

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 2/16/2023 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 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Mary Vogt, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Rochelle Clark, Jeff Holmes, Kris Kahler, Andy Pygott, Adam Clapp, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner, Travis Roundcount (*arrival 7:32 am*)
(11 in-person; 1 late arrival)

Members Absent:

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth, Jill Reedy, Nancy Brodbeck, Bret Hitchings, Amanda Flesch-DPS Teacher (*for observation hours*)

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 1/19/2023 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:31 a.m. by Supt Robinson's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Clark. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: T.Roundcount.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 7:49 a.m. by Supt Pygott's **motion**, seconded by Supt Holmes. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

Motion by Supt Vogt 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 Heck. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (12) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Again our Fund Balance is too high. Still meeting with Decatur's CFO regarding billing us; hopefully we will see some of that balance start to come down when the bills are received and paid. Since we are not yet ready to present a draft budget, recommending that the Finance Committee not meet in February. The next meeting would be in March. The state's vendor for Medicaid claiming, Public Consulting Group (PCG), has made some changes; consequently, we are no longer able to manage the annual cost reporting in the MPSED office. This annual report has to be done at the district level by those individuals who are entering the quarterly financial figures in the PCG system. A 2-hour online training is available on PCG's website for your district's financial people to view. It appears the transportation piece may be the most intricate and time consuming. Reporting should become easier with each year since items and figures roll over into the next claiming year. This first year will be the most cumbersome for all districts. Cooperatives are losing their ability to manage items for member districts - this seems to be the direction the state is taking. We are trying to figure out what we at MPSED can do to help districts with this annual cost report...just as we have done with the

grants! Even though we have found a 'work-around' for the grants, we still cannot enter your expenditure reports. Everyone should have received the email indicating if you have unspent funds in the ARP IDEA grant that you will need to 'do something' to let it roll over to FY24. We can see nothing on our end that indicates any district has any money left over. Please look in your FRIS...if you have zero balance, then there is nothing you need do. Most districts have expended it down last year by utilizing it for tuition costs. We will find out the consequence next year when it is time to do the Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

- B. Vacancy Update - A vacancy list is available in your packet. I would like to report 'cautious' good news...we have found an educational interpreter. Once she receives her Illinois licensure, she will be able to start at the Montessori program.
- C. Program Update - We have already briefly talked about SELA and how the lack of staff is creating a hardship with securing spots for young students; because of this, we have started weight-listing for this age group at this location. If there is an emergency, we can talk about other options such as placing the student at home with 1 hour a day instruction. This seems to be a scenario that is happening more and more! Other directors in the Champaign area are also dealing with this issue. Young students who cannot handle school being placed homebound due to no other available space for these behaviorally challenged students.

Regarding the transition house, we have talked with the architect and it does look promising that we will be able to get this approved by the ROE. Once approved, Kathy will be working with Decatur to get a lease agreement with the entity that owns the house. We will let you know when we can start enrolling students into this program. It will be a half-day lab for super senior students. The survey results will be reviewed tomorrow to measure the interest.

A question regarding the progress at Harris was raised...Kathy feels we will still be ready to move in June 2023.

- D. Discussion about Residency and Enrollment when students are in Special Education Programs - we ran into this discussion a few years ago when we were doing billing based on where the student was enrolled. The bill for these students would be sent to the district the student was enrolled in SIS. We are running into an issue with parents refusing to register in their new boundary school district. When that happens, we run into a billing issue...trying to figure out where to send the bill. Originally, Kathy was going to ask approval for a procedure giving parent(s) notice stating their student will be dropped from the program until they register into the new member district. We've received advice from legal that this cannot be done. The legal argument is that we would be denying FAPE. Brandon Wright is the legal person who is really knowledgeable about special education issues and he has dealt with other cooperatives who have done what was being proposed. Several questions arose among the group; one being if there was the ability to streamline the registration among member districts. It feels as though this is a recurrent issue and the time gap between when a student is dropped at one district then picked up at another member district could possibly take a couple of weeks. Legal counsel is stating that the billing should follow when a student changes residency, regardless of their enrollment. For students that are attending SpEd programs (ie, ES, LS, SED, and SELA), the legal advice is...if one of these students should move to a member district, do not drop the student from enrollment, first figure out the billing issue. In the meantime, if there is proof the student is living in another member district boundary, bill accordingly whether or not the student is enrolled with that district in SIS.

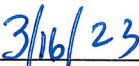
Hearing no further questions or topics to discuss, Chairman Jones entertained a motion to adjourn.
Motion by Supt Meadows to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Holmes. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:06 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft January 19, 2023 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 Thursday 3/16/2023 at Richland Community College Main Campus – Room N-161.**



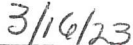
MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson



Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary



Date Approved