

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019**  
Richland Community College National Sequestration Education Center (NSEC) Building  
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

**Members Present:** Damian Jones, Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Paul Fregeau, Amanda Geary, John Ahlemeyer, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (12 present) (Chairperson), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Kristen Kendrick-Weikle

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:** Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich (arrived 8:12 am), Vickie Vieth (Secretary), Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings, Dana Edwards-Legal Counsel

**Public Participation:** None

Seeing no public participation, Chairperson Zimmerman entertained the motion to approve the minutes from the 10/24/2019 meeting. Supt Jones motioned to approve the Executive Board minutes as presented, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:42 a.m. by Supt Robinson's motion to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Return to Open Session at 8:11 a.m. by Supt Geary's motion, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**Roll Call Action Items**

**A. Personnel and Administrative Appointments**

Supt Greenwood motioned to recommend the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for MPSED, that the employees presented be recommended as listed, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson; Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**B. Mt. Zion Request for Refund or Tuition Credit**

Supt Roundcount made the motion for Mt. Zion to receive credit for the disputed amount of \$44,876 for a student they were billed for in the Macon Piatt SpEd program, seconded by Supt Zimmerman. As point of clarification, it was asked if a district could make a motion to give itself a reimbursement. In past practices, anyone at this table can make a motion. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion did not carry with a Roll Call Vote of... (1) Aye: Roundcount; (9) Nays: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Zimmerman, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle; (2) Abstain votes: Ahlemeyer, Pygott.

**Director's Report**

- A. Finance Update – a reference was made to the October Treasurer's report located in the superintendent's packet. The fund balance reflects an amount prior to paying the November payroll. The fund balance will decrease but should hover around the \$3m amount.
- Draft Funding Formula for FY21 is included in your package. It determines the proportionate member share for the 20-21 school year. This is just a first review showing a 'no change' draft based on our conversation from last month's open session.

We are not recommending any new formula changes for next year. It will be pleasant to have 2 consecutive years with the same funding formula.

- FY19 Annual Audit – if you want a copy for your own shelves, please take one. There were no significant audit findings and no notes that were given to us. The report was given to Decatur's board last month.

- B. Impact of the DFTA strike – There was discussion regarding ISBE letters sent to each of the member districts. Several were puzzled with the fact that member districts were slapped on the hand for not sending their students into a program that was closed in another district. They felt this was out of their control. One of the superintendents has requested a response from ISBE legal. There has been no response as of this date. ISBE's director of SpEd, Barb Moore, is coming to view MP programs today – it should be a good visit. We will be going around and looking at programs – brainstorming what else could have possibly been done to keep our kids safe when there were no Teacher Assistants for the programs. Part of our discussion with Barb will be to discuss potential Plan B's if DFTA goes back on strike. It was interesting to hear that ISBE wondered why MP member districts did not send any of their staff in to Decatur to service the needs of SpEd students in the various programs. Several superintendents commented that it appears ISBE is not aware of the various needs of the students we serve. Students that are severe/profound, in wheelchairs, who require catheterization, trach care, suctioning, etc. This is not just someone who can walk in to monitor kids, they have to be trained to meet the child's various needs – member districts do not have staff who are trained in that area. It was concerning to hear that ISBE did not understand that concept. There is to be a mediation session with DFTA on Thursday. A question was raised if ISBE would feel differently if time was made up for the days missed (thru summer) versus offering to go through the process to determine if the student is eligible for compensatory services.
- C. Compensatory Services – We have consulted with Brandon Wright who is the attorney for SpEd in several of our member districts including DPS. The compensatory services for FAPE is the process we are going through which basically means we are offering and notifying parents that they can request a compensatory meeting through an IEP meeting. This would look at how much time the child lost versus how much progress they have made. Brandon mentioned another way...which is to issue compensatory as a minimum, offering it to everybody since they have lost days. It would be more like an ISBE finding than a response. This would be step 2 on the ISBE sanction to issue a finding then telling us to convene IEP meetings. It would still be through the IEP process but we could do it through an amendment. We could look at a minimum number of days that we make up through summer school. My thought would be perhaps to entertain 2 or 3 days of 4-hour summer school days. The districts would have to provide transportation in and MP would have to staff it. This would be a large increase in teacher salary during that time. There has not been very many requests for compensatory time...maybe only 10 people have asked for a spring IEP meeting. There are 5 due process requests around this topic.
- D. Due Process Update – There have been two from Meridian but they made the mistake of filing their due process to Decatur so those are being dropped. Not sure if they are going to refile with the correct district or not. There is one in Mt. Zion that is ongoing and two in DPS that are ongoing. All the attorneys are collectively using the same argument that the due process is being done ahead of the system. Should really have had an IEP to dispute first before filing a due process. That really does not matter so much when you are going through due process since the hearing officer has to make the final end decision. It has been confirmed for two of our students in DPS that we are going through mediation. Still waiting to hear if Mt. Zion will go

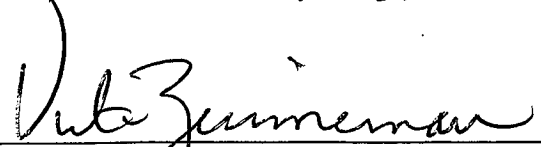
through a mediation or not; the district is willing, it's just a matter whether the parent will. Parents do not have to file a due process to get compensatory services – they should request an IEP meeting.

- E. Illinois School Report Card Special Education Data – A chart is Included in your packet. Kathy took the special education information and bundled it to view the cooperative average in comparison to the Illinois average. Reference was made to the charts in the packets. Our percentage IEPs is fairly consistent with the IL average and our Educational Environment (EE) Code #1 which used to be the topic for focused monitoring is now 62% when the target last year was 60%. We are needing to work on Early Childhood percentages since we are way off in serving our kids in general education at the 3-5 year old level. Another area...look at identification of kids by specific disabilities, the biggest differences that we are seeing in a cooperative level is speech and language. That is an issue for Kathy to investigate and perhaps make it a goal. All districts were above the state average – a few being over double the state average. The difference is troubling. When looking at this percentage, remember we are still trying to get a percentage of all students enrolled to be able to see how many of the population is speech and language....then compare that to the IL average. This is just a piece of the pie of all special ed students. Somewhere else we are under identifying since we are over so high in speech. To have a true conversation with our speech and language practitioners, Kathy would like to get the complete number for comparison. As in the past, there was comment about this specific field of practitioners having the ability to completely control their own numbers – there is no incentive to decrease.

**Adjournment:** Hearing no further questions or discussions, Supt Kendrick-Weikle motioned to adjourn this meeting of the Macon Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Heck. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

*Handouts:*      *Draft October Minutes*  
                      *Vendor Checks (electronically sent)*  
                      *Personnel Appointments*  
                      *October Treasurer's Report*  
                      *Draft Funding Formula for FY21*  
                      *MPSED Independent Auditor Booklet*  
                      *Illinois Report Card Special Education Data by District*

**\*\*Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:30 am – Richland Community College, National Sequestration Education Center – Room 121**

  
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MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

12-19-19  
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Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

12/19/19  
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Date Approved