

The meeting was called to order by Board President Kathy Kolupanowich at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Michele Arminio (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)  
Mr. Marvin Braverman  
Mr. Ken Chiarella  
Ms. Jill DeMaio  
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich  
Ms. Patricia Lang  
Ms. Dawn Quarino  
Mr. Frank Russo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Steven Riback

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Mr. Paul Rutsky

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Michael G. Kozak, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Dori Alvich, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES' PRESENT

Mr. Syed Ateeb Jamal  
Ms. Stefani Scalisi

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - 112

After the Pledge of allegiance and roll call, the Board Secretary read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted January 20, 2017:

1. At all schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the clerk of the municipality.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. DeMaio and seconded by Mr. Rutsky to approve the minutes for the Public Board of Education Meeting held on October 19, 2016. Motion carried with Mr. Chiarella and Ms. Lang recusing.

A motion was made by Ms. DeMaio and seconded by Ms. Quarino to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting held on October 19, 2016. Motion carried with Mr. Chiarella and Ms. Lang recusing.

A motion was made by Ms. DeMaio and seconded by Mr. Rutsky to approve the minutes for the Public Board of Education Meeting held on November 16, 2016. Motion carried with Mr. Chiarella and Ms. Lang recusing.

A motion was made by Mr. Rutsky and seconded by Ms. DeMaio to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting held on November 16, 2016. Motion carried with Mr. Chiarella and Ms. Lang recusing.

BOARD TRAINING ON DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Ms. Kolupanowich announced that the Board will receive training on a new data management system. Ms. Sylvia Raye, Field Representative from BoardDocs presented a comprehensive review and training of the new data storage and management system.

A motion was made by Mr. Rutsky and seconded by Ms. Arminio to take a recess. Motion carried.

Adjourned for recess at 6:40 p.m.  
Returned to public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Ms. Scalisi reported the following:

MTHS is holding a Dress Drive where students can donate dresses and accessories for future use by the junior and senior class for proms; MTHS Drama Club held a Murder Mystery last week; and several of those students were inducted into the National Thespian Honor Society.

Mr. Jamal reported the following:

Several students attended the DECA Regional Conference last week and will be advancing to States: the Model UN Conference was held a few weeks ago and Monroe participants won several awards including Outstanding Delegation. Several students won individual awards, and one of the students was elected to the program staff for next year.

MARCHING BAND RECOGNITION

Dr. Kozak, Dr. Alvich and Board President Kolupanowich congratulated the following members of the Marching Band and presented them with certificates:

Students

Vaidehi Andhare	Punya Balwalli	Brianna Barbarise	Emily Becker
Casey Belko	Manan Bhatt	Theodore Blume	Waverli Chu
Matthew Cipriaso	Alexander Daum	Chris DiPietro	Nick DiPietro
Dominick Dzietyczyk	Rachel Fernandez	Gary Fernicola	Amanda Fisher

Cameron Fuller	Anna Garbowski	Shannon Glynn	Doug Hoven
Amelia Hancik	Emily Hoven	Abigail Isaacs	Emma Isaacs
Jacqui Jordan	Mitchell Joseph	Ethan Kaiser	Ashley Koluda
Graham Kozak	Luke Lattanzi	Austin Lisojo	Olena Malich
Adit Mandadi	Yash Mathur	Andrew McCabe	Emily Miller
Gregg Nekrasovas	Donnie Owen	Nigel Pacheco	Gabriella Pacheco
Keya Pai	Jenna Paltenstein	Aarushi Pandey	Rohan Pandit
Brandon Park	Alexa Quarino	Anshul Rana	Jamie Roth
Kayleigh Rucinski	Ryan Rudnick	Jahnvi Seshadri	Marcus Shipp
Kaitlyn Simoskevitz	Manik Singh	Katelyn Viszoki	Karalyn Viszoki
Caroline Waksmunski		Eric Xuan	Rayan Yousafzai

Alfred Hadinger: Marching Band Director  
Chris Ciarlariello: Assistant Marching Band Director  
Martin Griffin: MTHS Concert Band Director

Mr. Zachary Morolda, Supervisor of Arts and Technology provided a short video of the band performing at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Kolupanowich stated that the committees have been formed and are scheduled to convene on the Monday of the week prior to the Board meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Prakash Parab 33 Dayna Drive – inquired if the teachers that are being hired for replacement positions are experienced or newly certificated teachers. Dr. Kozak responded that they aim to hire the very best educators and in some cases they may be newly certificated. Next, Mr. Parab inquired if administration is committed to hiring the best candidate without having concerns regarding the Budget. Dr. Kozak responded absolutely, the Board of Education has supported administrations recommendations as they also want the best to enter Monroe’s school district.

Andy Paluri 16 Saint James Street - inquired what the Board is doing with the one million dollar surplus. Mr. Gorski responded that the funds that Mr. Paluri is referring to by statute have to carry over two budget years and recycle as a revenue source with the intent to ease the burden on the taxes. Next, Mr. Paluri inquired what the Student Achievement Data Agreement listed on the agenda was. Dr. Kozak responded that is it a data aggregator that is used to determine where students are. Mr. Paluri inquired if it is new and necessary to invest \$43,000 into. Dr. Kozak responded that it isn’t new and several surrounding towns are utilizing it.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Kozak stated that Phil Murphy, candidate for governor will be attending an ECSNJ meeting in February and will give his opinion on education, additionally there will be a Q&A section available. Dr. Kozak stated that will be attending and will inquire about Mr. Murphy’s view point on state funding.

Dr. Kozak stated that Item I – Nepotism Policy should be omitted from the agenda as it was sent back to the policy committee for review.

### PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. DeMaio that Personnel Items A – JJ be approved by consent roll call. Ms. Arminio requested that when Dr. Kozak is speaking with Mr. Murphy regarding state funding if he would include impact fees as part of the discussion. Mr. Chiarella requested that Dr. Kozak asked them to help strengthen the Pay to Play laws and create mandate that would strengthen violations of the spirit of the law. Dr. Kozak responded that he would. Mr. Russo inquired about the letter writing campaign. Mr. Gorski explained that the letter being placed on the website was deferred by the former Board President resulting from a meeting with legislatures due to issues with it. Mr. Gorski added that a few years ago he drafted a letter and posted it on the website and it resulted in approximately 1,000 letters. Roll Call 8-0-1-0-1. Motion carried with Mr. Rutsky abstaining. A copy of the Personnel section of the Superintendent’s Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

### BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Mr. Braverman and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that Board Action Items A-M with the exception of Item I - Nepotism be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call 9-0-0-0-1. Motion carried with Ms. Arminio, Ms. Quarino & Mr. Russo voting No on Item M – Charter School resolution, Ms. Lang recusing on Item G-HIB, Mr. Chiarella abstaining on Item L – Violence, Substance Abuse & Vandalism, and Mr. Rutsky voting yes on Items E, F, H & M and abstaining on the remainder of the items. A copy of the Board Action section of the Superintendent’s Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Gorski provided a presentation on the land exploration process. Mr. Gorski explained the locations and pieces of land that administration has or is currently looking at. Mr. Gorski stated that the Board will be discussing potential land acquisition in closed session this evening.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Arminio that Board Action Items A - J be approved by consent roll call. Ms. Lang stressed her concerns regarding Item J – Student Data Achievement Agreement. Ms. Lang stated that the agreement should be considered further at the committee level. Ms. DeMaio added that she also has concerns regarding it and hasn’t received a copy of the contract yet.

A motion was made by Ms. DeMaio and seconded by Ms. Lang to table Item J – Student Achievement Data Agreement and send back to the curricular committee for further review and discussion. Roll Call 6-3-0-0-1 Motion carried with Ms. Arminio. Ms. Quarino and Mr. Russo voting No.

Roll Call for Business Administrator’s Report Items A-I (item J was tabled) 9-0-0-0-1. Motion carried with Mr. Rutsky voting yes on Items A, D, G and I and abstaining on the remainder of the

items. A copy of the Board Action section of the Business Administrator's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

### BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kolupanowich informed the Board that she has formed an Ad Hoc Committee for Fair Funding. Ms. Kolupanowich added that Mr. Chiarella will be the Chairperson. The committee will work to get Monroe's voices heard. Ms. Kolupanowich stated that they are hoping to work with other districts and ban together. Ms. Kolupanowich reported that they will be reaching out to community members whom they feel will be an asset to the committee.

Ms. Kolupanowich reported that she along with Mr. Gorski and Dr. Kozak met with Mayor Tamburro and Mr. Hamilton for a very brief casual meeting. They discussed the much needed schools that have to be built in Monroe. Both Mayor Tamburro and Mr. Hamilton offered their continued support to the district. Ms. Kolupanowich stated that they also discussed the importance of communicating information to the community. The mayor offered the district space in their quarterly newspaper which should be very beneficial.

### OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Mr. Russo inquired how many years the district has not received fair funding. Mr. Gorski responded that the last year that the formula was fully funded by the State of NJ was 2008. Mr. Gorski explained the fair share allocation and the adequacy budget along with the amount that Monroe has been receiving.

Mr. Chiarella presented some concerns regarding the book availability for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA book assignments and the difficulties with finding the books assigned. Dr. Alvich responded that she will speak with the media specialist and supervisor of world language about availability. Dr. Alvich added that the district works very closely with the township library. Ms. DeMaio suggested that they reach out to the parents and offer them the opportunity to donate books back to the school after their children have read them. Dr. Alvich stated that they can look into that.

Ms. DeMaio provided details on the meetings that were held at the State House the last two days regarding the School Funding Reform Act of 2008.

### PUBLIC FORUM

Andy Paluri 16 Saint James Street – requested that the Board provide him with the names of other districts that are going through similar problems with fair share of funding as Monroe. Mr. Paluri stated that he would use this information to help coordinate a meeting he is trying to organize with Phil Murphy, potential candidate for governor.

Prakash Parab 33 Dayna Drive – Mr. Parab asked the following questions: What is the total budget for curriculum; how much is in budgeted toward special education; what is the total of special needs students in Monroe; and how much federal and state funding does Monroe receive to support special needs students. Dr. Kozak responded that the General Fund Budget is \$108,213,769.00 of which approximately 30% of that is dedicated to special needs students. Dr. Kozak added that

currently the district has 1,158 classified students. In regards to the amount of funding the district receives, Dr. Kozak stated that last year they received \$1,976,819 in Categorical aid, \$214,453 in Extraordinary Aid and \$995,527 for IDEA. Mr. Parab stated that his taxes have tripled since he's been in Monroe and specified that we need to stop building.

Salkumar Agaram 24 Tracker Street - inquired how many schools the district is planning to build. Mr. Gorski responded that in order to meet the unhoused students and projected enrollment the most probably solution that would be recommended would be a new elementary school, a new middle school and an addition to the high school.

Ram Ranganath 6 Owens Drive – inquired if administration is looking at replacing the existing Applegarth and Oak Tree schools or just building on the existing buildings – Mr. Gorski responded currently the district has 1500 unhoused students and it is projected that will grow to 2500 unhoused students within the next five years. Mr. Gorski added that additions will not be able to handle that growth and mostly likely will require the capacity of two and a half schools.

Prakash Parab 33 Dayna Drive – inquired if the district has a grace period for newly hired teachers before they are made permanent. Dr. Kozak responded that teachers are evaluated four times a year and do not obtain tenure for four years.

#### CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Be It resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

- Potential Land Acquisition
- Personnel Matter
- Negotiations

The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

A motion was made by Ms. Arminio and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the members of the Board of Education go into closed session. Motion carried.

Mr. Braverman excused himself from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Ms. Quarino excused herself from the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 8:45 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 9:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Rutsky that the Board approve the following resolution by roll call:

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the termination of the employment of employee no. 3769 retroactive to January 12, 2017. The Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary

steps to implement this action of the Board of Education. Roll call 6-0-0-1-3. Motion carried with Mr. Russo recusing.

PUBLIC FORUM - None

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Kolupanowich stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Rutsky and seconded by Ms. Arminio that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The public meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Gorski, CPA  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary