

**MONROE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monroe, Connecticut**

**Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2017**

**Present:** Chairman Donna Lane  
Vice-Chairman George King III  
Secretary Shannon Reilly-Monaco  
Board Member David Ferris  
Board Member James Martinez  
Board Member Jerry Stevens  
Board Member Alan Vaglivelo

**Also present:** Superintendent John Battista  
Assistant Superintendent Jack Zamary  
Finance Director Gabriella DiBlasi

**Absent:** Board Member Christine Cascella  
Board Member Carlos Reinoso

**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* updated the Board Members on the State budget. She said that the Republican Budget did pass the Senate and House over the weekend, and it will go to the Governor next. *Chairman Lane* noted that the Governor has already stated that he will veto it, and she and many others have emailed him requesting his consideration in passing it.

**Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

**Motion: (S. Monaco)**

**Second: (J. Martinez)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 6 (Lane, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens and Vaglivelo)-0** 17-062

**Reports of the Committees and Liaisons**

**Masuk Student Representatives**

*Student Representative Santee* said there will be two FAFSA workshops on September 19 and October 3. *Student Representative Brown* said there will be a Blood Drive, which is open to the public, on September 28. *Student Representative Santee* continued that Capstone is a major topic at Masuk, and seniors have the option to present early in the fall or in the spring.

## Finance

*Chairman Lane* said the Finance Committee discussed insurance, and as of July 1, there are six individuals with claims over \$50,000. She added that the Stepney Roof Committee will reconvene to close the project and the final walk through will be the first week of October.

*Chairman Lane* continued that they discussed the \$323,000 of unexpended funds from the 2016-17 School Operating Budget, and they would like to put \$60,000 towards the Turf Field and the remaining \$263,000 into the Medical Reserve. A vote will be taken later at tonight's meeting.

## Public Participation

There was none at tonight's meeting.

## Report of the Superintendent

### Review of the Fund Activity Statement

*Ms. DiBlasi* noted that claims were \$1.6 million in August 2017 compared to \$1.3 million in August 2016. She said that they continue to work with Brown & Brown. She added that the State budget is still an unknown.

### Review of the FY2019 Budget Timeline

Superintendent Battista provided the Board Members with a calendar and the budget timeline. The budget will be presented at the December 4 Board of Education Meeting with the first workshop immediately following. It was agreed there will be a second budget workshop on Monday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. If necessary, there will be another budget workshop following the Board of Education Meeting on December 18.

### Update on the 2018 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant

*Assistant Superintendent Zamary* said that the District's application had been rejected but Mr. McDonough will review the winning applications to see how they can improve future submissions.

### Southern Fairfield County Superintendents Association Cooperative

*Superintendent Battista* said that the primary discussion was on the budget and how each county is being impacted. He continued they discussed consolidating and collaborating on services to reduce costs. There will be a meeting on October 13 to continue the conversation.

### Saturday Morning Conversations Update

*Superintendent Battista* said that he, *Assistant Superintendent Zamary* and *First Selectman Vavrek* met at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library on September 9 to have a discussion with the community members. He said they spoke with several parents and the meeting generated ideas for improvement. Superintendent Battista said he felt the "Saturday Conversations" were very successful and all of the First Selectman candidates have agreed to continue them.

## Old Business

There was none at tonight's meeting.

## New Business

### Approval of Masuk High School Capstone Early Release Request

*Principal Kobza* requested a 1:00 p.m. early dismissal day in October for students who opted to present their Capstone project early. He said that typically, there are approximately 60 students who present early but this year, there are nearly 100 students at this point. He said that the bus of running a shuttle bus is nominal in the range of approximately \$200.

### **Motion to approve Masuk High School Early Release for Capstone**

**Motion: (J. Stevens)**

**Second: (S. Monaco)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0 17-063**

Discussion and Approval to establish and appoint members to a Superintendent Search Committee

**Motion that the Monroe Board of Education establishes a Superintendent Search Committee and appoints all the current members of the Monroe Board of Education, as well as any newly appointed or elected members who may take office in 2017, together with a teacher representative, an administrator representative, and a parent representative, to that Committee. The sole purpose of the Committee is to recommend to the Monroe Board of Education, a candidate or candidates for the executive level employment position of Superintendent of Schools**

**Motion: (A. Vaglivello)**

**Second: (J. Martinez)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0 17-064**

Approval of Entering Into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEA for an Off Year Teacher Early Retirement Incentive

*Superintendent Battista* said that there are six employees interested in an Off Year retirement and that there are savings to the District as the pay-out time is stretched out. He noted that it is offered to the first eight individuals and the Memorandum of Understanding states the deadline is October 15, so the District will know prior to budget season.

### **Motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEA for an Off-Year Teacher Early Retirement Incentive**

**Motion: (G. King)**

**Second: (S. Monaco)**

Discussion: Board Member Ferris asked about backfilling the positions; Superintendent Battista said that though any replacements would be at a lower cost, there is a rigorous hiring process to ensure quality hires.

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens, and Vaglivello)-0 17-065**

## Curriculum

*Lisa Peterson*, World Languages, and *Ian Lowell*, History/Social Studies, presented the Board with proposals for materials for AP Spanish and History respectively. *Ms. Peterson* said the requests were due to increased enrollments. These resources will be classroom resources rather than for each individual student. *Mr. Lowell's* proposal was for a historical, non-fiction book, *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five*

*Black Lives*. There are funds in the budget for Ms. Peterson's request, and Mr. Lowell had applied for and received a Weller Foundation Grant, so there was no cost to the District. Both requests had the approval of Curriculum Council and will be up for a vote at the next meeting.

## Policies

*Vice-Chairman King* reviewed the following policies, which are a first review at tonight's meeting:

Policy # 5113-Students-Attendance and Truancy

Policy # 5113.2-Students-Truancy

Policy # 5114-Students-Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Policy # 5125-Students-Student Records; Confidentiality

Policy# 5131-Students-Student Conduct

Discussion and Approval of Allocation of Unexpended Funds from the 2016-2017 School Operating Budget

**Motion to add Unexpended Funds of \$60,000, from the 2016-2017 School Operating Budget to the Capital Reserve Account, per State Statute 10-248a, earmark \$40,000 for Turf Field renewal, and to move \$263,030 to the Medical Reserve account, pending Board of Finance approval. If there is no Board of Finance approval, the entire \$323,030, shall be moved to the Capital Reserve Account, per State Statute 10-248a**

**Motion: (D. Ferris)**

**Second: (S. Monaco)**

Discussion: Superintendent Battista noted that the amount being returned of \$263,030 amounts to 0.59% of the budget.

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens, and Vaglivo)-0 17-066**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

**Motion: (J. Stevens)**

**Second: (D. Martinez)**

Discussion: None

**Motion passed 7 (Lane, King, Monaco, Ferris, Martinez, Stevens, and Vaglivo)-0 17-067**

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Monaco  
Board of Education Secretary