

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2016

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

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 Christine Cascella
Board Member James Martinez

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 - 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists and Commended Students

Principal Kobza introduced the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists and Commended Students. He said that all juniors take the PSAT test and the PSAT also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The National Merit Program recognizes students in two categories for their performance on the PSAT; the top 50,000 highest scoring participants of the 1.5 million students who take the test are designated National Merit Commended Students. The Masuk 2017 Commended Students are: *Matthew Andronowitz, Emerson Carlson, Christopher Cavanaugh, Evan Fahr, Zayne Lawrence, Kelly McCauley, Arkin Mukherjee, Sabrina Romansky, and Natalia Savkovic.* *Principal Kobza* continued that the top 16,000 students are recognized as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists, and they have the opportunity to continue in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. The two Masuk National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are *Spencer Dai* and *Ryan Lee*.

Report of the Chairman

There was no report at tonight's meeting.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Ferris, Reinoso, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

16-067

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Masuk Student Board Representatives

Student Representative Santee said that Quarter II will be starting in the next two weeks. There will be an Underage Drinking Forum on Wednesday for all freshmen, a Parent Teacher Council meeting next Tuesday evening, and a CIAC Leadership conference on the 17. *Student Representative Cobuzzi* said that Parent Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday and next Wednesday; both will be half day for students. *Seussical, The Musical*, will be performed November 18-20, and students will be given a preview on Tuesday, November 15. *Student Representative Brown* said that photo retakes will be held next Wednesday, and Career Day will be held on November 17.

Pension Committee

Board Member Ferris said that the Pension Committee met last Wednesday, and they received a review of the Quarterly Plan Performance for the third quarter. The committee voted to approve the addition of a suite of funds into the plan. *Chairman Lane* added that the Pension Committee needs two Board of Education representatives. The Committee meets quarterly.

Curriculum

Board Member Vaglivello said the Committee discussed a course on Film and Literature, but as the NCAA didn't approve it. It is being revamped as Literature and Modern Culture offering. They also discussed having an AP Computer class, and some of the other classes discussed were Probability and Statistics, as well as French, and Spanish 1 and II. He added that some of the textbooks are several years old and showing signs of wear. Due to the high replacement cost, teachers are looking on line for cost effective options and resources. The AP Computer class will be up for review at an upcoming meeting, as will the Spanish and French classes.

Public Participation

The President and Vice-President of Masuk's junior class brought the class' concerns with the cost of the parking passes. While they understood that the cost of parking had been recently reduced, the class felt that the cost was still too high, and that they shouldn't have to carry the burden of maintenance. They gave the parking costs of Bethel and Newtown which are less than Masuk. *Board Member Vaglivello* asked how the District compares to surrounding towns; it was noted that Pomperaug was \$250.

Superintendent Agostine said that though the issue was discussed last year, it could be added to the agenda for further discussion or it could be discussed at this time. *Board Member Stevens* said that before he decides, he needs the information on surrounding areas and asked the students to provide more detailed comparison costs.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Agostine said that they received an invitation from CAFE to submit communication vehicles to them for consideration for awards. Monroe Public Schools has received the 2016 Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CAFE) for the 2016-2017 District Budget book and the June 2016 edition of the Superintendent's Newsletter. CAFE breaks down the school districts by size, and Monroe is in the 2000-5000 student category. Both items will be on display at the CAFE/CAPSS Convention later this month. The Monroe Public Schools website also received an Honorable Mention.

Superintendent Agostine continued that Principal Kobza had received an email from CAS-CIAC congratulating Masuk as being identified as a Unified Champion Banner School. It stated that Masuk serves as a model not only for Connecticut schools but for high schools throughout the country. This is a national award sponsored by Special Olympics International, and the award presentation will take place on December 9 in Hartford.

Presentations

Stepney Roofing Project

Dr. Zmary gave a presentation on the Stepney Elementary Roof Replacement proposal; the information is also posted on the District website. He provided an overview of the Capital Plan. The roof projects are listed until 2044, and each school is listed with their last roof replacement date, the warranty time, and the anticipated replacement date.

Dr. Zmary next discussed the Stepney roof age and condition. The cafeteria roof was replaced in 2013 due to 100% saturation; the remaining areas were last replaced in 1989 and 1993. The cafeteria roof is not included in the replacement project. The roof scan from 2013 showed saturation in the insulation and the scans from 2015 and 2016 showed the areas of saturation have expanded and new areas were coming up.

In addition to the roof repair, there are structural updates that need to be made to meet snow load requirements under current codes. The area by the cafeteria needs to be rebuilt, and it will require new steel and work down to the footings with some excavation. The Fan Room will also need some additional steel to ensure that the load carrying capacity is sufficient.

Dr. Zmary showed slides of the active leaks. He also discussed the fascia and soffit, the exterior block and expansion joints, and the wall panels. The fascia needs to be raised to create better pitch to the roof as it is very flat. On the top of the gym, the stucco is bowed out and as part of the fascia work; it will be addressed to ensure that it has the required

structural integrity. The expansion joints have lost a lot of the chalk and the block was not sealed so water has saturated the block and has caused surface cracking. There are also some painted surfaces that need to be addressed as preventative maintenance.

The Stepney Roof Overview:

The oldest roof areas are 26 years old, and the saturated roof insulation continues to grow and the flashings are in poor condition. The Gymnasium skylights are covered with rubberized roofing, as there was no way to deal with the existing cracks, and there is a lack of sufficient drains and roof slope. In addition, structural upgrades are needed. The proposed project does not include cafeteria roof that was replaced in 2013.

The proposed scope of work includes:

- Roof replacement for all sections except the cafeteria
- New flashing
- New fascia
- New soffit
- Additional roof drainage
- Redesign roof pitch to improve drainage
- Add structural beams to meet load requirements

Superintendent Agostine added there was a change in the code regarding the required amount of insulation to go on a roof; what was allowed previously was an average on the pitch and now the state requires 4” of insulation before adding the pitch. The new requirements add \$250,000-\$300,000 to the project and one way to avoid that was to pull a building permit as there is still a grace period for the former requirements. The New International Building Code became effective in October. The Garland representative added there will be a total of 21 new drains and two new scrubbers, which is the draining over the outside edge over the gym. The Proposed Timeline includes presentations to the Board of Finance and Town Council in 2016-2017 Winter, bidding to go out in 2016-2017 Winter, and a town meeting for Winter/Spring 2016-2017. The fascia and soffit will be installed in the Spring of 2017 during second shift so there will be no disruption to students and the roof replacement will take place in the Summer of 2017.

The Proposed Budget for the project is as follows:

Roof replacement	\$1,857,650	Pre-Bid Projection
Fascia and Soffit Replacement	\$488,950	Pre-Bid Projection
Seal Expansion Joints and Blocks	\$26,864	USC Consortium Bid
Paint White Wall Panels	\$30,828	USC Consortium Bid
Bond Counsel Costs		2-3% of the Total Project

Board Member Ferris asked if there was interior work that needs to be done; the section next to the cafeteria will require cutting into the floor and the fan room will also require some work which will be done in the summer.

Motion to approve Policy #4112.5 and Policy #4212.5 as presented

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Discussion: Vice-Chairman King noted that the changes in the policies were due to changes in the law.

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Ferris, Reinoso, Stevens, and Vaglivelo)-0

16-068

Board of Education Goals and Action Plan Update

Superintendent Agostine said that the Board's goals and action plan drive how the District operates. There are five domains under how a goal is created:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Human and Financial Resources
- Facilities
- Educational Resources
- Community Building

Curriculum and Instruction Goal

Monroe Public Schools will provide challenging and accessible curriculum through engaging instructional strategies to meet the needs of all students.

Human/Financial Resources Goal

Monroe Public Schools will maximize student success by hiring, training, and retaining the most highly effective professional staff.

Facilities Goal

The Monroe Public Schools will maintain high quality facilities to meet curricular and extra-curricular needs.

Educational Resources Goal

Resources (technology and instructional materials used to enhance instruction and co-curricular) will be high quality and in sufficient supply to support the ever changing needs and goals of our students.

Community Building

The Monroe School District will develop opportunities to inform and involve the community in an active, supportive, educational partnership.

Each of these goals has a set of objectives, and each objective is broken down into the action steps to be taken. The individuals responsible for the action steps are listed as well as the timeline and the resources needed to achieve the goal, and there is an update on the status of the goal. A fair amount of the goals have already been accomplished, and *Superintendent Agostine* said that they will begin work on the goals for the next three years in the spring/summer.

Approval of Stepney Roof Project

Motion to Approve the scope of work including the addition of the caulking, sealing and painting and the cost estimate of the Stepney roof replacement not to exceed

\$2.6 million, and forward the project to the Town Council and the Town Board of Finance

Motion: (A. Vaglivello)

Second: (C. Reinoso)

Discussion: Board Member Stevens asked what other items are pending on Capital Improvements. It was noted that this is the last major project for several years.

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Ferris, Reinoso, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

16-069

Board Member Stevens asked when the Board would address the class trips. *Chairman Lane* said it will be in January. *Superintendent Agostine* asked *Tina Craven*, the Monroe Courier reporter, if any action was taken at the Joint Meeting on Chalk Hill that was held tonight. She said nothing definitive though concerns were voiced regarding the Parks and Recreation use of the building and building permits. There was also discussion on other organizations using the building and the potential impact on the campus as well as District liability. *Chairman Lane* added that Parks and Recreation are offering “Paint and Sip Parties,” an evening event for adults where alcohol is brought in. Though the District no longer owns the building, it is part of the campus, and per Board of Education policy, no alcoholic beverages can be brought to the campus. *Superintendent Agostine* said that Chalk Hill is an anomaly, and the District policy needs to be reviewed and possibly revised.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (A. Vaglivello)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Ferris, Reinoso, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

16-070

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary