

MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monroe, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2018

Present: Chairman Donna Lane
Vice-Chairman George King III
Board Member Christine Cascella
Board Member David Ferris
Board Member Jessica Katuska
Board Member Jerry Stevens
Board Member Alan Vaglivello

Absent: Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco
Board Member Jeff Fulchino
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi

Also present: Superintendent John Battista
Assistant Superintendent Jack Zamarly
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

Chairman Lane reminded the Board members that the Board of Education Goals Workshop will be held on Monday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes

Motion: (D. Ferris)

Second: (J. Stevens)

Discussion: Superintendent Battista announced the resignation of the Stepney Elementary Art Teacher and noted there are 3 openings at Fawn Hollow and 1 at Monroe Elementary that are in the process of being filled.

Motion passed 6 (Lane, King, Ferris, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-028

Reports of the Committees and Liaisons

Masuk Student Representatives

Student Representative Brown said that *Tristan McDonough* was named *Barnum King* and that *Lauren Young* and *Kevin Papscoe* will be honored as *Masuk's Students of the Month* on Friday. He added that *Will Santee* and *Chloe Shawah* were named *CIAC Scholar Athletes* at the annual *CAS-CIAC Scholar Athlete Banquet* at the *Aqua Turf*. *Student Representative Brown* added that they are at the mid-point of the 4th quarter and there will be a *Strings Concert* next Thursday. *Student Representative Santee* added *AP testing* will be taking place and the *spring sports* are concluding. He added that *Maddie Winters* has been elected to join the *Macy's All American Band* and will perform in the *Thanksgiving parade*.

Pension Committee

Board Member Katuska said there was a *Pension Committee meeting* last week for the *First Quarter Review* and that the plan is doing well.

Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

Annual Recognition Ceremony

Superintendent Battista reminded the *Board members* that the *Retirement Recognition Ceremony* will be held on *June 7th* to honor the *16 staff members* retiring from the *District*. *Years of service* will also be recognized and the *Teacher of the Year* will be announced. *Superintendent Battista* noted that all open positions have been posted and he and *Assistant Superintendent Zamar* had an interview with the second *ASSO candidate* today and the feedback on the *Fawn Hollow ASSO* has been very positive.

Insurance Premiums

Superintendent Battista said that *Brown & Brown* has advised the *District* that there will be a *12.75% increase* in insurance premiums; though they will be looking at insurance options, *Brown & Brown* feel that the *District* is still better being self insured at this point. *Board Member Stevens* asked if they have looked at reducing the deductible for a two person family; *Superintendent Battista* said that they had but reducing their deductible would increase the deductibles for singles or for families. He reiterated that they will be reviewing insurance options next year. The *medical reserve* is approximately *\$851,000* and *Superintendent Battista* said they realized some savings when *Brown & Brown* went out to bid for stop loss.

Presentations

BOE Professional Development-Instructional Models used in Monroe-Sheila Casinelli, Michael Crowley, Ian Lowell, Kevin Welch, Roseanne Haughton, Lisa Peterson and Cindy Brooker

Ms. Casinelli and the Instructional Leaders gave a brief overview of the Instructional Strategies used in the District. *Ms. Casinelli* said that in Readers Workshop, the students use the following strategies:

- Stop and Jot
- Turn/Talk
- Conferencing

To support Book Club/Small Group Talk, there are ways to better engage students including “Whisper In” which provides an opportunity for quieter students to become involved, “Proficient Partner” when the teacher joins the discussion and “Research-Decide-Teach” which is another means of generating discussion.

Mr. Lowell continued they also use the Question Formulation Technique which includes the following steps:

- Teachers Design a Question Focus
- Students Produce Questions
- Students Categorize, Share, and Improve Their Questions in Groups
- Students Prioritize their Questions
- Students and Teachers Decide on the Next Steps
- Students Present Findings

Ms. Brooker said they utilize the CPA approach in Elementary Math. They begin with students using concrete tools or manipulatives for the “actual doing” and progress to Pictorial/Representational or the “seeing stage.” The last stage is the abstract which is referred to as the “symbolic stage” She stressed that as it is a progression, the steps must be done in order.

In the middle and high school levels, the District uses technology as a Math Instructional Strategy; the technology includes:

- TI-84 Graphing Calculator
- DESMOS
- Google Form/Big Ideas
- Virtual Manipulatives

It was stated that the calculus teachers are working with IT on using a 3D printer.

Ms. Casinelli said that in Elementary Science, students use the ABCD method to draw their observations:

- Actual, Authentic
- Big
- Colorful, Clear
- Detail, Describe

In middle and high school science, Talk Moves is used where questioning strategies help students make learning public

The four goals are:

1. Individual students share, expand and clarify their own thinking

2. Students listens carefully to each other
3. Students deepen their reasoning
4. Students think with others

Ms. Peterson continued that in World Languages, they use Total Physical Response which follows a natural development of language skills-receptive vs. productive and input vs. output.

Ms. Casinelli concluded by thanking the team for their dedication and collaboration; she added the District is very fortunate to have them on staff.

Old Business

There was none at tonight's meeting.

New Business

2018-2019 Technology Support

Assistant Superintendent Zamary said that technology has evolved from being a place to being a way of learning and that rather than having the 3 technology paraprofessionals, they want to have one certified position to identify technology challenges and needs in the classrooms. The individual will be housed at Central Office and there would be no additional cost or impact to the budget. No vote was necessary and the Board members agreed to the proposal.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Motion: (C. Cascella)

Second: (J. Stevens)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Cascella, Ferris, Katuska, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0

18-029

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Vaglivello
Acting Board of Education Secretary