

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018

Present: Vice-Chairman George King III
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member David Ferris
Board Member Jeff Fulchino
Board Member Jessica Katuska
Board Member Jerry Stevens
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

Absent: Chairman Donna Lane

Also present: Superintendent John Battista
Assistant Superintendent Jack Zamar
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi
Masuk Student Board Representative Kevin Brown
Masuk Student Board Representative William Santee

Call to Order

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

Exemplary People-AP Art Students/da Vinci Festival

The Board recognized AP Art Students, *Julianne Farmham, Jacqueline Plavnicky* and *Lauren Young* for their contributions to the da Vinci Festival, Masuk and the community. *Ms. Strong* said all three students are enrolled in the highest-level course in the visual arts and are finalizing their portfolios. She said that they each had their own exhibit area at the da Vinci festival and created the viewer experience; “they are great examples of all that is right with the arts in Monroe.”

Vice-Chairman King asked for a motion to amend the agenda.

Motion to amend the agenda by adding Item 5C, resignation of staff, under the Consent Agenda

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (J. Fulchino)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-022

Report of the Chairman

Acknowledgement of Donation

Superintendent Battista acknowledged the Masuk All Sports Booster Club's \$20,440 donation for the purchase and installation of a scoreboard for the softball field and program. He said that MASBC has always been very supportive of Masuk Athletics.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-023

Motion to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-024

Reports of Committees and Liaisons

Masuk Student Representatives

Student Representative Brown said today marks the end of the third marking period. Advisory will be held on Thursday primarily to introduce the juniors to Capstone with a parent presentation that evening. He said the Math Department Pi Day 5K will take place on Saturday at Fawn Hollow and the proceeds will go to the Kathy Kuhl Memorial Scholarship. *Student Representative Santee* said the SATs will be taken on April 24 and the seniors will work on their Capstone projects. The pre-prom assembly will be held on Thursday, April 26 and the Prom will be on Friday, April 27 at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. *Student Representative Santee* continued, there will be a Band Concert on May 2 and the Freshman Dance will be on Friday, May 4.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Review of Fund Activity Statement

Ms. DiBlasi said they have requested purchase order be closed out in anticipation of the end of the year. And having existing infrastructure issues at several of the schools including some of the pipes that are over 60 years old.

Insurance Cost Update

Superintendent Battista said that insurance is trending better; claims were \$5,839,970 as compared to \$6,006,606 through February 2017. He added that he, *Assistant Superintendent Zamary* and *Ms. DiBlasi* met with Brown & Brown regarding the premium increase and they are still working on a figure that will be presented at the next meeting.

Budget Update

Superintendent Battista said that the budget passed at the first referendum and it has allowed the District to proceed with hiring personnel as well as rolling over the budget, so the District can look at what needs to be purchased for the coming year. He thanked the Parents Council and PTOs for getting the information out to the community and noted it was a joint effort between the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and *First Selectman Kellogg*. *Superintendent Battista* continued there are 10 teachers that need to be hired; it is a lengthy process and they will start bringing the hires to the Board of Education.

Introduction of Masuk High School's Principal

Assistant Superintendent Zamary introduced *Dr. Jacob Greenwood* as Masuk's Principal effective July 1, 2018. He thanked the Search Committee, which was comprised of administrators, teachers, parents, Board members and a student representative, for their diligence throughout the hiring process. *Dr. Greenwood* was selected from a pool of 35 candidates which was narrowed to the top three individuals. *Dr. Greenwood* thanked everyone for the opportunity and said he has already been warmly welcomed by the staff. He added that he looks forward to maintaining the level of excellence that Masuk has achieved.

Presentations

Word of the Week-Dana Firmender

Superintendent Battista said that "this is what makes Monroe and Masuk a great place", *Ms. Firmender*, an English teacher at Masuk and Monroe resident, gave a presentation on the "Word of the Week" Program, she developed and will be implemented in the District. *Ms. Firmender* stated that the program uses vocabulary to strengthen climate throughout the Monroe community. She explained that every week a new "word of the week" will be released to the schools and community for students to learn, recognize, discuss in class and model through their behavior. *Ms. Firmender* stressed that the words are not SAT words but are K-12 appropriate words such as collaboration, honesty and integrity. The words will be displayed in windows of local stores and businesses. She continued that the Word of the Week Program is important because the community collaboration

demonstrates to students that all members of the community are invested in their education. In addition, the program helps K-12 students have a unified vocabulary, can improve school culture and aid in PBIS programs. The Word of the Week Program is currently implemented in the Shelton district and *Ms. Firmender* provided a sample list of words that they use and gave examples of the many ways the word can be integrated into the learning experience.

Ms. Firmender continued that the Word of the Week is voluntary, and teachers can choose how much they want to participate and it can be as simple as introducing the word to their class on Monday morning. Students just need to look for the Word of the Week and be an example of that word. The business owners only need to put the word on display in their window or on their products, such as the example she gave of the bakery writing it on their baked goods.

The committee is currently being formed with representation for each school and a business owner from Monroe. *Ms. Firmender* continued that they hope to have their first meeting in May; as the list of words will be shared on Google docs, there isn't a lot of time needed for meetings outside of school and there is no cost for the program.

Board Member Vaglivo said that it was a great idea; *Superintendent Battista* thanked *Ms. Firmender* for her work on the project. *Board Member Ferris* added that the Word of the Week could also be sent via SchoolMessenger.

Board of Education Professional Development-Next Generation Science Standards

Ms. Casinelli, together with *Jim Stoelzel* and *Roseanne Haughton*, updated the Board on the Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Progress. She said they were fortunate to have implemented STEM with inquiry-based training. The training was so effective, it was shared with the middle and high school levels and then the Elementary grades. *Ms. Casinelli* noted that over 4 years 107 teachers were trained; "it changed our instruction." She continued that there is now a collaborative learning environment with a focus on problem-solving and designing solutions. The NGSS are national and are written with a stronger alignment with Connecticut Common Core Standards in Math and Language Arts. In addition, they are aligned with Teachers College with an emphasis on Claims, Evidence and Reasoning. *Ms. Casinelli* noted that science observation, augmentation and discourse assists in developing language skills. Both *Mr. Stoelzel* and *Ms. Haughton* are involved on state committees on the NGSS and that has been a tremendous benefit to the District. *Ms. Casinelli* discussed the Draft 5-year NGSS Implementation Timeline and said that the District, rather than focus on a specific grade, looked at things the teachers already knew and updated them with NGSS standards and concepts. *Ms. Casinelli* said there is a pilot field test this year and it looks more like the SBAC tests; she provided an example of the type of question that is on the test and noted there are many components and elements that again emphasis critical thinking and problem solving.

The ways the District is preparing students for the NGSS include:

- Sample NGSS question bank
- Developing interim items
- Gizmos online simulations
- Capstone reading materials
- CER items to monitor progress in Grades 3-5

- Science Talk Moves for Grades K-12

Mr. Stoelzel also discussed the Disciplinary Core Idea for Physical Science, Life Sciences, Earth & Space Sciences and Engineering, Technology & Applications of Science. He explained how a concept or area of study can be adjusted for a specific grade level with the NGSS so the concepts a student learns in the elementary grades are built upon as they progress through the grade levels.

Ms. Haughton said that Phenomenon is used at every grade level and again, the skills the students learn from Kindergarten on are reinforced throughout the grade levels and are focused on problem solving, questioning, and collaborating with peers.

Ms. Casinelli said there has been a lot of professional development in preparation for the NBSS, both outside and within the District including:

- Pedagogy for staff and students
- Curriculum
- PLANS (Principals Learn About, Network, and Support 3-Dimensional Science Learning)

Ms. Casinelli said that the next steps in the process include continued involvement in CSDE-level committees, RESC-level consortia on assessment and curriculum writing, new curriculum and materials and ongoing professional development and curriculum writing hours.

Old Business

Policies-Second Review

Motion to approve Policy #5141.4, Reporting Child Abuse, Policy #5145.511 Exploitation; Sexual Harassment; Policy # 5145 Civil & Legal Rights and Responsibilities as presented

Motion: (S. Reilly-Monaco)

Second: (D. Ferris)

Discussion: Board Member Ferris confirmed that the approval was for all three policies.

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivo)-0

18-025

New Business

Healthy Food Certificate

1. Participation in Healthy Food Option
2. Exemption for Food Items Sold Afterschool
3. Exemption for Beverages Sold at Events Afterschool

1. Participation in Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items for sale to

students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

2. Exemption for Food Items: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.
3. Exemptions for Beverages: The board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Ms. DiBlasi said that the District is reimbursed 10¢ for every eligible lunch from the State and the exemptions they are asking for are to sell food that does not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards at afterschool events such as the Great Pumpkin Festival, Stepney International Night and football games. It was noted the healthy school certification does not apply to Masuk; it is only for Grades K-8.

**Motion to approve Healthy Food Certificate item numbers 1,2,3 as presented-
Grades K-8**

Motion: (J. Stevens)

Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivo)-0

18-026

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Motion: (J. Stevens)

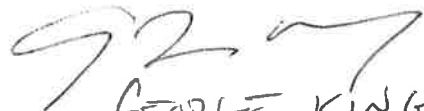
Second: (C. Cascella)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 8 (King, Reilly-Monaco, Cascella, Ferris, Fulchino, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-027

Respectfully submitted,



GEORGE KING - V.C.

Shannon-Reilly Monaco
Board of Education Secretary