

Macon-Piatt Special Education District
Superintendents' Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:30am
Regional Office of Education #39
3343 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526
Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Participation

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the Executive Board minutes from the January 16, 2025 meeting as presented. *Voice Vote*

V. Call to Closed Session: to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. *Roll Call Vote* **Return to Open Session:** *Voice Vote*

VI. Roll Call Action Items

A. Dismissal of Non-Tenured Professional Educator Licensed (PEL) Employee

Motion: To recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employee named be dismissed as of his last scheduled work day for the 2024-2025 school year, and not be reemployed for the 2025-2026 school year. *Discussion.* *Roll Call Vote*

B. Personnel Appointments

Motion: To recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employees presented be recommended as listed. *Discussion.* *Roll Call Vote*

C. Adjustment of Employees' Step on the Administrative Support Salary Schedule

Motion: To recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employees listed have their base salary step adjusted to account for their years of experience as presented. *Discussion.* *Roll Call Vote*

VII. Director's Report

- A. Financial Update
- B. Vacancy Update
- C. Program Update
- D. Due Process/ISBE Complaint Update
- E. ISBE Comprehensive Monitoring Feedback

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board. *Voice Vote*

Handouts: Draft January 16, 2025 Minutes
Resolution Reference the Dismissal of Professional Educator Licensed (PEL) Employee
Personnel Appointments
Administrative Support Salary Schedule Step Adjustment Chart
Treasurer's Report (January)
Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
Vacancy List

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:30am at the Regional Office of Education #39 – 3343 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526**

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, January, 16 2025
Regional Office of Education #39
3433 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526

Damian Jones called the meeting to order with roll call at 7:30am

Members Present: Damian Jones, Mary Vogt, Emily Weidner, Larry Gray for Rochelle Clark),
(12 in-person) Michael Tresnak, Adam Ibbotson, Shane Gordon, Adam Clapp, Travis Roundcount, Jonathan Field, Cheryl Warner

Members Absent: Sacha Young

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Liz Lang, Ellyn Lord, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings, Zakry Standerfer

Public Participation: None

Hearing no questions or concerns regarding the minutes presented, Damian Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Gordon to approve the Executive Board minutes from the December 19, 2024 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Warner. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:31am by Supt Ibbotson motion to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Tresnak, Warner, Vogt, Clapp, Weidner, Gordon, Roundcount, Gray, Ibbotson, Field (0) Nay; (1) Absent: Young

Return to **OPEN Session** at 7:50am by Supt Tresnak **motion**, seconded by Supt Gordon. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

- A. **Possible Termination of a Paraprofessional** The motion carries to terminate employment for Stephanie Smith effective January 29, 2025 with (11) Ayes: Jones, Tresnak, Clapp, Weidner, Gray, Vogt, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Field, Warner (0) Nay.
- B. **Personnel Appointments** None Motion by Supt Tresnak to recommend the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employees presented be recommended as listed, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Tresnak, Clapp, Weidner, Gray, Vogt, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Field, Warner (0) Nay; (1) Absent: Young

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update Kathy reports we still have a healthy fund balance. MPSED office in is the early stages of budget planning for next year.
 - i Application entered for SELA recognition for reimbursement. This would allow students attending SELA to be eligible for reimbursement similar to current students attending private facility.
- B. Vacancy Update- updated spreadsheet in the packet. Kathy noted the coop continues to have vacancies and having a hard time finding qualified candidates. Travis Friedrich is attending a psychologist recruitment event next month.

C. Program Update- Kathy noted the SELA transition room is closing. SELA is adding an additional elementary room and additional secondary room for next year.

D. Due Process Update- No outstanding due processes. One complaint that ISBE is still reviewing.

Hearing no further questions or topics to discuss, Chairman Jones entertained a motion to adjourn. **Motion** by Supt Ibbotson to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 7:56am.

Handouts: *Draft December 19, 2024 minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Treasurer’s Report (December)
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List

*****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:30am at the Regional Office of Education #39 – 3433 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526***

MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

Date Approved

MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

Date Approved

**RESOLUTION REFERENCE THE DISMISSAL
OF
A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSED (“PEL”) EMPLOYEE
(Executive Board)**

WHEREAS, Benjamin Von Behren is a professional educator licensed (“PEL”) employee in the first year of probationary employment in and for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District, upon request, has received reports and recommendations from the Director regarding the performance, competence, and effectiveness of Benjamin Von Behren in his capacity as a PEL employee of Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District; and

WHEREAS, the reports and recommendations so received have been considered, studied and accepted by the Executive Board of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District does hereby advise the employing district, Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent of Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the reports and recommendations so received should be accepted and acted upon by the employing district; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District finds and determines that it is in the best interest of Macon-Piatt Special Education District that the employment of Benjamin Von Behren as a PEL employee in and for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, should not be renewed for the 2025-2026 school year, pursuant to Section 24-11 of the *Illinois School Code*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District as follows:

Section 1. The Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this resolution are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The employment of Benjamin Von Behren as a PEL employee in and for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, shall not be renewed for the 2025-2026 school year and Benjamin Von Behren is hereby dismissed as a PEL employee in and for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, as of his last scheduled work day for the 2024-2025 school year.

Section 3. That the Executive Director of Macon-Piatt Special Education District is hereby directed and authorized to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Superintendent of Schools of Decatur Public Schools No. 61, requesting and instructing that the Board of Education of Decatur Public Schools No. 61 adopt a Resolution dismissing Benjamin Von Behren; that the President and Secretary of the Board of Education are hereby authorized and directed to give Benjamin Von Behren written Notice of Non-renewal, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; that following the signing of said written notice, the Director be directed and to personally serve said notice on March 3, 2025, and to send to Benjamin Von Behren a copy of said written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, so that Benjamin Von Behren receives said notice by no later than April 15, 2025 of the current school year.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of February, 2025, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

President, Executive Board

Secretary, Executive Board

Enclosure – Exhibit A

CERTIFICATION

I, _____, Secretary of the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Executive Board on February 20, 2025, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____,

and that the motion was duly declared carried by the President of the Executive Board.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Secretary, Executive Board

Macon-Piatt Special Education District

620 E. Garfield Ave, Decatur, IL 62526
Phone: (217) 362-3055 ♦ Fax: (217) 362-3568

Kathy Horath, Director
Travis Friedrich & Elizabeth Lang, Assistant Directors

March 3, 2025

EXHIBIT A

Benjamin Von Behren
1815 N Dennis Ave
Decatur, IL 62526

Dear Mr. Von Behren:

Please be advised that at a duly convened regular meeting of Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District on February 20, 2025, roll call votes were taken authorizing and effectuating the nonrenewal of your employment as a professional educator licensed ("PEL") employee in and for Macon-Piatt Special Education District. Decatur Public School District No. 61 is the administrative District and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District. Decatur Public School District No. 61 is required by the Macon-Piatt Special Education Joint Agreement to ratify actions taken by the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District, and does not exercise independent judgement or oversight. On February 25, 2025, Decatur Public School District No. 61 ratified the referenced action of the Executive Board of Macon-Piatt Special Education District.

Be further advised that a certified copy of the Resolutions is attached hereto, and express reference is incorporated in and made a part of this Notice. Pursuant to regulations of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, enclosed herewith is a publication entitled, "What Every Worker Should Know About Unemployment Insurance."

Your employment as a PEL employee in and for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, by and through Decatur Public School District No. 61, the administrative district and fiscal and legal agent for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, shall terminate as of your last scheduled work day for the 2024-2025 school year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF
MACON-PIATT
SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECATUR PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61

President/Representative

President

Secretary

US Mailed (Certified) on _____, 2025

Delivered By _____ on _____, 2025

Enclosures

Participating Districts

Argenta-Oreana ♦ Bement ♦ Central A&M ♦ Cerro Gordo ♦ Decatur ♦ Deland-Weldon
Maroa-Forsyth ♦ Meridian ♦ Monticello ♦ Mt. Zion ♦ Sangamon Valley ♦ Warrensburg-Latham

MPSED Personnel and Administrative Appointments

Name	Position	Effective Date
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New Hires:

Administration

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Administration Support

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Certified

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Non-Certified

1	Reginald Dobbs	Life Skills TA (6 hours) at Hope	ASAP
2	Facilla Drummer	Life Skills TA (6 hours) at Hope	ASAP
3	Allison Beckwith	Instructional Cross-Cat TA (6 hours) at Parsons (DPS Paid)	ASAP

Transfers:

Certified

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Non-certified

Resignations:

1	Rosemary Ferriell	Job Coach	1/17/2025
2	Charles Weigel	SED TA at MacArthur (transfer to Decatur)	2/17/2025
3	Carrie Bone	Early Childhood TA at Pershing	5/24/2024

Request for Extended Leave of Absence

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Request for Retirement

MPSED Special Education Administrative Support Staff

Name	Position	2024-2025		2025-2026		Difference	% difference
		Salary	Step	2025-2026 Salary	Step		
Holley Finley	COTA	\$41,735	8	\$43,835.29	9	\$ 2,100	5.03%
Joanne Gavin	COTA	\$41,424	7	\$43,508.95	8	\$ 2,085	5.03%
Sabrina Lane	COTA	\$42,363	10	\$44,494.48	11	\$ 2,131	5.03%
Mairi Reedy	COTA	\$43,001	12	\$45,164.52	13	\$ 2,164	5.03%
Kati Smith	COTA	\$41,735	8	\$43,835.29	9	\$ 2,100	5.03%
Carol Zilz	COTA	\$48,532	off (high) 1	\$50,594.19	1	\$ 2,063	4.25%
Sydney Miller	PTA	\$39,905	2	\$41,913.00	3	\$ 2,008	5.03%
Ellyn Lord	Medicaid Coordinator	\$63,656	12	\$66,859.36	13	\$ 3,203	5.03%
Hannah Gray	Audiologist	\$84,000	6	\$88,226.78	7	\$ 4,227	5.03%
Susan Engelgau	Occupational Therapist	\$95,377	23	\$100,175.74	24	\$ 4,798	5.03%
Sandra O'Linc	Occupational Therapist	\$82,137	3	\$86,270.88	4	\$ 4,134	5.03%
Jennifer Stine	Occupational Therapist	\$104,321	off (high) 1	\$108,755.02	1	\$ 4,434	4.25%
Elizabeth Komnick	Physical Therapist	\$87,197	11	\$91,584.54	12	\$ 4,388	5.03%
Matthew Swarthout	Assistive Technology Coordinator	\$64,134	13	\$67,361.35	14	\$ 3,227	5.03%
Total		\$ 879,518		\$ 922,579		\$ 43,061	

MPSED Special Education Administrative Support Staff

Name	Position	2024-2025		2025-2026		Difference	% difference
		Salary	Step	2025-2026 Salary	Step		
Holley Finley	COTA	\$41,735	8	\$43,835.29	9	\$ 2,100	5.03%
Joanne Gavin	COTA	\$41,424	7	\$44,494.48	11	\$ 3,070	7.41%
Sabrina Lane	COTA	\$42,363	10	\$45,844.31	15	\$ 3,481	8.22%
Mairi Reedy	COTA	\$43,001	12	\$45,164.52	13	\$ 2,164	5.03%
Kati Smith	COTA	\$41,735	8	\$45,164.52	13	\$ 3,429	8.22%
Carol Zilz	COTA	\$48,532	off (high) 1	\$50,594.19	1	\$ 2,063	4.25%
Sydney Miller	PTA	\$39,905	2	\$42,227.42	4	\$ 2,323	5.82%
Ellyn Lord	Medicaid Coordinator	\$63,656	12	\$66,859.36	13	\$ 3,203	5.03%
Hannah Gray	Audiologist	\$84,000	6	\$89,554.92	9	\$ 5,555	6.61%
Susan Engelgau	Occupational Therapist	\$95,377	23	\$100,175.74	24	\$ 4,798	5.03%
Sandra O'Linc	Occupational Therapist	\$82,137	3	\$90,902.58	11	\$ 8,765	10.67%
Jennifer Stine	Occupational Therapist	\$104,321	off (high) 1	\$108,755.02	1	\$ 4,434	4.25%
Elizabeth Komnick	Physical Therapist	\$87,197	11	\$97,955.30	21	\$ 10,758	12.34%
Matthew Swarthout	Assistive Technology Coordinator	\$64,134	13	\$70,449.15	20	\$ 6,315	9.85%
Total		\$ 879,518		\$ 941,977		\$ 62,459	

TREASURERS REPORT - JANUARY, 2025

Beginning FUND Balance 6,357,930.51

REVENUE

1342 - Tuition	1,212,728.59
1510 - Int of invest.	
1950 - PRIOR YEAR REFUND	23,674.27
1993 - TMH-SUPPLY	
1999 - OTHER MISC. REV	
3001 - EBF	127,492.00
4625 - ROOM AND BOARD	
4951 - VOC REHAB	31,425.00
4991 - ADMIN OUT	
4992 - MEDICAID	
ADJUSTMENT	
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	1,395,319.86

Expenditures

Payroll - 100	911,718.17
Benefits - 200	336,207.28
Purchased Services - 300	11,842.79
Supplies - 400	11,383.37
Other - 500-700	154,769.46

ADJUSTMENT

1,425,921.07

CHANGE/INTEREST

BALANCE

AS OF

1/31/2025

6,327,329.30

Balance Last Year

7,275,088.42

MPSED Vacancies

Building	Position	Hours/ Day	Posted On	Closes On
MPSED	School Psychologist (5 positions)		1/26/2024	when filled
MPSED	Part-Time Private/Parochial Tchr		2/1/2024	when filled
MacArthur	Essential Skills Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
Stephen Decatur	Essential Skills Teacher		5/13/2024	when filled
Montessori	Life Skills Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
Hope	Life Skills Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
Stephen Decatur	SED Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
SELA	SED Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
Baum	SELA Transition Teacher		2/1/2024	when filled
Pershing	Social Worker		1/26/2024	when filled
SELA	Social Worker		7/17/2024	when filled
Sangamon Valley	Social Worker		6/25/2024	when filled
Hope/MacArthur	Speech-Language Pathologist		1/26/2024	when filled
Montessori/SELA	Speech-Language Pathologist		1/26/2024	when filled
Montessori	Educational Interpreter (2 positions)	6.25	6/6/2024	when filled
Hope	Essential Skills TA (4 positions)	6.25	6/6/2024	when filled
MacArthur	LPN Assistant	7	6/6/2024	when filled
Hope	LPN Assistant (2 positions)	6.75	6/6/2024	when filled
SDMS	LPN Assistant	7	6/6/2024	when filled
SELA	SELA TA (4 positions)	6	6/6/2024	when filled
MPSED	Behavior TA	6.25	12/13/2024	when filled
MacArthur	Essential Skills TA	6.5	3/7/2024	when filled
MacArthur	SED TA	6.5	7/29/2024	when filled
Baum	SELA Transition Room TA	6	8/9/2024	when filled
Montessori	Life Skills TA	6	10/8/2024	when filled
SDMS	Life Skills TA	6.25	9/30/2024	when filled