

Monroe County Schools

News Release

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WhoRAH! Coordinator Becky Yost opened the regular meeting of the Monroe County Board of Education held June 19, 2006, with a salute to three Peterstown Middle School students who copped the annual Golden Horseshoe award, and their teacher, Linda Coffman, who herself is eligible for a Golden Horseshoe by virtue of having coached so many winning students in the past several years.

Tanya Turner, Amber Dunn and Tanner Beasley were all three awarded plaques honoring their achievement at the meeting, as was Linda Coffman. Shirley Neel and Cheryl Hunter, outgoing board members, were also honored for their service to Monroe County Schools. Mrs. Hunter served a four year term as board member. Mrs. Neel came on the Board in February filling in for the completion of a term that ends June 30. Both women received plaques in honor of that service.

Becky Yost, wearing another hat, this time as food service coordinator, reported to the Board that she was probably going to have to request a ten cent increase on the cost of breakfast in order to meet rising costs. This would bring the cost of a breakfast to 60 cents.

Paul Lovett, vocational director, spoke to the board about a need for vocational teachers to work with their students as advisors and to help those students who needed extra help in order to pass end of course examinations. Lovett spent a good bit of time explaining the need for additional time with vocational students, noting that the student advisory period each day was 25

minutes. During the course of the school year, that time added up to over 75 hours, Lovett said, “and that’s time we can use to help students succeed.” Following a considerable discussion, Board members voted unanimously to endorse the proposal to have vocational teachers provide remediation and other instruction during the advisory period, noting that scheduling concerns would need to be addressed first.

Following these delegations, the Board went into executive session for a student expulsion hearing and upon return voted to place the Peterstown Middle School student back in the regular program but to file legal charges against the student for multiple tobacco possession/use infractions.

Under Policy Development, the Board tabled two policies for later discussion and adopted an amendment to Policy DLA Overtime that would prevent service personnel from serving as coaches due to Fair Labor Standards Act concerns involving overtime. Service personnel could volunteer to be coaches, with minor expenses to be paid by the school; however, service personnel cannot receive a salary as a coach under the policy.

Under New Business, the Board approved budget supplements, transfers and paying the bills as presented. Three student transfers were approved, as was the renewal of the maintenance agreement with Mason & Barry for the 06-07 school year. The Bank bid was awarded to the Bank of Monroe with an APR of better than 5% for the 2007 fiscal year.

A request to rent a van by the vocational school for a trip was approved, as was extended contracts for tech center employees working on grant-related programs for the summer.

Under personnel, the Board approved the superintendent’s recommendation to suspend an employee five days without pay for violations of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act.

The Board also approved the retirement of Herb Thomas as bus operator and the resignation of Gretchen Graves as Title I reading instructor at Mountain View School. Individuals for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and other grant-driven summer programs were hired. Randall Mills transferred to the Dorr bus run and Judy Ann Meadows was hired as a special education teacher for James Monroe High School.

Under the Superintendent's Report, Lyn Guy reported on the State Scholars initiative being started in West Virginia for the 06-07 school year and the fact that Monroe County, along with Braxton, Ohio, and Wood will be pilot counties for the implementation of graduation honors for those students who undergo a rigorous schedule through the four years of high school. Guy said West Virginia has applied for this designation for the past several years through the Education Alliance. West Virginia joins 21 other states in this initiative.

Guy provided information concerning enrollment of elementary students at Peterstown and Mountain View, noting staffing problems that were occurring as one school might have 90 students in a grade level, and the other school having 50 in the same grade.

Three firms have submitted expressions of interest for the engineering work required to replace the heating and ventilation units at James Monroe High School. Guy said a committee would interview to rank the firms and then submit that information to the School Building Authority as well as the county board for approval.

The metal building construction project for the Monroe County Technical School is currently being bid, Guy said, noting that the opening of bids would occur at 2:00 on July 25.

Finally, Guy told Board members about a creek clean-up project being conducted by the Town of Peterstown and gained permission for the volunteers to work on Board property for this

purpose. She said the Energy Express mentors would assist in the project as a community project for these college students working with young readers at Peterstown Elementary and Mountain View beginning June 25.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Because a quorum was not available for a meeting on July 3, 2006, the Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on July 11, 2006, for its regular meeting.