

**MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monroe, Connecticut**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2016**

**Present:** Chairman Donna Lane  
Vice-Chairman George King III  
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco  
Board Member Christine Cascella  
Board Member James Martinez  
Board Member Carlos Reinoso, Jr.  
Board Member Alan Vaglivelolo

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

**Absent:** Board Member Jerry Stevens

**Call to Order**

*Chairman Lane* called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction and Approval of Student Board Representatives**

*Principal Kobza* introduced the Student Board Representatives for the 2016-2017 school year: *Kevin Brown, Michelle Cobuzzi, and William Santee*. Michelle is a senior and Kevin and William are juniors. *Principal Kobza* said that due to the number of students interested in becoming representatives, interviews were held this year for the positions. All three representatives are active in school activities including sports, orchestra, and DECA.

**Motion to approve Kevin Brown, Michelle Cobuzzi, and William Santee as the 2016-17 Student Board of Education Representatives**

**Motion: (A. Vaglivelolo)**

**Second: (C. Reinoso)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivelolo)-0**

16-054

**Report of the Chairman**

Recognition of Donation-Scott Pietro

*Dr. Zamary* said that *Mr. Pietro's* most recent donation to the District was six Dell flat panel monitors. He said that, to date, *Mr. Pietro* and his employer have donated over 170 monitors to the schools which have made a significant impact on technology in the classrooms.

*Chairman Lane* said that she was made aware today of the possibility of Probate Court moving to Chalk Hill and she wanted the Board's input and feedback. She said both she and *Superintendent Agostine* have concerns with traffic flow and security.

*Superintendent Agostine* said that the First Selectman has asked what uses the Board of Education might have for the building. At the conclusion of the Ad Hoc study, it was determined there were no specific needs. He continued that this year is the exception to several years of declining enrollments and the District needs to see what future enrollment numbers will be before suggesting a Board of Education use. *Superintendent Agostine* added that the Probate Court will result in daily traffic in and out of the site and more information is needed.

*Board Member Vaglivo* asked if the Town has a plan for security. *Board Member Lane* said that is one of the unknowns. The Town has contacted the State for approval to move the Probate Court to the site.

*Vice-Chairman King* said that even though the District no longer owns the building, they need to give their opinion as to what goes on the site. *Superintendent Agostine* added there have been discussions on what to do with Chalk Hill including having Parks & Recreation, Social Services, and the Food Pantry use the space. *Board Member Reinoso* also expressed concern with security and traffic and added he would like to see something youth or family oriented at the site. *Chairman Lane* said that it is possible that Planning and Zoning may need to get involved with a zone change if the Court were to move there. *Board Member Martinez* said that his concern is that, at some point, the building may still be used for educational purposes even if the Probate Court moves there and that the building is on the campus. *Secretary Reilly-Monaco* also expressed that safety is her primary concern. *Superintendent Agostine* will draft a letter with the Board's questions to the First Selectman.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** (S. Monaco)

**Second:** (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivo)-0**

16-055

## **Reports of the Committees and Liaisons**

### **Masuk Student Board Representatives**

*Student Board Representative Santee* said there will be a Blood Drive on September 29 and the fall sports season is underway. *Student Board Representative Cobuzzi* said there will be a FAFSA information night on September 22. There will be a Catalyst Prep Boot Camp on September 24 and 25, and the SAT test will be administered on October 1.

*Student Board Representative Brown* said that last week, there was a video presentation from the FBI on Opioid addiction. He continued that on September 16, *Chris Herren*, a former NBA player, gave a presentation to the students on addiction. He noted it was a very emotional experience and the overall response from students was extremely positive. *Vice-Chairman King* asked *Principal Kobza* for his feedback, and *Principal Kobza* reiterated the impact the presentation had on the students. *Superintendent Agostine* said,

in a continuing effort to bring awareness and information, there will be an Opioid forum later this year.

## **Public Participation**

There was none at tonight's meeting.

## **Report of the Superintendent**

*Superintendent Agostine* said that the Masuk Booster Club has given \$25,000 to the Turf Field and that *Pam Buzi*, who had established a scholarship fund in honor of *Tom* and *Todd Buzi*, worked with *Ms. DiBlasi* regarding donating the remaining funds for the purchase of the new scoreboard. The donation will be \$43,723 and *Superintendent Agostine* suggested *Pam Buzi* be invited to a future Board meeting to publicly thank her for the gift.

*Superintendent Agostine* continued that the Turf Field Renovation has been going extremely well though there was a section of the current track that is not adhering properly. There is a section of rubber mat that is not adhering to the base and, if not addressed, it will reduce the life expectancy of the track. The contractor has recommended that the area be ripped up, and they can begin the work tomorrow as the workers and materials are on site. The cost is \$17,500 and *Superintendent Agostine* asked for Board approval as he felt that it would be a disservice to the community not to address it now. The contractor has agreed to do the work at cost without any mark-up. The first game on the field is scheduled in October, and *Superintendent Agostine* suggested there be a Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education ribbon cutting ceremony prior to the start of game.

### **Review of the FY2018 Budget Timeline**

*Superintendent Agostine* said that it is modeled exactly after last year's schedule and there will be workshops as needed.

### **Masuk Food Truck**

*Superintendent Agostine* said the Firehouse Deli Food Truck will be coming to Masuk beginning October 4. The cost will be \$5.50 and students will need to purchase tickets in advance in the cafeteria.

### **Fund Statement**

*Ms. DiBlasi* said that there was a large spike in July due to claims made in May and June. The reserve balance did go down to \$172,000 but it is being built up due to the teachers contributions. She continued that they will be returning approximately \$260,000 to the Town which is approximately .04% of what was budgeted. *Superintendent Agostine* said that he has spoken with *Mike Manjos* about the reserve funding in the medical and he stated the Town has the agreement to backfill the Board of Education if the reserve gets too low.

## **Presentations**

Board of Education Professional Development-Board of Education Goals

*Superintendent Agostine* and *Assistant Superintendent Battista* gave the Board an update and overview of the 2015-2018 Board of Education goals and objectives:

#### Curriculum and Instruction

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

Objectives:

- Continue to implement the Connecticut Cores Standards for K-12
- Continue to implement Student Success Plans, Grades 6-12
- Continue to develop a District SRBI Plan, Pre-K-12
- Develop high school requirements that meet or exceed those established by CT State High School Reform Legislation
- Align the Early Childhood Curriculum with Connecticut Standards

*Superintendent Agostine* continued that several objectives have already been completed including Interim Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards and the Technology Literacy Curriculum.

#### Human/Financial Resources

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

Objectives:

- Provide quality Professional Development opportunities for all certified and non-certified staff
- Hire and retain high quality staff
- Ensure appropriate allocation and distribution of the Board of Education resources

The objective of Implementing Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan has been accomplished.

#### Facilities

Goal: The Monroe Public Schools will maintain high quality facilities to meet curricular and extracurricular needs.

Objectives:

- Review, update and maintain a Capital Improvement and Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Improvement Plans
- Continue to review and revise security plans for people, information and facilities
- Periodically review recycling and resource utilization plans

The Ad Hoc work has been completed as has the school roof maintenance and replacement plan, the committee to study the Turf Field and the replacement of the oil tank at Stepney.

#### 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.

Objectives:

- Review and edit as necessary Educational Technology Plan by grade and discipline
- Monitor and implement annual school climate survey feedback results to determine ongoing resource needs
- Utilize feedback from Ad Hoc Committee report regarding enrollment trends to develop and maintain appropriate resources. Superintendent Agostine noted that current enrollment is 123 students over the middle projection though only 48 students over last year,
- Continued to ensure that sufficient resources are available to support Bring Your Own Technology

### Community Building

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

Objectives; Increase community awareness and involvement in Monroe Public School events such as:

- Monroe Reads
- daVinci Festival
- Parent Lecture Series
- Farmers Market
- End of Year Celebration
- Capstone
- Career Day and Alumni Day
- Celebration of Reading
- Youth Sportsmanship workshop

Objective: Update and implement a communication plan involving:

- Survey suggestions
- Increased social media presence
- Traditional and digital media
- Highlighting school-business partnerships
- Highlighting Monroe Public Schools exemplary people
- Superintendent's Newsletter

*Assistant Superintendent Battista* added that they are meeting with administrators to review the goals; both he and *Superintendent Agostine* welcomed the Board Members' feedback.

### Old Business

There was none at tonight's meeting.

### **Motion to add Unexpended Funds, from the 2015-2016 School Operating Budget, to the Capital Reserve Account, per State Statute 10-248a**

**Motion: (C. Cascella)**

**Second: (C. Reinoso)**

Discussion: The amount to be returned is approximately \$260, 000 which is less than ½ a percent of the budget.

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivelo)-0**

16-056

**Motion to amend the agenda by adding Item B, Track Repair, under New Business**

**Motion: (G. King)**

**Second: (C. Cascella)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivelo)-0**

16-057

**Motion to authorize the Superintendent to do the track repairs in the amount of \$17,500**

**Motion: (J. Martinez)**

**Second: (C. Cascella)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivelo)-0**

16-058

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:25 p.m.**

**Motion: (S. Monaco)**

**Second: (C. Reinoso)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Martinez, Reinoso, and Vaglivelo)-0**

16-059

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Reilly-Monaco  
Board of Education Secretary