

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)**  
**SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2020**  
Regional Office of Education #39 - Conference Room (Zoom Platform available)  
1690 Huston Drive, Decatur IL 62526

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Member roll call was taken.

**Members Present:** Sean German (*Damian Jones proxy*), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Paul Fregeau, Amanda Geary, John Ahlemeyer, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (*Chairperson*), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows  
(7 in person)  
(4 conference)

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Warner

**Also Present:** Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth (*Secretary*), Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy

**Public Participation:**

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion** by Supt Roundcount: To approve the Executive Board minutes from the 5/21/20 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor.

No call for **CLOSED Session**.

**Directors Report**

A. Cooperative Structures

Before discussing cooperative structures, a review of the time line was given to refresh executive members. The Chairperson paraphrased portions of the 3/19/20 letter that was sent to the Decatur Board of Education. Inquiry was made if there is still room for discussion with Decatur related specifically to the last line in the letter which states of hoping to work out concerns to the mutual benefit of both parties.

Decatur's Superintendent reiterated the 6/24/20 letter submitted to MPSED giving notice of their intent to no longer serve as the administrative district was sent due to the timelines stipulated in the Macon Piatt agreement – there is room for discussion if people are willing to talk. After the Chairperson asked each board member, there was a consensus among the cooperative board wanting to sit down with DPS and discuss potential modifications to the agreement. Further discussion will be taking place August 6<sup>th</sup>. Supt Paul Fregeau will be checking with DPS board on their willingness to give another year before no longer serving as the administrative agent. In addition, developing a list of talking points that DPS is interested in discussing with MPSED board on possible changes to the joint agreement in relation to the administrative agent.

The second part of the discussion was regarding other potential structures of MPSED. It will be challenging to find another district that can serve as administrative agent. With MPSED's budget and number of employees, the member districts size more than doubles for some districts. Whatever structure is decided, MPSED will start by getting their own federal tax ID reducing enmeshment with any other district. If MPSED becomes a legal entity, the Joint Agreement would be amended to a governing board instead of an administrative agent. The governing board is made up of a dually elected board member from each districts board – this is someone that is appointed. The superintendent becomes an ex-official member of the governing board. If MPSED becomes a legal entity, it would be as though we are our own school district with our own RCDTS code. The challenge that comes into play with either scenario (change in administrative agent or legal entity) is that they all require the formation of new

collective bargaining agreement(s), new benefit packages, etc. Another option is dissolution of the cooperative and splitting into different groups.

To prepare, Kathy has conducted research and discussion with other cooperatives looking at possible ideas for restructuring. Employee benefits, IMRF and TRS, can be transferred from entity to entity. Kathy has also set up a meeting with legal counsel regarding getting a tax id number. When she meets, she will ask regarding expenses for changing the joint agreement and/or the cost for becoming a legal entity or dissolution.

**Roll Call Action Items**

**A. Personnel and Administrative Appointments**

Briefly reviewed personnel. There were no further questions or discussion.

**Motion** by Supt Robinson: 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 Geary. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Yea: German, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows; (0) Nay.

No action was taken on Roll Call Action Items B) Administrative Agent and C) Formation of a Legal Entity.

**Adjournment:** No further questions or discussions, Supt Ahlemeyer motioned to adjourn this meeting of the Macon Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Robinson. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

*Handouts:*      *Draft May Minutes*  
                      *Vendor Checks (Electronically sent)*  
                      *Personnel Appointments*  
                      *Letter from Paul Fregeau, dated 6-24-2020*  
                      *Cooperative Structures*

**\*\*Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, 8/6/20 (location TBD)**

  
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MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

8-6-2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

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

8/6/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved