

Monroe County Schools

News Release

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Achievements and needs at the Monroe County Technical Center were the leading topics of discussion at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Board of Education held November 22, 2005, as part of the Board's visits to each school. Local School Improvement Council Chair, Don Dransfield, made a presentation on behalf of the Technical School, which included a review of academic achievements and goals set by the school for the upcoming school year.

Dransfield then introduced Pam Hensley, nursing instructor, who introduced Stephanie Frazier and Chastity Galford, two students who demonstrated techniques for addressing medical terminology, the only course for which the school did not achieve standard the past school year. Hensley and Paul Lovett, Director of Vocational Education, both said they believed the school's efforts to address this weakness would result in improved achievement this spring.

Cody Pence, student of the Computer Integrated Manufacturing class, demonstrated the methods used to take an object and program a machine to make the object either in a mill lathe or other tool-making machine. He described several projects he had worked on, entering "G-codes" for the purpose of instructing the machine how to make cuts into the metal. He noted that the up-to-date software used by the Technical School allowed students to see whether their plans would be successful or not, since the machine would also demonstrate the failure of particular cuts if the program was wrong. He said that virtual learning was much safer since it allowed them to correct their mistakes without wasting material. They would eventually be creating projects out of soft materials to see the accuracy of their programming.

Tricia King, agriculture teacher, and Quentin Crawford, teacher of the building program, both described progress being made toward their programs. Charlie Sams, Board President, reported on the recent visit to the School Building Authority to request funding to finish out the facility needs for both programs. He and Superintendent Lyn Guy, both reported that they felt good about the reception from the SBA members, and that if money was available, finishing out the improvements at the Technical School was a priority with the SBA Board.

Steve Ballangee, speaking on behalf of the baseball program at the high school, along with John Mustain, Donnie Evans, and Bob Williams, described their interest in providing lights for both the softball and baseball programs at the high school. Noting a projected cost of over \$200,000, the group provided information about their plans to seek grants, as well as the actual plans for the lighting project. Mustain and Ballangee described efforts made thus far to improve the baseball field, as well as the needs on the fields to bring them up to standards. Board members were interested in assisting the group, particularly with the urgently needed improvements and while the issue was not on the agenda for consideration at this meeting, stated they would address the issue at the next board meeting.

Under Policy, the board reviewed changes to the Service Personnel Personal Leave Bank Policy, recommended by the Board of Trustees for the Leave Bank. The changes recommended would require the Board of Trustees to be represented only by those schools where individuals were participating in the Leave Bank. Since neither James Monroe, nor the Technical School had service personnel participating in the Leave Bank, they should not be required to provide a representative for deciding how to allocate the sick days to a participant whose serious illness had eliminated their sick leave. Board members approved the recommended changes.

Under New Business, the Board approved budget supplements, transfers, and paying bills as recommended. They adopted the new mileage rate reimbursement rate, which reduced the rate from 48.5¢ per mile to 40.5¢ per mile, effective December 1.

Board members approved the levy budgets for the Technical School and Mountain View School and approved a contract with Valley Health Associates for physical therapy services.

Under Personnel, the Board approved the resignations of Trina Shoda as cheer coach at Peterstown Middle, and Pat Fick as Title I instructor at Peterstown Elementary.

Pam Wickline was granted education leave for second semester, which would allow her to work three days a week in order to take classes the other two. Kevin Fullen was removed as a substitute bus operator and the following extracurricular positions were filled: Lisa Canterbury, girls assistant basketball coach at James Monroe; Donna Boothe, assistant girls basketball coach at Peterstown Middle; David Mathis, \$1 assistant to boys basketball at James Monroe; and Lisa Jennings, Spelling Bee assistant at Peterstown Middle.

The following individuals were employed through grant funding: 21st Century after school program: Donna Boothe, Merri Hess, Jane Kersey, Lynda Lindsey, Rhonda Nicewonder, Sue Thomas and Terri Walker. For the McKinney-Vento Grant, the following tutors: Lynda Lindsey, David Witt, David Johnson, Deborah Mathis, Courtney Davis and Anne Lambert. For Teen Leadership: Brenda Bowers and April Hobson.

Under Discussion and Information, the Board reviewed the survey on coaching salaries prepared by the Superintendent; agreed that Charlie Sams would serve as the Board's representative on the Service Personnel Leave Bank; discussed issues with Band Boosters at James Monroe and heard a report on attendance during Monday and Tuesday, days that had previously been vacation days for students and staff. The calendar change had been made at the

request of both parents and staff who wanted a longer spring break, Guy said. With the Legislature requiring a certain number of days for instruction between August 26 and June 9, it is impossible to both have the week off during Thanksgiving and then have a guaranteed spring break if we want to keep the winter break as it is right now. With county-wide student attendance at less than 65% for Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, it was apparent that many students (and staff), decided to take the days off, regardless of how they were scheduled.

It is difficult to move forward with instruction, Guy said, when less than 50% of the students are in school, as occurred at James Monroe. The calendar would need to be reviewed for the upcoming school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next regular meeting will be December 6, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the Board Office in Union.