

MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT



MONROE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2019-20 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



DISTRICT 1

Jeremiah Campbell
Newly Appointed
Term Expires: 2021



DISTRICT 2

Chuck Whitfield
*Instructional Materials
Committee (IMC)
Representative*
Term Expires: 2023



DISTRICT 3

Darcy Cheesman
*Washington Interscholastic
Activities Association
(WIAA) Representative*
Term Expires: 2021



DISTRICT 4

Jim Langston
President
Term Expires: 2021



DISTRICT 5

Jennifer Bumpus
*Vice President, WSSDA
Legislative Representative*
Term Expires: 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Monroe community,

On April 9, 2020 I was sworn in as Superintendent of Monroe School District. Needless to say, this first year has been anything but predictable and nothing that I imagined it would be. That said, I continue to be honored and humbled to be serving in this role. It is truly a blessing to serve in the community that my family has lived in for the past 22 years. While I am a transplant to the Skykomish Valley, my wife's family has deep roots and has one of the last operational dairy farms in the area. The Groeneveld farm has produced milk since the 1930's and currently provides its milk to Beecher's Cheese. My mother-in-law was the valedictorian of the Monroe High School class of 1956. It is important to me, both professionally and personally, that the Monroe School District continues to thrive and successfully meet the needs of our students and families.

Over the last year, the Monroe School District has endeavored to uphold its commitments around Equitable Access, High Expectations, and Powerful Instruction for every student. These key concepts guide our work and decisions for the students we serve. The COVID-19 global pandemic has presented many challenges and opportunities, and our response has been guided by these three core commitments.

Our district was able to leverage existing technology equipment early on and distribute Chromebooks to all students who needed them for remote learning. Additionally, we worked with our local Snolsle library system and other providers to bridge the gap between families with internet access and those without. At this time, we still have families

using Snolsle and District distributed WIFI hotspots to keep our students connected to our schools remotely. Much of this response could not have happened without the generous support of our local community and the technology levy that was passed in 2016.

A strong and collaborative working relationship between our school system and our community has been a hallmark of our district and will continue to be integral to our ongoing success and improvement.

Our system is made up of countless dedicated employees who share my passion for education and take great pride in serving our community. Monroe has long been known for its tenacious spirit and hard work ethic. I am proud of the effort and dedication our staff has demonstrated throughout this global pandemic. We realize it has not been perfect but it has demonstrated our commitment to our students and our families.

As we progress forward in recovery from the pandemic, we look forward to a more normal and consistent school year. We are planning for regular classroom instruction five days per week this fall and are optimistic about the progress being made in countering the pandemic. We also look forward to engaging with you, our community, in working together to serve our students who are lucky enough to grow up in this beautiful part of our world.

DR. JUSTIN BLASKO
Superintendent



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ
DR. BLASKO'S FULL BIO:**

www.monroe.wednet.edu/about/superintendent

THE SCHOOL BOARD: WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Learning about the school board may incite yawns for many; however, these few individuals have the power to shape the education of the children in our community. They are the unseen decision makers in our children's schooling. They determine the quality of the school buildings our children spend their days in. They approve the textbooks our children read and the online programs our children log countless hours on. They set the rules that determine how our children are taught and treated within our schools. They are the bosses' boss and oversee the Superintendent's management of the school district.

With that in mind, here is a primer on the basics to help you better understand the roles and responsibilities of school boards and why you should be involved - whether it's voting in the next election, attending meetings, or working with our school board on a pressing issue.

Who are school board directors?

Washington's public school districts are directed by publicly-elected school boards. These board members - called "school directors" - are citizens that live within the boundaries of the community's school district. Board members are parents and grandparents, young people and senior citizens, and community members from all walks of life who have various backgrounds and experiences, not necessarily in education.

Five community members make up the Monroe School District's Board of Directors. The board members are elected by local voters according to the geographical district in which they live to ensure representation from across our school district's service area. In most cases, each director serves a term of four years and must run for re-election once the term is up.



What does a school board do?

School boards set educational goals and establish policies for the school district based upon state laws **and community values**. One of the most important responsibilities of a school board is to employ the superintendent and hold them responsible for managing the schools in accordance with the school board's policies.

Board members work together to make decisions on a wide range of issues, and their primary responsibilities include: hiring, supervising and evaluating the superintendent; setting district policy; setting the vision, mission and strategic goals for the district; monitoring the district's progress towards its goals; adopting curriculum; establishing and overseeing the budget; and **serving as community representatives**. Decisions are only made by the board as a whole at public meetings.

Who oversees the school board?

Board directors are elected officials and are not employees of the district. Since school board members are elected by people in their community to represent their values, views, and desires for the public schools in their district, **it is ultimately the responsibility of the community to hold them accountable**.

When does the school board meet?

School board meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the district administration office. These meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend.



The schedule of board meetings can be found on our website at www.monroe.wednet.edu/about/calendar.

How can I get involved?

Is this scene familiar? You, a responsible citizen, are holding your ballot. Along with voting on important local measures, you come across a list of names running for the school board. You scan the list and realize that most, if not all, of the names are unfamiliar. Hmmmm, you think, I have no idea who to vote for. Really, does it matter? It's just the school board.



You're not alone. The majority of voters, including the most involved parents, pay little to no attention to school board elections. But those who value the education of our community's children should care - a lot. The voting public votes on, and essentially hires, the school board and the decisions the school board makes directly impact our children for years to come. So, **the single most important thing you can do to be involved is to be an informed voter**. Your vote in the next school board election can be instrumental in helping shape the board so that it is responsive to the needs of its students, families, staff, and community.

Did you know? Monroe School District will have four open board positions on the ballot in November 2021!

In addition to voting informed, community members can attend the school board's regular open meetings and ask questions during the public comment portion. Knowing what's happening and asking questions can help community members hold the school board accountable for managing our community's schools well.



WANT TO LEARN MORE? WATCH OUR ANIMATED INFORMATIONAL VIDEO:
<https://youtu.be/ewQgdG6OAMg>



WE ASKED OUR STUDENTS...

All students were invited to enter a district-wide writing contest by submitting an essay, journal entry, poem, news article or any form of creative writing, describing what school was like during the pandemic of 2019-21. We received 60 student submissions and one winner was selected from each of the following age groups: primary (grades K-2), intermediate (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).



1ST GRADE WINNER!

Avelyn Rowley
Chain Lake Elementary



5TH GRADE WINNER!

Alanna Grubb
Fryelands Elementary



8TH GRADE WINNER!

Rylee Marshall
Hidden River Middle School



10TH GRADE WINNER!

Emmaleigh Hahn
Monroe High School



To hear our winners read their winning writing submissions aloud, scan the QR codes on your mobile device or visit our YouTube channel:



[www.youtube.com/c/
MonroeSchoolDistrict103](https://www.youtube.com/c/MonroeSchoolDistrict103)

We received so many well-written submissions from our students that we had a difficult time selecting winners, therefore, we are including excerpts from some of the other student writers who were close contenders.



"WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?"

"Finally after a long time, all elementary students went back to in person learning in March 2021. Only half of each class could go to school at a time and only for 2 1/2 hours, it was still online on Fridays, we had to stay 6 feet apart, wear a mask [...]"

JADA DAVISON – 5TH GRADE,
CHAIN LAKE ELEMENTARY

"This pandemic has made our way of learning very different but we were able to find a way to stay in, while out, of school. This technology has really helped me learn what I couldn't in person. I now look at my opportunity to go to school very differently. Even though I didn't like online school very much, it still helped me learn and grow as a student. Doing online school has been an unforgettable experience."

CLAIRE BOONE – 6TH GRADE, PARK PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

"It's hard to look at the positives of our situation, but there are some. We have some more time to work on reading and writing, while staying inside some people found hobbies that they like (I personally found my love for writing stories and singing songs) and I think the best part that came out of this is kids got to learn more about the digital aspect of things which will be helpful in the future."

HAILEY WARREN – 5TH GRADE,
FRYLANDS ELEMENTARY

"Though teachers try really hard, starting 6th grade online is really hard this year. But on the other hand, we are learning how to be flexible and independent."

BENNETT CHRISTIENSEN – 6TH GRADE,
PARK PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

"It was hard to adjust to such a difficult time. But through it all, through the ups and downs, we got through it, we got through it together."

ELIANA HORNER – 7TH GRADE,
PARK PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

"It's really hard to make friends on the computer, but I try my best. I'm a social butterfly but this year it feels like the butterfly in me is trapped and it can't find the key. Even if it's weird being on a computer a lot more than we used to, doesn't mean everything is bad. I have a lot more time to spend with my family than in-person school. I also have a super nice teacher that is trying really hard to help us learn [the] best we can this year."

LAUREN JOHNSON – 5TH GRADE,
MONROE VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

"In my perspective while COVID happened, it was way better staying home than going to school in person. I'm not very social and doing it [school] from a computer was way easier."

LAUREN HUFFMAN – 6TH GRADE, PARK PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

"I will never take school for granted again! They were not kidding when they made up the term 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder.'"

ALBANY RUSHTON –
8TH GRADE, HIDDEN
RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

"During COVID-19, my teachers were the nicest people to me, and they would understand if I didn't get any work done because of my other homeschooling needs. Instead of telling me to go, go, go, they would slow down, and help me with my work. They are not just teachers, they are family."

ELIZABETH ALLEN – 6TH GRADE, SKY VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER

REVENUE

WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM



State Dollars
\$76,955,186.22

 **82.5%**

Local Learning Levy Dollars
\$12,360,596.45

 **13.3%**

Federal Dollars
\$3,639,921.19

 **3.9%**

Other Sources
\$268,584.37

 **0.3%**

ANNUAL REVENUE **\$93,224,288.23**

EXPENSES

WHERE FUNDING GOES



Teaching & Teaching Support
\$68,853,746.33

 **73.9%**

School & District Office Staff
\$9,255,011.07

 **9.9%**

Custodial, Maint. & Grounds
\$5,107,194.43

 **5.5%**

Transportation
\$4,349,786.70

 **4.7%**

All other Support Services
\$2,484,579.62

 **2.7%**

Utilities
\$1,593,956.98

 **1.7%**

Nutritional Services
\$1,562,677.06

 **1.6%**

ANNUAL EXPENSES **\$93,206,952.19**



**10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF CLEAN AUDITS BY
THE WASHINGTON STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE!**





6,267
*AS OF OCT. 2020
STUDENTS ENROLLED

92%
OF STUDENTS
REGULARLY
ATTEND

89%
CLASS OF 2020, 4-YEAR
GRADUATION RATE
(83% WA STATE AVERAGE)

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

White	65.3%
Hispanic/Latino of any race(s)	24.4%
Two or more races	6%
Asian	2.1%
Black/African American	1.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%



STUDENTS IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

12.8% SPECIAL EDUCATION

3.2% HIGHLY CAPABLE

10.2% ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER



FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

363

CERTIFICATED STAFF
(TEACHERS, COUNSELORS,
SPEECH LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGISTS, ETC)

12.5

AVERAGE YEARS
OF TEACHING

60.1%

TEACHERS WITH
AT LEAST A
MASTER'S DEGREE

38

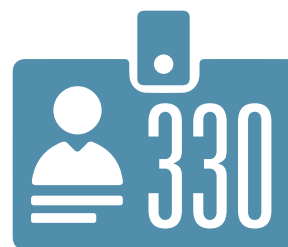
ADMINISTRATORS
(PRINCIPALS,
DISTRICT)

9.9%

NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFIED

17

AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE



CLASSIFIED SUPPORT
STAFF (OFFICE
STAFF, CUSTODIANS,
PARAEDUCATORS,
BUS DRIVERS, ETC)

District Assessment Scores — State assessments were not administered to students during the 2019-20 school year due to school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous years' assessment scores are available on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's website. Visit reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us and search for "Monroe School District."



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**WE ARE
HIRING**

Whether you are looking for a full-time or part-time, flexible schedule, **we currently have many job openings** dedicated to serving the needs of our community's students.

Visit <http://monroejobs.hrmlplus.net> to see the **current openings** and apply today!



Questioning why you are you receiving this publication?

An estimated 70 percent of the residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Monroe School District. The purpose of this publication, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in their Monroe School District. This publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each carrier's route.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its program and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator & Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW:

Joanne Dickinson, dickinsonj@monroe.wednet.edu, 360.804.2539

Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

David Paratore, paratored@monroe.wednet.edu, 360.804.2609

The Monroe School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact Kim Whitworth, whitworthk@monroe.wednet.edu, 360.804.2558.



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