

**MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Work Session  
March 23, 2026  
5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Our Mission Statement:

Monroe Public Schools will empower each student to achieve their full potential through rigorous and engaging academics, a culture of excellence, belonging, and perseverance, a community of kindness and inclusivity, and unique opportunities that inspire lifelong learning.

Our Vision Statement:

Unlocking the potential of each student through academic excellence, unique opportunities, and a sense of authentic belonging.

Purpose of our Meeting

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There are times set for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda items (VI) and 10 (X). Members of the audience who wish to address the Board of Education in person this evening are asked to complete the public commentary forms, located on the table at the back of the room. Once filled out, please return to the Administrative Secretary to the Board prior to public comment.

**A. Roll Call**

**Audio Recording**

**Video Recording**

**1. Call to Order**

President Heck called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: President Tom Heck, Vice-President Darla Myers, Secretary Mary Vincent, Treasurer Kerri Williams, Parliamentarian Brian Sabbadini, Trustee Gary Jenkins, Trustee Stacey Terrasi

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Heck	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Jenkins	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Myers	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Sabbadini	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Terrasi	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Vincent	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Williams	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Andrew Shaw, Cassie Shook, Terry Joseph, David Payne, David Malolepszy

Administrators Absent: Cindy Flynn

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

#### **B. Discussion Items**

##### **1. Sodexo Presentation**

*\*Audio recording timestamp 1:24 until 29:47\**

The Board received a presentation from the district's food service company, Sodexo, regarding their food service program, including an introduction of the new general manager for MPS, an overview of current menu offerings, and upcoming program changes focused on fresher ingredients, increased student choice, and updated cafeteria equipment to support more scratch cooking and higher-quality meals. Data on food service expenditures was also shared, noting that while food costs have increased significantly over the past several years however, the program continues to maintain a surplus due to state and federal reimbursement rules. A Board Member asked how much of the food served is processed versus fresh and how commodity food requirements affect menu options, and another Board Member asked about the limitations on how much of the food service surplus can be spent, and whether state approval would be required to spend more.

##### **2. Michigan Health Education Standards Framework Review**

*\*Audio recording timestamp 29:52 until 1:05:02\**

The Board received an overview of the updated state standards and how they align with current district practices. Administration explained that Michigan allows local control over implementation, and that the district will continue its abstinence-only approach with sex education taught only with parent opt-in permission. The presentation outlined required state topics at each grade level and identified areas marked "not applicable" because they are not taught in the district. A Board Member asked how certain state-required topics such as substance use, CPR, and safety instruction would be delivered, and additional discussion included whether students could receive training on emergency response tools. A Board member asked whether the Board should formally adopt the standards; and it was noted that the document reflects state guidelines rather than curriculum, so no formal adoption is necessary.

##### **3. 2026/2027 Budget Discussion – Options**

*\*Audio recording timestamp 1:07:35 until 2:45:30\**

The Board continued its budget planning discussion for the 2026/2027 school year, reviewing possible strategies to help the district create a balanced budget, including a voluntary severance option, staffing adjustments, and reductions across all areas. Administration outlined the timeline for bringing forward a balanced budget and emphasized that the severance option is only one part of the overall plan. Board Members asked questions about staffing, student supports, and program

structures. Administration noted that additional information would be brought back for further review at the April 13, 2026 and May 11, 2026 Board Work Sessions.

**C. Public Commentary**

*\*Audio recording timestamp 2:45:45 until 2:51:50\**

Carol Bollenberg: OCHS

Yvonne Gnaedinger: Split Classes

**D. Adjournment**

Motion by Ms. Myers; support by Mrs. Williams that the 5:30 p.m., March 23, 2026, Work Session of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried by a 7-0 “hand” vote at 8:22 p.m.

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**Mary Vincent, Secretary**