superintendent Agostine* added that it is his philosophy to wait to see what the legislature does. At this point, they can roll over the budget, and he will be in contact with *Board of Finance Chairman Manjos*.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

April Fund Activity Statement

Ms. DiBlasi said that insurance is still struggling and they continue to work with Cigna and One Digital. She added there are 23 claimants over \$50,000 and 5 claimants at Stop loss. There is concern that large claims will come in after the fiscal year ends. *Ms. DiBlasi* continued that purchase orders continue to be closed, and the auditors will be coming in the week of June 5 to do preliminary work.

Update on the Stepney Roof Project

Superintendent Agostine said that the work has begun today. Barrett Roofing is working on the soffits, and they have already found areas of rot that will need to be addressed.

Superintendent Agostine stated that Kindergarten enrollment at Stepney is considerably down from this time last year, so there may be a reduction of one section. Due to increased special education needs at Monroe Elementary, there may be an additional special education teacher needed.

Notification of Domestic Field Trip

Superintendent Agostine said he was happy to approve a trip to the Grand Canyon, during Spring break 2018, for the Masuk Historical Globetrotter Group.

Presentations

K-12 Library Curriculums Research Skills - *Jack Zamary* and Library Media Specialists *Dr. Zamary* and the Library Media Specialists, *Mary Rauner, Heather Ross, Jan Birney, Sarah Nizzard, and Megan Letko* gave a presentation on Library Teaching and Learning. He said there has been a shift in library delivery and terminology; the Library Media Center has been replaced with Library Learning Commons. The Library Learning Commons supports a range of engaging teaching strategies rather than just independent work. There is 24/7 access as text and digital media are available all the time rather than just during school hours.

There is Library Curriculum Strands for Elementary, Middle and High School:

ELEMENTARY

- Literacy-Reading and Writing
- Research-Finding, Evaluating and Using Information
- Digital Citizenship-Safe and appropriate technology use
- Digital Literacy-Technology skills for learning and working

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Literacy-Library Collection: curricular use and recreational reading
- Research-Finding information, website evaluation, Responsible use of information
- Digital Citizenship-Creator rights and responsibilities, Digital footprint and online ethics
- Digital Literacy-Citation tools, Collaborative tools and Presentation Tools

HIGH SCHOOL

- Literacy-Reading scholarly articles , Evaluating online videos and note taking
- Research-Gathering scholarly research, Providing support for both sides of an argument
- Digital Citizenship-Respect of others online and in person, Citing Sources and Website evaluation
- Digital Literacy-Online Google Databases, Google docs and Utilizing Google Classroom.

Ms. Rauner and *Ms. Ross* gave a brief overview of an elementary lesson with an interactive presentation. The program showed how Kindergarten students learn very basic research and note taking skills. *Ms. Ross* showed how the lessons evolve as skills are repeated and built on as the students grow and noted that in Grade 3, they use more resources, non-fiction texts, and they take notes from books.

Ms. Birney and *Ms. Nizzardo* said that they use Genius Hour in the middle school and they use the following strategies;

- Practice literacy skills through question building
- Implement Digital Citizenship skills through website evaluation
- Exercise Digital Literacy through presentation skills
- Build Research skills through Note taking basics

They also provided samples of student work and Independent Research Projects.

Ms. Letko provided examples of a lesson she teaches before the students read Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and gave a brief presentation on Digital Citizenship.

Old Business

Magnet School Tuition

Ms. DiBlasi updated the Board on the status of the lawsuit the District had joined with surrounding towns regarding Bridgeport charging the towns for students to attend Fairchild Wheeler Magnet school. She said that the judge said they should petition to revisit Bridgeport's basis of the charges and basically, it was kicked back to the State. *Ms. DiBlasi* added that they will wait to see what the funding will be from the State.

New Business

Policies-First Review

Policy #3541.35-Business/Non-Instructional Operations, Procedures for Bus Drivers

Policy #5141.22-Students, Communicable/Infectious Diseases

Policy # 6172-Instruction, Alternative Education Programs

Vice-Chairman King noted these policies will be voted on at the June 5 meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Motion: (G. King)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Cascella, Ferris, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivero)-0

(Board Member Reilly-Monaco was not present for this vote.)

17-042

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary