

**Monroe County Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
James Monroe High School**

I. Roll Call

- a. Prior to roll call, Board of Education Members and members of the public were treated to a Drill and Ceremony exhibition by the members of the JMHS JROTC program.
- b. Mr. Lively called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Larry Mustain.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The pledge was led by JMHS Seniors Jesse Beasley and Ashton Harvey.
- b. The National Anthem was performed by C. Chord Settle.
- c. JROTC Members Emily McKinney and Ryan Payne presented U.S. Air Force Veteran Mr. Lively and U.S. Army Veteran Dr. Siers with an invitation to the JROTC Ball.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Mr. Sams moved to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2012 BOE Meeting. The vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. Presentations

- a. Mrs. Lisa Mustain, JMHS Principal, informed the board that James Monroe High School currently has 21 seniors, seven juniors, and three sophomores who have scored high enough on the ACT Test to qualify for the WV Promise Scholarship. Mrs. Mustain attributed much of the success of these students on the ACT to the efforts of Mr. Rick Eades, JMHS Science Teacher, and asked him to present the students to the Board. Mr. Eades read the names of the following students: Seniors- Cody Allen, Jesse Beasley, Shea Boothe, Samantha Clarkson, Levi Crozier, Dakota Doherty, Allison Ferguson, Chris Frazier, Ashton Harvey, John Hunter, Bradley Jackson, Hanna Jackson, Melissa Johnson, Wesley Jones, Carrie Moran, Dustin Pence, Nancy Perrine, Chris Pitzer, Ridge Sibold, Ariel Thomas, and Chelsey Urquhart; Juniors- Cassidy Hedrick, John Mustain, Anna Pace, Aaron Paynter, Micaela Ramsey, Chord Settle, and Kayla Trent; Sophomores- Emma Baker, Jared Boone, and Eli Judy. He concluded by stating that it was an honor to get to work with such high achieving motivated students and reminded the Board members that the number of Promise Scholarships has been increasing at JMHS for several years. Five students qualified in 2008, nine students qualified in 2009, 19 qualified in 2010, and 27 qualified in 2011.
- b. Mrs. Mustain presented the Prudential Spirit of Community Award to JMHS student Carrie Moran.
- c. Mrs. Mustain recognized the accomplishments of the JMHS Math & Science team which had recently qualified to participate in the WV State Math & Science Tournament in Morgantown. The team was coached by Mr. Rick Eades and Mr. David Johnson while the team captain was JMHS Senior Chris Pitzer. Mr. Eades recognized all of the members of the team and presented them to the Board. Mrs. Mustain stated that the

trip to Morgantown could not have happened without the financial support of community businesses including the Bank of Monroe and Robert Parker Insurance.

- d. Mrs. Mustain concluded her presentation by stating that the board had just witnessed a small sample of the great academic achievements that are going on at James Monroe High School. She stated that the JROTC, led by LTC Womack and MSG Wiley, has been an excellent addition to JMHS and that these students had accomplished much in a short period of time including finishing higher than the JROTC Drill Team from Greenbrier East High School at a recent competition in Lewisburg, WV. She also recognized the contribution of all of the JMHS teachers for participating in the Dropout Prevention mentoring program which has helped reduce the number of dropouts at the school by 86% when comparing the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year to the 2011-2012 school year.
- e. Mr. Lively commended Mrs. Mustain, the JMHS faculty, and students for their presentation that was focused entirely on student success and academic achievement. He stated that this spoke well of the school and that the accomplishments of our students should be a source of pride for the entire Monroe County community.

V. Public Comments

- a. Malory McPherson, MCTC Teacher, spoke to the board to request financial assistance in sending the FBLA students to the state competition again this year. She presented the Board members with information showing that the group had already raised \$1,563 of the \$3,413 needed for the trip and that she hoped that the Board would allocate funds to help offset the remaining balance. Dr. Siers explained that it would probably be advisable to Mrs. McPherson to speak with MCTC Director, Eric Widdoes, to see which school funds could be applied for this trip. He stated that during a recent review of Monroe County Schools financial records, a representative from the WV DOE had noticed that the schools in Monroe County have over \$350,000 in their bank accounts while the school system has a negative balance that is quickly approaching \$1,000,000. He stated that he and the members of the Board were in full support of the students participating in the state event but that they had been advised to not approve any expenses that could be borne by the schools until the school system regains a positive fund balance. Mrs. McPherson agreed to speak with Mr. Widdoes regarding the possibility of using school funds for this trip.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- a. Dr. Siers recommended that the board agree to use Friday, March 2, 2012 as the make-up day for school closing on February 20, 2012. The board was in agreement that this date would be acceptable.
- b. Dr. Siers addressed the board regarding the recent review by the Office of Education Performance Audits (OEPA) on Monroe County Schools. He stated that the review had concluded on February 16, 2012 and that Dr. Donna Davis will have a preliminary report ready within a week and a final report in approximately one month. The board

president and the superintendent will be expected to appear before the WV Board of Education when the final report is presented to them. Monroe County Schools will likely receive negative findings in the areas of using outdated policies, inconsistencies in personnel practices, improper use of LSIC funds by the schools to purchase items or pay for field trips that do not enhance student achievement, facility cleanliness, and financial practices that led to a budget deficit. Dr. Siers stated that although the final decision would be up to the WV BOE, the feedback that he had received did not seem to imply that OEPA would recommend an immediate takeover of the Monroe County School system.

- c. Dr. Siers presented the Board members with a list of steps that are already underway to address some of the issues identified by OEPA. Jason Long, LLC, will attend the March 6, 2012 BOE meeting to present the board with an option for updating its policy manual. Dr. Howard O’Cull, Executive Director of the WV School Boards Association, has agreed to provide training to BOE members on the proper protocol to use when conducting board meetings and on ethics. The administrative team at the Board office is scheduled to meet on February 24, 2012 to look at reassigning duties to cover for the loss of the assistant superintendent’s position at the end of the current school year. All principals have been informed that they will need to include the bullying policy in their student handbooks. The LSIC process at each school and subsequent approval of the LSIC budgets by the Board will be reviewed and altered in the coming months to ensure compliance with state law.

VII. Finance

- a. Mr. Mann moved to approve the payment of all bills as they were presented. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Mr. Sams moved to approve the transfers and supplements as presented. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- c. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve the treasurer’s report. The vote to approve was unanimous.

VIII. New Business

- a. Members of the PES LSIC Committee asked the Board to make an adjustment on their LSIC budget which would transfer \$ 7,529.88 from the Supplies/Internet Costs line item to the Technology line item in order to use the money to replace computers that were no longer serviceable. Dr. Siers stated that he would recommend this transfer as it seemed to be an appropriate use for the money in that it would directly improve student achievement. Mrs. Chris Cardinal, PES Teacher & LSIC Committee Member, stated that the Board needed to make sure that teachers had the money to do their jobs and that she felt the teacher requesting financial assistance for the FBLA trip had been treated badly at tonight’s meeting. She stated that the refusal of the Board to pay for these types of activities penalized the students. Dr. Siers explained that the Monroe County School system was currently operating under the watchful eye of the WV DOE

and that any unnecessary expense approved by the board will likely have to be justified to someone in Charleston. He then stated that it was hard to justify increasing the budget deficit to pay for something that could be afforded by the schools when they had hundreds of thousands of dollars in their bank accounts. He went on to state that he didn't understand Mrs. Cardinal's comments as they related to the PES request since he had recommended the approval of the request. Mr. Lively stated that many of the guidelines being passed down by the state seem unfair but that they had to be followed. Mr. Mann moved to approve the transfer of these funds between line items. Mr. Sams stated that each Board member had met with the OEPA team for 1 ½ hours last week and that they seemed very serious about ensuring that Monroe County Schools takes the necessary steps to get its budget under control. He stated that he has been informed that he risks going to jail over this issue and that he doesn't like the menu at the Southern Regional Jail, so he would continue to take things seriously. He went on to explain that he knows there are people in the community who don't believe that there is really a budget problem but that those people didn't have to appear before OEPA last week and attempt to defend themselves. He concluded by saying that he hoped that everyone would work together in the schools and community to help solve these budget problems. Mr. Lively then called for a vote. The vote to approve was unanimous.

- b. Dr. Siers recommended that the price for all second meals be increased to \$3.25 for breakfast and \$4.25 for lunch to cover the cost of production. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- c. Heather Elliot, PMS Band Teacher, requested that the board approve a band trip to King's Dominion. The trip would occur on Saturday, May 26, 2012 and all expenses would be covered through fundraisers by the band students. Dr. Siers recommended approval of this trip. Mr. Sams moved to approve the trip. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- d. Dr. Siers presented the board with a copy of the September 20, 2011 BOE minutes and asked that the phrase "with the understanding that she will not accumulate seniority during the approved leave time" be removed from both appearances under Item VIII Section b under personnel. He explained that substitute employees would not lose any seniority when on a Board approved leave of absence. Mr. Mann moved to approve the changes. The vote to approve was unanimous.

IX. Executive Session

- a. Mr. Sams moved to enter into executive session under the guidelines of policy 6-9A-4 for the discussion of personnel. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Mrs. Sabol moved to exit executive session. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- c. No actions were taken in executive session.

X. Personnel

- a. Dr. Siers recommended the approval of the following hires: Greg Wickline as the girls' varsity head softball coach at JMHS, Chelsea Dorsey as the yearbook sponsor at MVS, Careen Meadows as a cook II at PES effective March 1, 2012, Britney Greer as the long term substitute secretary at MVS, Lucinda Adkins as a substitute teacher, and Carolyn Miller as the Health Occupations Instructor at MCTC. Mr. Mann moved to approve the recommendations. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Dr. Siers recommend the approval of the following volunteers: Ronald Crawford and Bethany Ramsey at MVS; Mick Ballard, Steve Boothe, and Andrew Evans as volunteer baseball coaches at PMS. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- c. Dr. Siers recommended approval of the following resignations: Valerie Dillon as the Prenatal Health Specialist for EHS and Kara Upton as a Dance Instructor/Substitute teacher effective February 17, 2012. Mr. Sams moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- d. Dr. Siers recommended the elimination of the full time clerk's positions that covered PES, JMHS, and MVS and the establishment of a ½ permanent clerk's position for PES and a temporary (through the end of the school year) clerk's position for JMHS. He explained that the position had already been eliminated through the RIF/Transfer process for the 2012-2013 school year but the fact that the person holding the position had recently been hired as the secretary at MVS allowed for the job to be restructured immediately. Mr. Mann moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.

XI. Mr. Lively adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.