

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Administration Office  
October 9, 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 and School Board Attorney, Mr. Steve Harris were present. Building administrators, Mr. Mike Springer, Mrs. Brandy Hyatt, and Mrs. Melissa York were present as well. In addition, MGTA representatives, Mrs. Casey Honkomp, and Mrs. Julie Dimmack were also present.

**MONROVIA MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

Principal, Mrs. Hyatt, presented information related to new staff, the STRIDE character trait focus, updated spaces, new curriculum in math and science, and future plans to increase parent involvement, student engagement, and student achievement. Mrs. Hyatt shared that student referrals are down nearly 50% compared to last year as a result of multiple changes to include: new cell phone policy, increased education on student expectations, STRIDE focus, positive office referrals, and increased physical activity for all students grades 6-8.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION**

Awards are sponsored by the Monrovia Alumni Association each month. In addition, the Tyler Joseph Williams Memorial Fund honored each student with a Subway coupon. October 2023 recipients were Kassity Stone and Veda Kirk- MES; Harry Harris- MMS; and Mary Cox- MHS.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Elliott to approve the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Mr. Kizzee made the motion to approve claims in the amount of \$1,603,977.84. Seconded by Mrs. Clements, the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the certified personnel report including the separation agreement with Assistant Superintendent, John Crum. Mr. Kizzee seconded, and the motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Clements dissenting. Mrs. Clements requested it be publicly noted that there was unclear communication in regards to the certified personnel report.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the classified personnel report as presented. Mrs. Clements seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF ECA PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Kizzee made a motion to approve the ECA personnel report as presented. Mr. Elliott seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF 2024 BUDGET**

Dr. Freeman recommended the Board approve the 2024 School Budget, Bus Replacement Plan, Capital Projects Plan and the following resolutions: any anticipated 2024 transfers and the appropriations & tax rates (Form 4). Mr. Kizzee made the motion to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Clements and carried 5-0.

Mr. Kennedy requested confirmation that the rate was advertised high with the understanding that it will be brought back down. Corporation Treasurer, Kelly Dillon, confirmed that it is anticipated that the \$1.07 tax rate will remain the same as it has been for the last several years. As with most districts, Mrs. Dillon stated it is better to advertise high and adjust down later.

**CONSIDERATION OF MASTER TEACHER CONTRACT**

Dr. Freeman recommended the Board approve the ratified Master Teacher Contract. There were no public comments. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Sears. The motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION**

I.C. 20-28-9-1.5 provides that a school corporation may provide a supplemental payment to a teacher in excess of the salary specified in the school's compensation plan. Often times, this is due to teaching experience in out of state schools, charter schools, or private schools not previously credited to new hires for salary placement. Dr. Freeman presented a resolution as directed by school counsel to address supplemental payments given to teachers to allow for the payment to recur from school year to school year. Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kizzee seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. It should be noted that the recently bargained contract now contains a provision that permits new hires to be given years of experience credit for out of state, charter school, and private school teaching experience up to five (5) years.

**CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSELOR CONTRACTS**

Dr. Freeman asked the Board to approve the administrator and counselor contracts and salary increases as submitted. Mrs. Clements requested confirmation that the increases were on top of the administrator stipends that were approved at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Freeman confirmed the increases were in addition to the stipends received for additional duties performed throughout the school year. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the contracts. Seconded by Mr. Sears, the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF PAY INCREASES FOR NON-CERTIFIED STAFF**

Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Kelly Dillon, prepared a proposal for pay increases for non-certified staff. Mrs. Clements requested confirmation that some employees on the proposal were getting an increase of \$6,000.00 which is the same as the teachers and administrators. Mrs. Dillon stated that was true based on the role. Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the pay increases as presented. Mr. Elliott seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. Mr. Kizzee abstained from voting.

### **CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) HEARING**

Dr. Freeman explained that school districts seeking E Rate funding are required by law to hold a public hearing to state internet filters are in place and active throughout the school district and board policy regarding school internet usage has been reviewed. There were no public comments, and no action was required by the Board.

### **CONSIDERATION OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Dr. Freeman asked the Board to approve the 2024-2025 calendar as created by the Discussions team. Start and end dates are similar to past calendars. Mrs. Clements made the motion to approve the calendar as presented. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Dr. Freeman shared the following:

#### **District:**

- First 2-hour delay on September 29th due to fog.
- He thanked the Stop In Clinic for providing free biometric screenings for faculty. The Stop In Clinic also provided Farm House Brew gift cards to all of our participants.
- The Bulldog Blessings Pantry continues to see a rising need. The open distribution numbers are higher than they have ever been. The pantry will be conducting a few food drives and requesting holiday sponsorships to help offset the costs associated with the rising need. The athletic teams are involved by donating meal boxes for the holiday distributions.
- National Custodian's Day was October 2nd. Many of our students did service projects to recognize and appreciate the custodial staff. There were posters and sticky notes adorning the doors to acknowledge their hard work.

#### **Elementary School:**

- MES raised over \$13,000.00 through their trash bag fundraiser.
- Mrs. Pierson was awarded the Morgan County Homemakers Teaching grant.
- Kindness Club members welcomed students/staff on Friday with "Fri-Yay Cheers."
- In conjunction with the Ready Schools Initiative, the elementary school has had community members share their career experience with students including Gina Royer, a pilot for Republic Airlines.
- Bruce the Bear and Ms. Cassie visited to celebrate the library's 15th birthday. Bruce read, "Mother Bruce" to our primary grades.
- Duane Abel will be visiting the elementary on October 13th. His presentation "Draw Your Destiny" is said to be a motivational and inspiring presentation for students.

#### **Middle School:**

- 6th graders will attend JA Biztown. This field trip combines in class learning with a visit to a simulated town. It allows students to operate banks, manage restaurants, and vote for mayor. The goal is to help students connect the dots with what they learn in school to the real world.
- 8th graders recently took a trip to Area 31. This was a great opportunity for students to get a glimpse of the high school program offerings.
- MS Boys Cross Country were the Morgan County Champions!
- Zoie Walls won first place in the girls' cross country county competition for the 3rd year in a row. She also placed 12th out of 460 girls at the state competition.

- The 8th grade girls' volleyball team won the Morgan County Tournament. They swept Martinsville and Mooresville in just 2 sets each.
- The MS Football team did extremely well. The 8th grade team had a tremendous record. Coach Bunton and Coach Wirey are doing a tremendous job leading these young men.

**High School:**

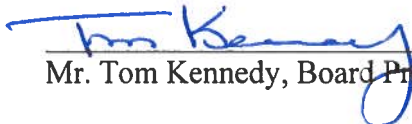
- Spanish teacher, Mr. Campbell, started with last week. He is utilizing the Indiana Online program to ensure an easy transition for students.
- Our communications students recently toured the Ball State Communications program with MHS grads Andrew Willett, Owen DeWeese, Heather Parker, & Max and Matthew Gillie.
- Band state finals will take place later this month. They recently earned Gold with Distinction at their latest competition.
- Concert Choir and Shooting Stars are performing "Fall into Music" on October 11th.
- Avery Wolfe recently advanced to the IHSAA Girls Golf Regionals.
- Girls Soccer won the IHSAA Girls Soccer Sectional!
- MHS will host the IHSAA Girls Volleyball sectional and regional to begin October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no final public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kizzee. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M. by School Board President, Mr. Tom Kennedy.

  
Mr. Tom Kennedy, Board President

  
Mr. Brock Sears, Board Secretary