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**MONROE-GREGG SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES of the REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**for the SCHOOL BOARD of TRUSTEES**

DATE: Monday, September 8, 2025    TIME: 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Administration Office

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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. Ky Kizzee, at 6:37 P.M. in the Administration Office. Board members in attendance included Mr. Kevin Blundell, Mr. Brock Sears, Mr. Jack Elliott and Mr. Tom Kennedy. Superintendent, Mr. Trent Provo; Corporation Treasurer, Mrs. Moriah Crane; and School Board Attorney, Mr. Steve Harris, were present. The following 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.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION**

Student recognition awards are sponsored by the Monrovia Alumni Association each month. In addition, the Midway Auction honored each student with a restaurant gift card. The September 2025 award recipients were Sterling Pruitt and Willow Evans from elementary; Emmanuel Babajide from middle school; and Aubrie Pierson from high school.

**PRESENTATION ON FACILITY STUDY**

Mr. Kyle Miller and Ms. Anna Marie Burrell presented the updates on the facility study and the status of the study. There was discussions with regards to suitability score, assessment of condition summaries, staff input, energy analysis summary, vacant land evaluation, space programing/functional capacity summaries, priorities and preliminary project costs across the school district facilities. There was clarification that the suitability score was an average for the seven categories and is weighted on dollars to build.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

*{At 7:27 P.M., the Regular Board Meeting was temporarily suspended.}*

*{At 7:27 P.M., the Board President opened the public hearing for the 2026 Budget.}*

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

Mr. Provo mentioned that the budget was advertised ([http://budgetnotices.in.gov/Unit\\_View.aspx?unit\\_id=2617](http://budgetnotices.in.gov/Unit_View.aspx?unit_id=2617)) on Gateway as required per the Department of Local Government of Finance (DLGF) on the notice to taxpayers' publication. Mr. Provo explained the process and the amounts with regards to the maximum estimated taxpayer funds in the raining day, debt fund, education and operations funds. Mr. Provo went over the budget estimated appropriations that were requested and explained the process, along with mentioning that the tax rate was projected at \$1.07. Mr. Kennedy asked if these numbers were based on our current budget and if these numbers included the anticipated legislative reductions (of assessed value) that were expected from the Indiana Senate Bill 1. Mr. Provo confirmed that the estimated \$2,600,712 of the maximum \$4,353,083 anticipated levy amount (in the operation fund) was based on the current property tax rates.

Mr. Provo reviewed the projected costs on the bus replacement plan and capital project plan. Mr. Perry McCubbins, Head Mechanic/Outside Grounds Director, stated the cost of buses have increased from 126,000 to 159,000 currently. Mr. Provo stated the items listed are projections with regards to the purchases, projects and cost estimates. The adoption resolutions will be presented at the October board meeting. There were no public comments.

*{At 7:35 P.M., the Board President adjourned the public hearing for the 2026 Budget.}  
{At 7:35 P.M., the Board President opened the Additional Appropriation Hearing.}*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

During the public hearing, Mr. Provo stated that M-GSD will make a request to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) for an additional appropriation of \$800,000 for our operations fund due to exceeding our current budget projections. Mr. Provo stated actual costs have been higher than originally projected especially with regards to our utility costs. There will be a review of our cash balances during this process to assure available funds for the appropriation. The adoption resolution will be presented at the October board meeting. There were no public comments.

*{At 7:38 P.M., the Board President adjourned the Additional Appropriation Hearing.}  
{At 7:38 P.M., the Board President reconvened the Regular Board Meeting and continued to the next agenda items.}*

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Elliott to approve the minutes for the Special Board meeting from July 31, 2025 and the Regular Board meeting from August 11, 2025. Mr. Sears seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Mr. Provo presented outstanding claims in the amount of \$1,710,164.70 and payroll vouchers in the amount totaling \$756,267.72. The individual payroll vouchers were for the following amounts: \$369,621.64 from August 8, 2025, \$1,151.75 from August 12, 2025, and \$385,494.33 from August 22, 2025. Mr. Provo mentioned the following individual payments that were a part of this month's claim report: Energy Harness - \$180,892.26, Howard Energy - \$93,706.00 for speakers, Turnkey Mechanical - \$53,891.00 for the elementary water heater replacement. These claims were paid from bonds. In addition, the following claims were paid out of the education fund for curricular materials: IXL - \$15,657.50; Savvas Learning \$58,465.95, and several others that were under \$5,000 each. There was another educational expense paid to Area 31 MSD-Wayne which was the last installment for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$35,239.22 Mr. Sears asked if the lighting project has stayed within our original projected cost. Mr. Provo confirmed the project has stayed within the original cost projections. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the claims and payroll vouchers as presented. Mr. Sears seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION**

Mr. Provo asked the board to approve the recommendation; along with thanking Mrs. Kellie Bungard for her efforts serving our preschool age students. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Provo mentioned the resignation of Mr. Scott Hamilton, our Safety Director, and his sincere appreciation for all his efforts while at M-GSD. M-GSD has a plan in place, in the interim, until the position can be filled which will be provided by our on-duty officers. Mr. Provo asked the board to approve the recommendations as present. Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Blundell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF ECA PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Provo asked Mr. Jon Regashus, Athletic Director, to explain a couple of the staff recommendation. Mr. Regashus stated that Samantha Harvey was recommended as a change in status from a stipend of \$1622 to \$2713, as she is the HS volleyball assistant, including coaching the JV team. Baylee Wilson helps the high school team but she is receiving the smaller stipend; even though, this stipend is labeled as "JV." This is a consistent practice with what happens in other sports where the coaches dictate the roles that assistant coaches have, even if they do not match exactly to the title on the stipend.

Mr. Regashus also stated that Baylee Wilson is coaching the 7th grade and 8th grade teams by herself. Ms. Wilson's status changed so that she is receiving one full head coaching stipend and one full assistant coaching stipend, and only half of the other head coaching and assistant coaching stipend per the contract. She was initially recommended for a full stipend for both 7th and 8th grade. Mr. Regashus stated the pool of funds for volleyball coaching positions still matches what is in the contract. This is consistent with what is currently being done in other sports. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Provo asked that the board accept the recommendations as presented for our substitute personnel. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Blundell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE 2025-2026 M-GSD SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN UPDATES**

Mr. Provo stated that Mr. Scott Hamilton, Safety Director, made minor language changes. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendations. Mr. Blundell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES**

Mr. Provo stated that after the downsizing of our custodial staff there was a meeting with the remaining custodial staff to discuss the plan to cover the custodial duties. At that time, the custodians agreed with their change in duties. Within one week, the night custodian, at the elementary school, resigned because of this there was a shortage needing resolved.

Due to this unforeseen change in staff, M-GSD researched the option of an outside agency providing the service. There were three quotes received from the following: Stratus - \$3,900-4,000, Sherwood Services -\$4,400, and Eclipse Staffing: \$3,760 per month. Mr. Provo stated that if M-GSD was to hire an evening custodian, it would cost the corporation approximately \$4,755 per month including their benefits. If the services are contracted, there will be a cost savings for M-GSD.

Mr. Provo stated that after reviewing all the options his recommendation to the board is to approve the contract with Eclipse Staffing at \$3,760 per month for janitorial services in the evening at the elementary. If approved, the contract would include 40 hours per week; responsibilities will include all restrooms (student and staff), nurses' clinic, hallways, lobby, and front office space. The contractor will also pick up all trash left outside classrooms and dispose of it in the dumpster. Mr. Sears wanted to confirm that the cost of going with the contracted agency was less than the replacement of the position internally. Mr. Provo agreed with Mr. Sear's comment and also mentioned this is largely due to the paying out of employee benefits along with the hourly wages. There was discussion with regards to the contracted agency and the fact that the agency would be conducting any background checks. M-GSD administration will evaluate and review performance of work duties on regular bases.

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Sears seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF VIRTUAL PROGRAM – MONROVIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

Mr. Provo asked the board to approve the creation of the Monrovia Virtual Academy. There was information sent out to the community to gauge interest by asking those interested to complete a survey. There were approximately 31 students interested in attending, of those interested approximately 23 are current M-GSD students. When using a virtual learning setting, the state funding percentage would decrease to 85%. Of that 85%, the district will only receive 64% of the state funding and the virtual vendor used by the district would receive 21%. However, in some of these cases, the district would end up losing 100% of state funding as the student would withdraw and attend another virtual on-line learning provider because of the lack of M-GSD having a program in place. It was noted that there are other surrounding schools with similar programs. Mr. Provo mentioned consulting with Mr. Chad Blacklock, M-GSD financial consultant from Stifel with regards to a virtual program. Mr. Kennedy asked if there is a stop gap and inquired about marketing of the program. Mr. Provo stated that there is a screening/interview process for each interested candidate, along with receiving staff input and there would also be limited availability for the program. In regards to the marketing, M-GSD will continue to

communicate with the community. Mr. Blundell inquired about the timeline and process to return to regular school setting learning (if desired). Mrs. Leslie Gillie, Alternative Education Director and Multilingual Programming, stated that the preferred timespan would be one year prior to transitioning. If there is a need to review the educational setting, a parent/student meeting would be arranged to discuss. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that per the contract the student would be required to take state testing on-site and would be a part of our overall district scores. Mr. Sears inquired on the qualifications for the student. Mr. Provo stated that this is a more robust style learning with students that would be more self-motivated and those that desire a more independent learning style. Mr. Sears asked if these students would be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities including athletics. In regards to extra-curricular activities, these students would need to live within M-GSD and per IHSAA the student would need to attend at least one on-site class per semester. Depending on the time of enrollment and grade level, the student may be required to wait a period of time prior to participating in the athletic season. Per the contract, transportation of the student would be the responsibility of the family/student. There will be a review of the student success during the process which includes grades, attendance and state testing by the current staff. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the development of a virtual program. Mr. Blundell seconded and the motion carried 4-1; with Mr. Elliott dissenting. Mr. Provo mentioned that M-GSD will be reaching out to those families that expressed an interest in the program to start the process.

**PERMISSION TO RECEIVE A DONATION TO THE OPERATIONS FUND**

Mr. Provo asked that the board approve the donation and wanted to publicly thank Mr. Andy Jones for his willingness to waive the labor fees for the recent service he provided to M-GSD. Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kennedy seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**PERMISSION TO RECEIVE A DONATION TO THE FFA ECA ACCOUNT**

Mr. Provo asked that the board approve the generous donation to the FFA ECA account from the Monrovia Alumni Association to be used to help fund their national convention costs. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Sears seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Provo read a prepared statement.

The following are items that were mentioned:

- Senate Enrolled Act 1: The impact on the cash balance reductions in the education and operation funds has resulted in M-GSD making some difficult choices. As a way of being transparent, on July 30<sup>th</sup>, there was communication shared with staff and the community with regards to staff reductions.
- Mr. Provo addressed some the reactions to these necessary reductions and personal attacks on social media toward M-GSD and our staff members.
- Mr. Provo stated that he is the one responsible for the decisions that affect the corporation. The decisions made concerning reduction in spending are very difficult and there may be more reduction depending on the effects of the SEA 1.
- Mr. Provo extended the offer to schedule time to talk with him directly with regards to questions and/or concerns.
- M-GSD will continue to communicate with the staff and community regarding the school district.

Other District Related Items:

- Grant Updates
  - Garden Grant (through Whole Kids Foundation)
  - Safety Grant
  - Digital Learning Grant
- Multilingual Family Resource Night – Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 P.M.

- Professional Development Day – Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Classroom Management,
  - Cultural Awareness,
  - Mandated Report for Child Abuse & Neglect,
  - Navigating a Classroom with a Diabetic, Epileptic, or Severe Allergy Student,
  - The power of Music to Unite
  - Importance of Employee Wellness with Chair Yoga, Benefits-Health Saving Accounts 101
- Monrovia Elementary School
  - Trash Bag Sales
  - Garden Grant (for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – from Whole Kids Foundation)
- Monrovia High School
  - FFA – Fall Mum & Blueberry Pick up on September 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Girls’ Cross-Country Champions
  - Boys’ Cross-Country – 2 top 10 finishes (Colten Smith-2<sup>nd</sup> & Jacob Williamson-9th)
  - Singing Stars for August
    - Concert Choir - Madelynn Snedegar
    - 2nd period 6th grade boys - Kyden Moryn
    - 3rd Period 6th grade girls - Claire McDonald
    - 7th Grade - Payton King
    - 7th period 6th grade girls - Aubrie Keller
    - Shooting Stars - Haley Smith

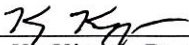
Mr. Kennedy expressed his appreciation for Mr. Provo’s public comments and stated that social media responses can be extremely unfair. Mr. Kennedy made the suggestion to share periodically a document with frequently asked questions on school budget and finances.

**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Sears and motion carried 5-0. The Board President, Mr. Kizzee, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.



Mr. Ky Kizzee, Board President



Mr. Jack Elliott, Board Secretary