

Monroe-Gregg Board of School Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Administration Office
December 11, 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 6:40 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, Mr. Mike Springer, Mrs. Brandy Hyatt, and Mrs. Melissa York were present. In addition, MGTA representatives, Mrs. Casey Honkomp, and Mrs. Julie Dimmack were also present.

READY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Mr. Andrew Grismore, Middle School Math Interventionist and Ready Schools Coordinator, presented information regarding the Ready Schools Initiative. Mr. Grismore discussed the “Graduate Profile” to include common languages to be utilized across the buildings as early as kindergarten through graduation. He also discussed the goal to create additional graduation pathways to provide even more opportunities for our students. Finally, he discussed the importance of creating an early warning system to identify students who are a high risk of intervention need. Dr. Freeman stated the vertical alignment of curriculum amongst the buildings will be another important step in this initiative.

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. December 2023 recipients were Emerson Lockwood and Bentlee Swails Herzog- MES; Lilah Behling- MMS; and Daniel Jones- MHS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Clements to approve the minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting on November 13, 2023. Mr. Kizzee seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Mr. Sears made a motion to approve claims in the amount of \$3,631,207.74. The claims were higher due GO bond payments, TAG grant payouts to teachers, reimbursable expenditures made for a number of grants, and Christmas bonuses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott and carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Kizzee made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Mrs. Clements seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION OF ECA PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION OF BOARD POLICY SPECIAL UPDATES

Special updates were presented to the Board for a first read in November's meeting. The updates are a result of changes to legislation including HEA 1447, HEA 1001, and SEA 342. Dr. Freeman asked that the board approve NEOLA's recommended updates as presented. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the updates. Mr. Kizzee seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Dr. Freeman shared the following:

District:

- The Multilingual Outreach Event was held on December 5th. It was another successful event.
- Bulldog Blessings Pantry served 42 families in the November open distribution and provided Thanksgiving meal boxes. Currently, there are over 40 families signed up to receive Christmas meals.
- We initiated a new after school program for MS/HS students to keep students and facilities safe. Students now report to the cafeteria between 2:45-5:45 Monday-Thursday.
- Francine Hinshaw, bus driver, will be retiring after 30.5 years of service to Monroe-Gregg Schools.

Elementary School:

- Fifth grade students created ornaments for the Lions Club. This year, they were able to use a glow forge donated by the PTO to create their ornaments. Stop by Citizens Bank to see the ornaments on display.
- Students donated \$1 to dress up in a daily theme. They raised over \$1,000.00. Student Council used the funds on a field trip to purchase gifts for families in need in the community.
- Jenna Williamson, 5th grader, won the Circle of Lights coloring contest. She won \$529 for her future college and was able to flip the switch at the Circle of Lights celebration downtown.

Middle School:

- National Jr. Honor Society is selling candy grams to raise funds for the Morgan County Humane Society.
- SADD Club put together stockings for the pantry. They also sponsored a local child in need for Christmas.
- MMS Cheer hosted a semi-formal dance on 12-8.
- MMS is hosting a fundraiser on 12-14. U-Paint Pottery will be here to sell ceramic pieces that students can paint and have delivered back before break.
- Students are preparing to take the I-Ready Mid-Year Diagnostic this week. The results of these tests will provide the information needed to determine each student's personalized instruction.

High School:

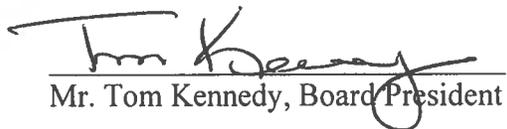
- The SpongeBob Musical was a great success!
- The Holiday Band Concert featuring both MS and HS students was December 6th. We have a number of talented musicians! It was a great performance.
- The Christmas Concert is December 15th. This also is a combination of middle and high school students.
- FFA had their annual Breakfast with Santa this past Saturday!
- Varsity Cheer won their 7th consecutive Conference Championship!
- The Chicago Journal recently featured an excellent article on Chelsea Wallace, varsity soccer player.
- Winter sports are off to a great start.
- Unified games have started back up! This continues to be a fantastic part of our basketball program!
- Girls and boys basketball are both going strong.
- Wrestling is just kicking off their season!

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. Kizzee, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M. by School Board President, Mr. Tom Kennedy.


Mr. Tom Kennedy, Board President


Mr. Brock Sears, Board Secretary