

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 10/20/2022 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College Main Campus – Room N-161
1 College Park, Decatur Illinois 62521

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order with roll call at 7:31 a.m.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Mary Vogt, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Rochelle Clark (*arrive 7:40*), Kris Kahler, Andy Pygott, Adam Clapp, Travis Roundcount (*arrive 7:34*), Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Jeff Holmes (*Interim*)

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Vickie Vieth, Jill Reedy, Nancy Brodbeck (*Interim Asst Regional Supt*), Bret Hitchings

Public Participation: None

Hearing no questions or concerns regarding the minutes presented, Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Meadows to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 9/15/2022 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Clapp. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:33 a.m. by Supt Pygott's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Kahler. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (9) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (3) Absent: Clark, Holmes, Roundcount.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 7:37 a.m. by Supt Meadows' **motion**, seconded by Supt Kahler. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

As you will notice, we are able to hire teaching assistants (TA). We are taking advantage of the new change in regulations where TAs can get a temporary short-term without having the credentials. They have 3 years to get their college coursework and/or their test taken. There have been a couple of resignations at SELA. If you look at the vacancy list, SELA is still suffering from a lack of teaching and TAs. We are having trouble staffing that building. The number of students that are at that building have doubled, so the culture is still adjusting. No further questions.

Motion by Supt Heck 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 Pygott. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent: Clark, Holmes.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – in your packet is the Treasurers Report for September. Our balance is still really healthy. First bills have gone out. If you have any questions about those bills, such as don't understand what has been done or if there is a mistake with students listed, please give us a call! We will work through it with you.

- B. Vacancy Update – List of vacancies in your packet. We have a couple of student teachers that are getting their credentials. They will be licensed in January so we will be able to fill 2 positions: Hope-ES teacher and Montessori-LS teacher. Thrilled about filling those positions but a bit nervous that there just are not many teachers out there. Kathy introduced the idea of hiring a recruiter for Macon Piatt. This would add that layer of a person who can go find candidates. A lot of money has been spent posting on job boards nationally and locally; in addition, it takes quite a lot of time doing recruiting work. Kathy is currently trying to figure out if it would be worth our while to hire a specific special education recruiter. A question was raised regarding the salary cost of adding this position – it would roughly be \$50-60k for salary. Decatur has the job description that we could utilize for this administrative support position. Another question was raised if we could contract for a recruiter. Kathy informed the group that contracting after this year will not be available. In addition, companies that we currently contract with (ex. for SLP) are starting to ‘dry up’. It was brought to the floor what other obligations would this position hold since several superintendents feel this would not qualify as a full-time position...especially for the full entire year. It would be activities that are related to going to different universities, talking to students, work with ‘grow your own’ at our local High Schools. To round out the position, the recruiter would also manage the retention of personnel as well as conduct other HR management responsibilities. Kathy reiterated this is at the very beginning stage of her thinking process...just wanted to talk it out and bring up the subject. The Decatur Superintendent was invited to comment about their recruiting since DPS has had this position for multiple years. The topic of contracting was again brought up with much talk about the cost involved. Several comments with a few superintendents voicing agreement that the personnel is just not out there to hire. That brings up a question...what is it going to gain us if we do hire a recruiter especially if the personnel is not out there to hire. Some of the superintendents feel they would have the same number of positions open...even if they had a recruiter. It is understood though if Kathy wants to start doing data gathering. Another district mentioned they are having more success with bringing in long-term subs that are wanting to seek certification. Those who do graduate from these non-traditional programs are still needing long-term extra support.
- C. Program Update – The SELA transition room did open at Baum Monday. I have been told it went really well...it is a small group of students with a long-term sub who is a retired SED teacher. We are looking to open a second transition room at Muffley in January if we can find staff.
- D. Administrative Office Building Update – Work has started! It does look terrible at the moment but that is because it is demolition and then rebuilding. They still have us on track to move during Christmas break.

Hearing no further questions or topics, Chairman Jones entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Supt Vogt 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 7:50 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft September 15, 2022 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Treasurer’s Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on TUESDAY 11/15/2022 at Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N-161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

11/15/22

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

11/15/22

Date Approved