

Monroe School District #1J
Regular Board Meeting
Held at Monroe High School Library
October 10, 2016

The board meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Warden at 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Robert Warden, Tim Warden, Tony Stroda, Nancy Burnett, Superintendent Russell Pickett, Secretary Christine Manley, and Student Council Representative Zack Esplin. Late: Jennifer Gamache.

Also present: LBL-ESD Deputy Superintendent Don Dorman; Employees Whitney Connolly, Julie Stroda, Marie-Louise Martinson, Susan Kolar, Angie Thompson, Kelsey Greydanus, Catherine Otto, Dixie Floyd, Jill Moore, Kathi Holvey, Aaron Seifer, Wendy Unrein, Kerri Hicks; and Patrons Sara Ballard, Lance Horning, Trever Stroda, Christina Hull, and Lisa Young.

The minutes of the September 12, 2016 Board meeting were reviewed. Tony Stroda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Second: Tim Warden. Motion carried 4/0.

Note: Jennifer Gamache arrived.

The agenda was reviewed and the following items were added:

- 3. C. Review of Volunteer Coaches:
 - 3) Lisa Young, Assistant 7/8 Girls Basketball
 - 4) Heidi Sutton, Assistant 7/8 Girls Basketball
- 3. D. Approval to Hire:
 - 1) Jennifer Teran, Special Education Aide
- 3. E. Approve revised District Bank Account signers, effective November 1, 2016

The bills were reviewed and discussed. The revised Bank Account signers list was reviewed.

Robert Warden moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

The thank you letter from Gerding Construction was read. They did an excellent job with the modular set up this past summer.

There were no representatives from the City of Monroe present. There was no public input.

Parent Group Report: They discussed with the children about the “Scary Clowns” talk and rumors. They had lots of volunteers for the Jog-a-thon. They approved funding for lots of field trips and “squishy chairs” to help get the “wiggles” out of primary kids.

Zack Esplin, Student Council Representative, explained that Sprit Week activities and assemblies have been planned, as well as the Homecoming Dance. Also, the Student Council will sell Bennie’s pizza the first Wednesday of each month.

Don Dorman, Assistant Superintendent from Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD introduced himself. He and the Superintendent, Mary McKay, try to get to one board meeting at each district each year. Mylrea Estell has moved from Monroe area region which leaves an opening on the ESD Board. Roger Irvin has applied and, if sworn in next week, will be Board representative for our region.

Enrollment at the end of September was reported as 440 K-12.

Mr. Pickett's administrative report included the following:

- Will present a resolution in November to go with the CM/GC process. When the bond passes in November, we'll be able to start with the CM/GC immediately.
- The grade school boiler is dead. The rental fee for a temporary boiler is \$6,000 per month. A claim has been submitted by the insurance agency.
- He has met with the PTG regarding the Bond Measure. They were very supportive of the bond. He has had the first community bond information meeting. The next informational meeting will be held on October 20th. He will pursue holding a community meeting at the public library.
- New Business Manager, Jennifer Ryun, is working on a grant that would change the Free & Reduced status for Breakfast and Lunch to all students eat free. He is exploring healthier meals and the Farm to School program.
- PERS costs will increase by \$30,000 each year in 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- He will contact Atez and get cost proposals for lead and radon testing.
- He spoke with the Principals regarding the cell phone policy. They have never refused returning a cell phone to a parent when asked. They will review the policy and revised it for next school year.

Grade School class size was discussed with audience members. Concerns and comments included:

- Some classes have reached upward to 40 students.
- Having straight grade classes (as opposed to blended grade classes) has increased class sizes, many with over 30 students. All classes are larger except 1st and 3rd grades.
- Class size matters for children to learn.
- Important for the Board to be aware of the large class sizes.
- Would like the Board to make a recommendation as to what class sizes should be, when to add an additional classroom, and set some type of standard.
- Board member Nancy Burnett commented that she transferred her 6th grader out because he was in a huge class. Some type of standard needs to be set.
- Board member Tim Warden asked about the accelerated learner – are they able to excel in large classes?
- Catherine Otto believes that the teacher's focus is better with a straight grade. Maturity levels are also a concern with blended classes.
- Discipline and focus is a problem in large classes; teacher control is not there.
- Board Member Jennifer Gamache has a child in one of the large classes. Discipline in the classroom is a problem overall, not just an isolated incident.
- A long term solution needs to be made so the students get what they need.

- Building Principal Kathi Holvey explained that she tries to schedule with the child's needs in mind. She stressed blended classes have never been "off the table". She works with staff on how to schedule.
- Sara Ballard explained that she met with Kathi Holvey last spring and was given the impression that grades 6-8 would be split or blended for the core classes.

Mr. Pickett asked for volunteers from the Board to sit on a committee to look at the schedule, set a guiding principle, and work on short and long term solutions. Robert Warden and Jennifer Gamache volunteered. Meeting(s) will be scheduled starting after the next two weeks, no Friday meetings.

The Board reviewed the amended policy and forms. The second reading will be at the November board meeting.

The Board reviewed the Professional Growth & Evaluation Handbook for Speech-Language Pathologists, GCN/GDN-AR-3. This handbook is very similar to the teachers evaluation handbook. Robert Warden moved to approve as presented. Second: Tony Stroda. Motion carried 5/0.

The request to form an Equestrian Club was reviewed. This has affiliation with OSAA but will not interfere with OSAA sports. Bill Crowson is in favor. There were no objections from the Board.

The extended leave request for Nancy Williams was reviewed. She is requesting an additional three days of paid leave and would like to pay for her substitute out of that leave. Tim Warden moved to grant the request. Second: Robert Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

The interdistrict transfer request for Katelyn Hatmaker was reviewed. Her sibling transferred to Monroe earlier in the year. Tony Stroda moved to approve the transfer. Second: Tim Warden. Motion carried 5/0.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Gamache at 8:20 P.M.

Jennifer Gamache, Board Chair

Christine Manley, Board Secretary