

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, 11/16/2021 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N161
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck (*arrive 7:36*), Brett Robinson, Bobbi Williams (*remote*), Kristopher Kahler, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Cheryl Warner
(8 in-person; 1 remote)

Members Absent: Amanda Geary, Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy

Public Participation: None

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Jones to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 10/21/2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:35 a.m. by Supt Pygott's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Return to **Open Session** at 7:43 a.m. by Supt Robinson's **motion**, seconded by Supt Pygott. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

Have a couple of new hires and four resignations – all TAs. We are hoping to hire a SpEd teacher at the semester. No comments or questions.

Motion by Supt Pygott 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 Warner. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (9) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Williams, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Warner. (0) Nay; (3) Absent.

2. Contract with Urbana School District 116 for Vision / Hearing Coordination and Orientation & Mobility Service

This is our annual contract with Urbana to provide expert oversight for our VH program as well as O&M specialist who helps the visually impaired navigate with their white cane. These are very highly specialized positions – we are fortunate to be able to share with Urbana. The FTE depends on how many students we have versus Urbana. We share with a lot of people in the Champaign-Urbana area. Supt Heck made the **motion**, seconded by Supt Jones.

Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (9) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Williams, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Warner. (0) Nay; (3) Absent.

3. Contract with Ford County Special Education Cooperative (FCSEC) for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Teacher to cover Maternity Leave

Since no draft copy of the agreement for services contract was available, Supt Robinson made a **motion** to TABLE this item until next month, seconded by Supt Pygott. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor – none opposed.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – very short financial update. Our fund balance is healthy – this figure will start trickling down until we get our second semester admin wages. As we get into the idea of purchasing or leasing a building from DPS, some monies will come out of the fund balance or help for improvements should they decide to enter into a partnership on building improvements. Supt Williams is working on a letter to the group in order to shed further understanding.
- B. Elementary SED Program – Discussion regarding moving the SED program as a unit and changing it to another location in January. Harris Alternative Center is centrally located with plenty of room. This location also has more administrative resources that can help with our students. In general, our students are more aggressive in the SED program and they are taking a lot of admin time...more than maybe in past years. This program is not working like it has in the past and Kathy feels it is due to multiple reasons. Since this is going to be a mid-year move (January), we would like to avoid doing a transition for the 6th graders this January then another transition in August as they move to Stephen Decatur. DPS has agreed and SDMS has agreed to open a classroom for 6th grade at the SD campus for the SED program. Kathy does believe this will be a positive move. Regarding the timeline for notifying families, 6th grade parents will get a notification that their program will move to Stephen Decatur and grades K-5 will get notification that their program will be moved to Harris location.

An additional topic brought up was regarding the Pre-K program and if there was any discussion of expanding services at Pershing. Highly unlikely without being fully staffed at Pershing. It was recommended that if a student can get preK services at their home district, it would be a good idea, especially if child's kindergarten will be in the same setting. Kathy also recommended with our COVID affect students, districts should think about proactively putting an aide in your kindergarten rooms next year and possibly an extra aide in your preK room. Among the districts, all agreed that they are getting new students that are significantly lower and have significantly more behavior issues in social emotional. An inquiry about the availability of Behavioral TAs/staff was mentioned. Kathy suggested having your district's social worker fill out the referral so one of the Behavioral Teachers can come out to do an observation and make a recommendation.

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Supt Jones to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Greenwood. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft October 21, 2021 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Contract with Urbana School District
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday, 12/16/21 at Richland Community College, Room N161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

12/16/21

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

12/16/2021

Date Approved