

**Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Administration Office
November 13th, 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 6:32 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, as well as, administrators, Mrs. Brandy Hyatt and Mrs. Melissa York were present. In addition, MGTA representatives, Mrs. Casey Honkomp, and Mrs. Julie Dimmack were also present.

MONROVIA HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Brian Willett presented information related to the high school broadcasting and band programs.

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. November 2023 recipients were Tate Edwards and Jane Standeford- MES; Peter Adeyemi- MMS; and Allissa Terrell- MHS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Sears to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on October 5, 2023, Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting on October 9, 2023, and Special Meeting on October 23, 203. Mrs. Clements seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Mr. Kizzee made a motion to approve claims in the amount of \$2,780,617.92. The claims were higher due to three (3) payrolls and retro pay to certified staff in accordance with the updated master teacher contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott and carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Kizzee seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Elliott seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ECA PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Kizzee seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF INSURANCE RENEWAL

Dr. Freeman presented the district's liability insurance renewal from EPIC Insurance. While there is an increase in the cost, it is still lower than what other area schools are seeing in terms of increases. There were three (3) specific areas that drove the rate higher to include auto coverage, workers compensation, and special education. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the renewal. Mrs. Clements seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT TRIPS

Transportation Director, Mrs. Minette Elliott, recommended that all student trips over 200 miles be required to obtain private transportation. The costs associated with transportation would be the responsibility of the program and communicated to parents/guardians in advance. Mr. Kizzee made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Sears. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Freeman advised that an error was found related to the previously approved 2024-2025 calendar. The revised calendar includes correct dates for Thanksgiving Break which occur a week later than normal in 2024. Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve the revised calendar. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CHRISTMAS STIPEND AND BONUSES

As per previous years, Dr. Freeman recommended a Christmas stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 each for administrators, certified, and classified staff. In addition, he recommended gift card bonuses for contractual staff including technology, cafeteria, safety officers, and therapists not to exceed \$100.00 as deemed appropriate by administration. Mr. Kennedy thanked Dr. Freeman for providing clarification that the funding would come from the Rainy Day fund that is funded appropriately to provide such bonus. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve as recommended. Mr. Sears seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. Mr. Kizzee abstained from voting.

CONSIDERATION OF CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT

Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Dillon, submitted an updated list of employees to receive the cell phone compensation of \$50.00 per month. Landdy Antoine, Multilingual Instructional Aide, was added to the list due to her time spent connecting with multilingual families. Mrs. Clements made a motion to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sears and carried 4-0. Mr. Kizzee abstained from voting.

FIRST READ- NEOLA BOARD POLICY SPECIAL UPDATES

Special updates were presented for consideration. The updates are a result of changes to legislation including HEA 1447, HEA 1001, and SEA 342. Updated policies include 1521, 3121, 4121, 2520, 3120.02, 5710, and 9130. Dr. Freeman will ask for approval of these updates in December. Board action is not required at this time.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Dr. Freeman shared the following:

District:

- Architects and engineers with Fanning Howey were on campus to analyze existing infrastructure and meet with administrators regarding future needs. Their findings will be made available to the Board in January.
- The pantry distributed over 80 coats to students in need. The pantry continues to gear up for a busy holiday season. It's been great to see the school community come together to help meet the needs of the pantry. Athletic teams, clubs, community partners have donated food items and provided sponsorships.
- Ready Schools - The committee is currently working on a graduate profile. Mr. Andrew Grismore will present updates to the Board in December.

Elementary School:

- The Veterans Day program was a success. Faculty and students did a great job of organizing.
- Intermediate students enjoyed a fun filled Colt's Day.
- Students are currently working hard on their holiday card entries. This is always a fun and creative project.
- Running club has 80 participants this year. Mrs. Keefer is doing an incredible job leading this club.

Middle School:

- Spooktacular Day of Learning- Classrooms were transformed to provide a fun day of learning.
- Sixth graders prepared passion projects in Mrs. Swafford's Exploratory Learning Course.
- Eighth grade AG students presented community service projects that they would like to implement to make their community a better place.
- Teachers began small group intervention work and are implementing personalized instruction.

High School:

- High School Veteran's Day Program was also a success. Many community veterans were able to join.
- Band placed 5th at the state championship at Lucas Oil. This was their 18th visit to the state competition.
- FFA students attended the 96th National FFA Convention downtown. They were able to attend general sessions, speak with colleges and future employers, and interact with other FFA members.
- DECA students attended the 2023 DECA Leadership Conference downtown. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about DECA, leadership roles, preparing for competitions, and to network.
- Thirteen (13) different colleges or post- secondary programs have visited MHS since school began.
- Military branches to include the Marines, Navy, and National Guard have all made lunch room visits.
- PSAT was administered to 60 students. Juniors will take the SAT in March.
- ASVAB was administered to 40 students. This is an assessment to help predict student success in the military. It will be offered again in April.
- Financial Aid Information Night was held in late October. FAFSA completion night will occur in February.
- Looking ahead- The SpongeBob Musical will have performances soon, and winter sports are gearing up!

In addition, Mr. Steve Harris, School Board Attorney, informed the Board that the General Obligation Bonds will close on December 5th. The district will receive the money shortly thereafter. Mr. Harris explained he needed to obtain formal signatures from the President, Mr. Kennedy, and Secretary, Mr. Sears, after the meeting.

Dr. Freeman also shared that the April 2024 Board meeting is scheduled for the day of the solar eclipse in which the campus will be shut down. This is a preplanned e-learning day for students. The Board rescheduled the meeting to April 15th, 2024.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no final public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sears, and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M. by School Board President, Mr. Tom Kennedy.



Mr. Tom Kennedy, Board President



Mr. Brock Sears, Board Secretary