

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Administration Office  
February 13, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by School Board President, Mr. Tom Kennedy, at 6:30 P.M. in the Administration Office. Board members in attendance included Mr. Jack Elliott, Mr. Brock Sears, Mrs. Celina Clements, and Mr. Ky Kizzee. Superintendent, Dr. Kirk Freeman, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John Crum, and School Board Attorney, Mr. Steve Harris, were present. Principals, Mr. Mike Springer, Mrs. Brandy Hyatt, and Mrs. Melissa York were also in attendance. MGTA Representatives, Mrs. Casey Honkomp and Ms. Julie Dimmack, were also present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Monrovia High School Parent, Mr. Carl Gilbert, made comments related to personnel and the Monrovia High School Math Program. Mr. Gilbert followed also necessary steps as required by Board Policy 0167.3 Public Participation at Board Meetings. Board President, Mr. Kennedy, thanked Mr. Gilbert for sharing his thoughts.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION**

Student recognition awards are sponsored by the Monrovia Alumni Association each month. Coffey Compass Realty donated pizza coupons to each of our February recipients. Students recognized were Skylar Newcomb, and Brandon Kistler- MES; Eli Hampton- MMS; and Marissa Rodriguez- MHS.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Elliott to approve the Executive Session & Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2023, Work Session Minutes from January 12, 2023, and the Executive Session and Work Session Minutes from January 30, 2023. Mr. Kizzee seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Dr. Freeman shared that the claims were higher this month due to a \$3,000,000.00 CD investment. Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the claims presented in the amount of \$5,350,979.92. Seconded by Mrs. Clements, the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve all personnel recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kizzee and carried 5-0. In regards to personnel changes in the High School Math Department, Mrs. Clements stated that the teachers placed in the math positions are qualified. High School Principal, Mr. Springer, stated that Math Teacher, Mrs. Neibert, has been monitoring the classrooms and assisting with lesson plans during the transitional period. He also shared that there is a math remediation lab that meets a couple days a week after school for interested students. Mr. Elliott discussed the challenges related to finding strong math and science teachers. Dr. Freeman shared that the state recently gave superintendents the legal right to add "supplemental payments" to teachers. Because of this, a school district of this size has difficulty competing for teachers when surrounding districts are able to provide higher salaries and large supplemental payments to attract qualified applicants.

**CONSIDERATION OF 2023-2024 STUDENT TRANSFER APPLICATION**

Dr. Freeman asked the Board to approve the Student Transfer Application for the 2023-2024 school year. There were no changes to the form language or policy. Dr. Freeman stated some grade levels may be capped to new transfer students due to space constraints. Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve the application as presented. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL HEALTH COORDINATOR CONTRACT**

Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John Crum, presented the IU Health School Health Coordinator Contract. The contract provides three (3) years of additional health resources to the district at no cost. Areas of focus may include staff health, kinesthetic learning, and wellness. School Board Attorney, Mr. Steve Harris, reviewed and approved the contract. Mr. Kizzee made a motion to approve the contract. Mr. Elliott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF DECA STATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE TRIP**

High School Teacher, Mr. Matt Hankins, submitted a request for DECA students to travel to Indianapolis to compete in the Career Development Conference. Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Clements seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF WINTER GUARD PERFORMING ARTS TRIP**

Winter Guard Sponsor, Ms. Laura Hannum, submitted a request for performing arts students to travel to Dayton, Ohio for the Winter Guard Championships. Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**MONROVIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

Principal, Mrs. Melissa York, provided highlights regarding recent happenings. Reading Interventionist Teacher, Mr. Chris Noel, shared information related to a new initiative, Passion Projects. No Board action was required on this agenda item.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Freeman shared the following updates with the Board:

**District:**

- District had its first weather closure on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Student transitioned to e-Learning.
- District had a scheduled e-Learning day on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. This was a professional development day for teachers.
- Bulldog Blessings Pantry numbers continue to increase- We are now preparing 55 backpacks per week for elementary, middle, and high school students. Our monthly distribution is still serving approximately 30 families beyond the backpacks. This continues to be an important asset to our community. Dr. Freeman also publicly thanked Monrovia Christian Church for their generous \$1000.00 donation to the pantry.

**Monrovia Elementary School:**

- The One School, One Book Program kicked off in January. *Kenny and the Dragon* was the selection. Mrs. Kemp, who moved to the Librarian position just this year, is doing a fantastic job.
- Students are working on their musical production, Willy Wonka Jr. Performances will take place in March.
- The Lion's club sponsored a Popcorn Party for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to celebrate their service project of creating ornaments for Christmas trees at Citizen's Bank. Mr. Flynn's class won and earned the treasured "Lion."
- 4th graders went on their Special's Field Trip while classroom teachers used the day to work on curriculum mapping. This was another successful, creative way to get our teachers additional development time.

**Monrovia Middle School:**

- Greta Sloan, ELA Teacher, was named 1 of 20 National Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship Recipients!
- MMS participated in a surprise "Welcome Home" for Master Sgt. Robert Van Buren. He surprised his 6th grade daughter at school after a nearly 7 month deployment.
- 7th Grade Girls' Basketball team remains undefeated!

**Monrovia High School:**

- Thank you to Home Bank for their generous \$1000.00 donation to DECA to attend the state conference.
- Wrestling- Josie Hause placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the girls' state competition. Six boys advanced to regionals, 3 advanced to semi-state, and Isaac Ash advanced to the state competition.
- Show Choir showcased their talents at Cabaret Night and performed at a couple competitions as well.
- FFA- Sienna Alexander earned 1<sup>st</sup> place on her Agriculture in Education Proficiency. She will go to State!
- Band was recently recognized at the Indiana Statehouse for musical excellence.
- Communication students recently created Super Bowl presentations. Greg Rakestraw, Dave Furst, and Lance Scheib judged and provided great feedback to students on ways to improve their skills.

Board President, Mr. Kennedy, also acknowledged that Mrs. Walton was on the personnel report for retirement in May after 40 years of service. We wish her a wonderful retirement.

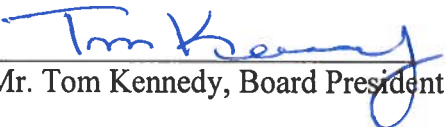
**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following parents provided their name and address and were given 2 minutes to make comments per Board Policy 0167.3.

- Dr. Angela Vaughn-Frederick publicly thanked High School Math Teacher, Stephanie Neibert, for her contributions to the math department and shared comments related to the math program.
- Mr. Carl Gilbert discussed district transparency.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Clements. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M. by School Board President, Mr. Kennedy.

  
Mr. Tom Kennedy, Board President

  
Mr. Brock Sears, Board Secretary