

**MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut**

**Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2016**

Present: Vice-Chairman George King III
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member Jeff Guttman
Board Member James Martinez
Board Member Carlos Reinoso, Jr.
Board Member Jerry Stevens
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

Absent: Chairman Donna Lane

Also present: Superintendent James Agostine
Assistant Superintendent John Battista
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi

Call to Order-Vice

Chairman King called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report of the Chairman

There was no report at tonight's meeting.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Agostine noted the following appointments:

Karen Brown - ELL Teacher, System Wide

Tamberlyn Johnson - Special Education Teacher, Masuk High School

Jennifer Parsell - Secondary Instructional Leader, Special Education, Grades 6-12

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (S. Monaco)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivello)-0

16-045

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

There were none at tonight's meeting.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Agostine introduced Tina Craven, the new reporter for *The Monroe Courier*, and welcomed her to the meeting.

Review of the Fund Activity Statements for May and June 2016

Ms. DiBlasi said that we are trending a bit lower on insurance from this time last year. Prescriptions are running high, and Cigna and Ovation will be looking into the possible causes. *Ms. DiBlasi* continued that \$160,000-170,000 rather than the \$120,000 initially anticipated, will be returned to the Town, and she recommended that it be put into the Capital Reserve Fund as they have done in the past. *Ms. DiBlasi* continued that the Turf Field project is progressing well. Light foundations were installed, and the pad and carpeting will be installing in the next week or so. The oil tank replacement at Stepney is scheduled to be completed later this week. She added that the insurance numbers will be low in terms of what is in the reserves, as most of the employees are not working in the summer. *Ms. DiBlasi* noted the District experienced a significant increase in claims for the month of July.

New Hires

Assistant Superintendent Battista said that the District hired eight new certified staff members since the spring and received three resignations from paraprofessionals and one from a Masuk nurse. He continued they are still looking for a Math Interventionist at Masuk as they are looking for a candidate with the desired math credentials.

Turf Field

Superintendent Agostine said that the fourth light will be installed tomorrow as the concrete footing and foundation needed to be reinforced. The D Zones were paved and the field was leveled today with no deviation in the grading. The turf should arrive tomorrow and be installed within the next eight to ten days. The track resurfacing has been delayed due to contractor availability, and the thought is that they should be able to start in mid-September. *Superintendent Agostine* added that they hope to be able to play a few home games on the field before the track is resurfaced.

Regional Services Grant

Superintendent Agostine read from a new law that that would take effect in 2018 that states that each Regional Council of Government shall receive a Regional Services Grant and 35% of the grant monies shall be awarded to the Regional Council of Governments

to assist Regional Education Service Centers in merging their human resources, finance and/or technology services with services provided by the municipalities in the Region. He noted that he has not received a summary of the bill from the attorney. It was suggested that *State Representative Sredzinski* attend a future Board of Education meeting. *Board Member Reinoso* added that he will get more information and clarification at the next CES meeting in September.

Oil Tank Update

Superintendent Agostine wanted to publicly thank *Ms. DiBlasi* and *Dr. Zamary* for having the foresight to hire a consultant as there are a lot of specifications and regulations that must be followed precisely in dealing with oil tanks. There was an issue with the pit where the old tank was installed. When the tank was pulled, it was determined that the vault was shallower than it should have been and two feet of bedrock had to be jack hammered out. The additional cost is approximately \$8,000.

Board Member Vaglivo asked about enrollment; *Superintendent Agostine* said that to date, there have been 50 more elementary student registrations than projected.

Presentation

PD Overview

Assistant Superintendent Battista stated that good professional development benefits student learning. He added that all staff, certified and non-certified, receive training throughout the year.

Assistant Superintendent Battista continued with examples of the training staff has received:

District Administrators & Security Committee Members attended ALICE training.

Administrative Professional Development Days will take place later this month and some of the topics to be addressed include:

- PMT Training
- Cultural Competency
- Classroom Observation Calibration
- Book Talk-True North written by Bill George
- Administrative Scenarios
- Education Laws

Assistant Superintendent Battista continued that the District also offered Summer Institutes including:

- Google Certification
- Columbia Teachers College/Readers Workshop
- Differentiation
- Next Generation Science Standards

The 2016-2017 August Professional Development Days have been developed to address topics specific for a discipline and grade level.

K-12 Staff

National Arts Standards-Art and Music Teachers
Next Generation Science Standards Alignments-Science Teachers
Reviewing IEPs and 504s-Special Education Teachers and Psychologists
Stuttering webinar-Speech and Language Pathologists
Learning Commons/Assured Expectations-Library Media Teachers
PMT Training-Art, PE and Music
Collaboration Time

Elementary Schools

Math in Focus
Columbia Teachers College Reading Units of Study Development

Jockey Hollow

Differentiation
Next Generation Science Standards

Masuk

SAT Reading and Writing Strategies
Differentiation
Technology offerings

Assistant Superintendent Battista added that paraprofessionals will also have a day of training.

Assistant Superintendent Battista continued that there are five principles of Effective Professional Development:

- Professional Development must be ongoing and teachers need time to implement what they have learned.
- Teachers need to be supported during the implementation process.
- Professional Development needs to be active and engaging.
- The content needs to be specific to the discipline or grade level.
- Modeling is essential in helping teachers understand a new practice.

Old Business

There was none at tonight's meeting.

New Business

2016 CABE/CAPPS Convention

Superintendent Agostine noted that the CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 18-19 and there was a significant cost savings for early enrollment.

Approval of Masuk High School Lunch Prices for 2016-2017

Ms. DiBlasi said that taking Masuk off the National School Lunch Program allowed more options in terms of portion sizes and ingredients. Some of the new offerings are Sushi lunch on Fridays, smoothies, and more protein options for the salad bar. There will be a base lunch, available to all students which will be the meal offered to students on Free and Reduced Lunch. Those students may select other options though they would need to pay any price difference. The price schedule was included on page 34 in the Board packet. *Board Member Stevens* asked if the food truck was still being considered. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that it is being discussed further. He also asked if there was the option of reverting to the National School Lunch Program. *Ms. DiBlasi* said that the District could go back to the program at any time.

Motion to approve the Masuk High School Lunch Prices for 2016-2017

Motion: (A. Vaglivelio)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: There was no further discussion

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelio)-0

16-046

Pending Litigation

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation inviting the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelio)-0

16-047

Motion to Adjourn at 9:52 p.m.

Motion: (J. Guttman)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Guttman, Martinez, Reinoso, Stevens and Vaglivelio)-0

16-048

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board of Education Secretary