

**Monroe County Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Monroe County Board of Education Office**

I. Roll Call

- a. Mr. Lively called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All members were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comments

- a. Bill Shiflet addressed the Board regarding concerns he had over the Monroe County Schools financial deficit. He stated he was upset that Mr. Mustain's comments during the January 10, 2012 BOE meeting regarding employees being hired without board approval were not included in this week's edition of the Monroe Watchman. He went on to explain that when he was the BOE President, Dr. Lyn Guy had informed the WV School Building Authority that Monroe County Schools had a zero balance but that she had never informed the board members of this. Mr. Shiflet explained that the biggest problem within Monroe County Schools was that around 300 school age children, who live in Monroe County, go to school in Giles and Greenbrier counties which causes a loss of revenue for the school system in excess of one million dollars. He said the question that everyone should be asking is why so many of our children go to school elsewhere. He stated that he and former BOE member, Aaron Judy, had commented about problems within the school system but their comments had never been published. He went on to present the following list of problems that had been mentioned at previous board meetings: 1. State police had to give notice before being allowed into a Monroe County School. 2. Full inclusion for special education students without regard for the student's individual needs. 3. The trimester schedule at James Monroe High School, which he believes contributed to more recent dropouts than any other factor. 4. Cover-ups of mistakes by the previous administration.

Mr. Shiflet stated that the employees who are being affected by the RIF and Transfer process should demand an investigation of what happened previously in Monroe County Schools. He asked current board members, Kenny Mann and Candy Sabol, what would have happened if they had won their lawsuit against the previous board. He then asked how many aide positions could have been saved if the school system had not had to spend thousands of dollars fighting their lawsuit. Mr. Shiflet acknowledged that Mr. Mann and Mrs. Sabol had dropped out of the lawsuit prior to it going before the WV Supreme Court. He asked how many more students would Monroe County have lost if the trimester schedule had been continued. He stated that the previous administration had committed dozens of cover-ups of teachers, students, and financial problems. He concluded by once again calling for an investigation and stating that we have a deficit because too many students have left Monroe County Schools.

- b. Kara Upton, Dance Teacher at JMHS, addressed the board regarding the superintendent's proposal to eliminate the dance class at JMHS at the end of the current school year. Ms. Upton stated that Kelly Wilmore, Assistant Superintendent, had asked her to get a group of parents together and attend this board meeting to advocate that the dance program be kept at JMHS.

Joyce Wagoner, mother of a JMHS student, addressed the board on behalf of the other parents who were in attendance. She asked that the Board consider keeping the program beyond the current year stating that a decrease in arts electives may increase the dropout rate at James Monroe. Mrs. Wagoner cited some personnel statistics that she had taken from the Monroe County Schools website and commented that we had never had an Assistant Superintendent before this year and she didn't know why we needed one now. She explained that the board members make \$20,000-\$30,000 per year like the teachers and that there should be some way to pay for the dance class. She then went on to recite the Monroe County Schools mission statement and stated that the board was planning to take everything away from the kids. She concluded by stating that she wants the best for her three children.

Terry Willis, father of a JMHS student, began his address to the board by complimenting Mr. Shiflet for his comments. He then stated that the people responsible for the budget deficit should be doing jail time. Mr. Willis stated that that he would send his daughter to Greenbrier East High School if the dance program at JMHS was cut. He stated that the board always seems to find money for football and that they now needed to find money to fund the dance program as it is part of the curriculum.

Ms. Upton concluded her group's presentation by stating that she makes \$40 per day for teaching the dance class.

Mr. Lively followed up the presentation by mentioning that BOE members usually make less than \$5,000 per year even though they manage larger budgets and more personnel than any other elected county officer whose pay is generally much higher. Dr. Siers agreed with Mr. Lively's statement regarding BOE pay and went on to explain that Joe Panetta, WV Assistant Superintendent of Schools, had recently addressed the Monroe County BOE members and informed them that failure to address the budget deficit could result in being held personally liable for the debt and a possible one year jail term. He explained that this is likely Monroe County School's last best chance to solve the budget problem without having to deal with more restrictive state interventions where all decisions are made based on a formula rather than personal knowledge and experiences. He also explained that Monroe County Schools had an Assistant Superintendent, Ron Whetzel, employed when he started and that it was his understanding that there had been a few more employed prior to Mr. Whetzel.

\*-Board Note- Although the Monroe County Board of Education fully supports the rights of county citizens to speak freely during the public comments section at Board meetings, we do wish to express that citizens' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of individual board members nor are citizens' statements always based on verified data.

#### IV. Executive Session

- a. Mr. Sams moved to enter into executive session for the scheduled personnel hearings regarding the proposed reductions in force, transfers, and contract reductions. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Mrs. Sabol moved to exit executive session. The vote to approve was unanimous.

#### V. Personnel

- a. Dr. Siers recommended that the following professional personnel have their contracts terminated at the end of the 2011-2012 school year: Julie Taylor, Lorrie Broyles, Lisa Arthur, Darrell Hazelwood, Adam Neel, Sarah Mutter, Pam Wickline, Don Lowe, Cassandra Bailey, Kelly Wilmore, Cindy Laws, Ann Lambert (21<sup>st</sup> Century contract only), Kara Upton, Linn Sheik, and Lezli Baker. Mr. Mustain moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Dr. Siers recommended that the contract for Larry Joe Mustain be terminated at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was: Sams-yes, Mann-yes, Sabol-yes, Lively-yes, and Mustain-abstained.
- c. Dr. Siers recommended that the following professional employees be placed on the transfer list for the 2012-2013 school year: April Hobson, Debbie St. Clair, Heidi Houck, Jodi Riffe, and Krisha Kees. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- d. Dr. Siers recommended that Judy Ann Meadows be placed on the transfer list for the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was: Sabol-yes, Sams-yes, Mann-yes, Lively-yes, and Mustain-abstained.
- e. Dr. Siers recommended that the following professionals have their contract supplements terminated at the end of the 2011-2012 school year: Amanda Woodson-Special Education Designee, Deana Sharp- Special Education Designee, and Becky Yost-Who-Rah Coordinator. Mr. Mann moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- f. Dr. Siers recommend that the contract supplement for Special Education Designee be terminated for Leslie Ferguson at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was: Sams-yes, Mustain-yes, Mann-yes, Sabol-yes, and Lively- abstained.
- g. Dr. Siers recommend a reduction of contract days for the following professionals: 215 to 205- Tricia King, Eugene Rice, Brian Baker, and Susan Weikle; 225 to 205- Greg Morgan; 225 to 220 Becky Yost; 230 to 220- Steve Ballengee and Angie Terry; 240 to 230- Becky Allen. Mr. Mustain moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- h. Dr. Siers recommended that the number of contracted days for Lisa Mustain be reduced from 240 to 230. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was: Sabol- yes, Mann-yes, Sams-yes, Lively-yes, and Mustain-abstained.

- i. Dr. Siers recommended that the contracts for the following service employees be terminated at the end of the 2011-2012 school year: John Spangler, Wayne Johnson, Robert Miller, Darrell Echols, Kristie Bonds, Rhonda Mann, Carol Dolin, Cassandra Reed, Jewel Ramsey, Denise Amos, Kathy Wiley, Melissa Burdette, Sabrina Dixon, Roseanne Phipps, Melissa Craig, Trish Beasley, Toby McMahan, and William Lucas. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- j. Dr. Siers recommended that the following service personnel be placed on the transfer list for the 2012-2013 school year: Wayne Radford, Lloyd Hinkle, Joyce Taylor, Bonnie Burwell, Tammy Hale, Vickey Reed, Susan Rogers, Mary Ann Booth, and Terri Pritt. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- k. Dr. Siers recommended a reduction in contract days for the following service employees: 215 to 210- Tammy Bishop, Lisa Carter, Jeanie Clarkson, Callina McNair, Elizabeth Robertson, Dreama Settle, and Trina Shoda; 225 to 215- Joy Ferguson; 240 to 230- Jackie Dixon, Mike Dixon, Larry Dunbar, Scott Kessel, Libby Kowalsky, Curtis Lucas, Jason Parker, Susan Perrine, Ken Plumley, and Tammy Vass; 250 to 240- Bobby Dunbar. Mr. Mustain moved to approve the recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- l. Dr. Siers recommended that the following bus drivers be placed on the transfer list in anticipation of significant changes to their routes for the 2012-2013 school year: Sonny Weikle, Marion Bradley, Jr., Randall Mills, Vicky King, Randy Hodges, Barbara Laws, Bert Ellison, Greg Williams, James Deskins, Glen Lively, Chuck Weikle, Rick Bailey, Tim South, Regina Weikle, and Allen Sizemore. Mrs. Sabol moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- m. Dr. Siers recommended that the contracts be terminated for the following coaches for the 2012-2013 school year: David Holz- Boys' Soccer Head Coach, Travis Allen- Boys' Soccer Assistant, Richard Franklin- Track Head, Tyler Franklin- Track Assistant, Chris Booth- Middle School Golf Coach, April Hobson- Girls' Soccer Head Coach, and Kristine Hobson- Girls' Soccer Assistant. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- n. Dr. Siers recommended that the board approve the following resignations: Harold Moloney as the Gifted Teacher for Monroe County Schools effective January 16, 2012; Mick Ballard as the Asst. Baseball Coach at JMHS; and Paula Humphreys as the Nursing Instructor at MCTC effective January 31, 2012. Mr. Mustain moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- o. Dr. Siers recommended that the board accept the resignation of Judy Ann Meadows as the Varsity Softball Coach at James Monroe High School. Mr. Sams moved to approve this recommendation. The vote to approve was: Sams-yes, Mann-yes, Sabol-yes, Lively-yes, and Mustain- abstained.

VI. Mr. Lively adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.