

Macon-Piatt Special Education District
Superintendents' Meeting
Thursday, August 6, 2026 8:00am
Richland Community College, Room N161
1 College Park; Decatur, IL 62521
Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Participation

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the Executive Board minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting as presented. **Voice Vote**

V. Call to Closed Session: to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. **Roll Call Vote** **Return to Open Session:** **Voice Vote**

VI. Roll Call Action Items

A. Approval for Macon-Piatt Special Education Procedures

Motion: To recommend that the Executive Board approve Macon-Piatt Special Education Procedures [New Updates to Special Education Procedures \(from ICSA\)](#). *Discussion.* **Roll Call Vote**

B. Personnel Appointments

Motion: To recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employees presented be recommended as listed. *Discussion.* **Roll Call Vote**

VII. Director's Report

- A. Financial Update
- B. Parking Lot at MPSED
- C. Vacancy Update
- D. Program Update
- E. Ancillary Wages for Sub Psychologists' and SEAs
- F. Evaluation Specialist

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board. **Voice Vote**

*****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board is Thursday, September 17 2026, 7:30am at Regional Office of Education #39, 3343 Rupp Parkway, Decatur IL.***

Handouts:

- Draft May 21, 2026 Minutes*
- Personnel Appointments*
- Vacancy List*
- Draft Evaluation Specialist Job Description*
- Treasurer's Report (May and June)*
- Vendor Checks (electronically sent)*
- DRAFT Special Education Procedures (electronically sent)*

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, May 21, 2026**

Regional Office of Education #39
3433 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526

Damian Jones called the meeting to order with roll call at 7:38am

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Adam Clapp, Michael Tresnak, Shane Gordon, Travis Roundcount, Adam Ibbotson, Mary Vogt, Emily Weidner, Cheryl Warner, Jonathan Field, Rochelle Clark (arrived 8:17am)
(10 in person + 1 late arrival)

Members Absent: Sacha Young

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Liz Lang, Ellyn Lord, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings, Zakry Standerfer, Nancy Brodbeck

Public Participation: None

Hearing no questions or concerns regarding the minutes presented, Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Vogt to approve the Executive Board minutes from the April 16, 2026, meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Tresnak. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:39 by Supt Clapp motion to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field (1) Absent: Young (1) Late Arrival: Clark.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 8:56am by Supt Vogt, seconded by Supt Warner. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

- A. Possible Termination of Paraprofessional** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that Crista Hjort be terminated from her position upon ratification on May 26, 2026, seconded by Supt Clark. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- B. Personnel Appointments** Motion by Supt Clapp 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 Tresnak. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- C. Contract with Presence Learning** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend the approval of the contract for psychological and bi-lingual psychological services as presented, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- D. Invoice from Embrace** Motion by Supt Vogt to authorize Decatur Public Schools, as the administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District to pay Embrace Education Invoice# EMB-462 in the amount of \$42,257.96 as presented, seconded by Supt Ibbotson

Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

- E. **Invoice from STAR Autism Support** Motion by Supt Roundcount to authorize Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District to pay STAR Autism Support Invoice #236230 in the amount of \$41,700 as presented, seconded by Supt Ibbotson. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- F. **Criteria for Speech-Language Impairment** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend approval of the criteria for eligibility for Speech or Language Impairment as presented, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- G. **Proposed FY27 Budget** Motion by Supt Tresnak to recommend the approval of the proposed FY27 Budget as presented, seconded by Supt Gordon. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update- Balance is solid. It looks like we are behind compared to last year due to timing of receiving monthly tuition payment from DPS. Waiting on bids for MPSED parking lot re pavement.
- B. Vacancy Update- Not much change. Pre-vocational coordinator position is re-posted.
- C. Program Update- Looking closely at Early Childhood baby 3 program. Many students with late birthdays. 54 students coming for summer leaving no seats for fall. Possibly go down to 1 day/week.
- D. Due Process/ISBE Complaint Update- Mediations settled at W/L and M/F. Closing complaint at MTZ and avoided complaint at DPS.
- E. Summer Programming-84 students start June 1 with the same setup as previous years. SELA will launch a summer program with 18 students during the last 3 weeks of July. Criteria established for students to be in the STEM and community-based program.
- F. Summer Registration for Private Day Placement Students- Liz discussed MPSED hosting registration days over the summer for students attending private day placements. Home district registration packets would be completed along with showing proof of residency. This ensures better tracking of students moving in and out of paying districts. Supt Warner asked is this procedure could be modeled for all program students because of the difficulty tracking when the students move in and out of district. Supt Warner also asked what can be done about private facility students attending part time but being billed for full time status. Liz will have another conversation with the facilities.
- G. Procedures for Private Day Students who become sick- Liz explained that students are getting sick on the bus while in transport to their private day facility and parents cannot be reached. Private day facilities cannot take the student, so Liz proposed DPS students be dropped off at MPSED with an administrator until communication is made with the parent. Liz will check with legal about this before moving forward.
- H. Psychologists' Assignments (including new position)- Liz read off tentative psychologist assignments for the group. MPSED is working on creating 2 new Evaluation Specialist TRS positions. This would be someone with PEL wanting to start the pipeline to become a school psychologist. The position would attend IEP meetings and complete record reviews. This would lessen costs to contracted psychologists through Presence Learning. Board questioned the pipeline model because it could remove retired teachers as possible candidates.

- I. New Director Mentoring Plan-Liz asked the board to consider hiring Kathy as a Mentor to Liz for the 26-27 school year. Liz explained that there are still things that are only done once a year that she will need Kathy's help with.
- J. New Updates to Special Education Procedures (from ICOSA)- Press release updated. Kathy has taken ours and compared. Since the procedures are based on already approved policies the Board agreed to bring this back to the table in August.

Call for Nomination of Officers- Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson

Election of Officers-Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the approval of Cheryl Warner as Chairperson and Adam Ibbotson as Vice-Chairperson of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

Appointment of Secretary Motion by Supt Tresnak to recommend the approval of Ellyn Lord continue as Board Secretary of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

Chairman Jones along with the rest of the Board extended a Thank You to Kathy for her leadership over the years and wished her a happy retirement.

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

Motion by Michael Tresnak to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Ibbotson. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Handouts:

- Draft April 16, 2026 Minutes*
- Personnel Appointments*
- Contract for Presence Learning*
- Invoice from Embrace Education*
- Invoice from STAR Autism Support*
- DRAFT Speech-Language Impairment Criteria with Internal Procedures and ELL Considerations*
- DRAFT FY27 MPSED Budget Summary*
- Treasurer's Report (April)*
- Vendor Checks (electronically sent)*
- Vacancy List*
- DRAFT Special Education Procedures (electronically sent)*

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board is Thursday, August 6, 2026, 8:00 am at Richland Community College, Room N-161 in Main Campus, 1 College Park, Decatur IL.**

MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

Date Approved

MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

Date Approved

MPSED Personnel and Administrative Appointments

Name	Position	Effective Date
------	----------	----------------

New Hires:

Administration

Administrative Support

--	--	--

Certified

1	Angela Harrel	Life Skills Teacher at Hope	August 10, 2026

Non-Certified

1	Alyssa Ware	Cross-Cat/Ind TA at South Shores (6 hours, DPS paid)	August 7, 2026
2	Emily Mitchell	Life Skills TA at Muffley (6 hours)	August 7, 2026
3	Georgina Byers	Essential Skills TA at MacArthur (6.5 hours)	August 7, 2026
4	SuEllyn Mackey	Cross-Cat/Ind TA at SDMS (6.25 hours, DPS paid)	August 7, 2026
5	Kimoko Green	Cross-Cat/Ind TA at Parsons (6 hours, DPS paid)	August 7, 2026
6	Candy Ridgeway	Job Coach at Various Job Sites (up to 3 hours/3-4 days a week)	August 10, 2026
7	Aimee Younker	Job Coach at Various Job Sites (up to 6 hours/5 days a week)	August 10, 2026
8	Yuliana Guido	Life Skills TA at SDMS (6.25 hours)	August 7, 2026
9	Nicholas Uhl	Life Skills TA at Hope (6 hours)	August 7, 2026
10	Aquanda Brooks	Cross-Cat/Ind TA at Hope (6 hours)	August 7, 2026

Transfers:

Certified

1	Tracy Kovach (Cook)	From Essential Skills Teacher to Life Skills Teacher at MacArthur	August 10, 2026
2			

Non-certified

1	Sheena Schwartz	From Life Skills TA at EHS to Cross-Cat TA at SDMS (6.25 hours, DPS paid)	August 7, 2026
2	Cassandra Dixon	General Ed TA at Dansby to Early Childhood Sped TA at Pershing (6.5 hours)	August 7, 2026
3	Myla Johnson	From Life Skills TA at Hope to Early Childhood Sped TA at Pershing (6.5 hours)	August 7, 2026

Resignations:

1	Lori Karakachos	Cross-Cat/Ind TA at Baum (transfer to Decatur)	August 6, 2026
2	Lori Ingouf	SED TA at SDMS	July 21, 2026
3	Lonny Ryherd	SED TA at EHS (6.5 hours)	July 28, 2026

Request for Extended Leave of Absence

--	--	--

Request for Retirement

1	Michael McQuality	Essential Skills TA at MacArthur	December 18, 2026
---	-------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------

MPSED Vacancies 2026-2027

Building	Position	Hours/ Day	Posted On	Closes On
Hope	Life Skills Teacher (2 positions)		3/3/2026	when filled
MPSED	Private & Parochial Teacher (part time)		3/3/2026	when filled
Stephen Decatur	SED Teacher		3/3/2026	when filled
MPSED	School Psychologist (7 positions)		2/2/2026	when filled
Pershing	Behavior Interventionist		4/29/2026	when filled
SELA	Social Worker		2/2/2026	when filled
Hope	Speech Pathologist		2/2/2026	when filled
SDMS/MHS	Speech Pathologist		2/2/2026	when filled
MPSED	Speech Pathologist (part time)		2/2/2026	when filled
MacArthur	Essential Skills Teacher		3/3/2026	when filled
MacArthur	Life Skills Teacher		3/5/2026	when filled
SELA	SELA Teacher		1/30/2026	when filled
Hope	Essential Skills TA (3 positions)	6.25	3/13/2026	when filled
MacArthur	Essential Skills TA (2 positions)	6.5	3/13/2026	when filled
Montessori	Educational Interpreter	6	3/13/2026	when filled
Hope	Life Skills TA (1 position)	6	3/13/2026	when filled
MHS	LPN TA (2 positions)	7	3/13/2026	when filled
MPSED	Behavior TA (2 positions)	6.25	3/13/2026	when filled
Hope	LPN TA	6.25	3/13/2026	when filled
MPSED	Pre-Vocational Coordinator		4/29/2026	5/12/2026

TITLE: Evaluation Specialist

PURPOSE: To provide in-person support for virtual/remote school psychologists who provide diagnostic and consultative services to school personnel and parents so as to provide the best educational experience possible for students.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. ISBE Professional Educator License (PEL) in Special Education or Related Field, or Bachelor's Degree (Master's Preferred) in Education or Related Field with Specialized Training in Diagnostics, Behavior Management, Clinical Assessment, and Special Education
2. At least two years' experience in the field
3. Ability to function effectively as a member of the school team.
4. Ability to work with limited supervision and a strong attention to detail
5. Strong communication skills, verbal and written
6. Experience and ability to learn/use a variety of online platforms, including office software (e.g. Excel, Word, Google)

REPORTS TO: Assistant Director of Special Education

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

(The following are the essential fundamentals to include but not limited to the following job duties.)

1. In collaboration with the school psychologist, provide consultative services to administrators, parents, teachers, support staff, and agency representatives to plan strategies and interventions which address the academic and/or behavioral difficulties of students.
2. In collaboration with the school psychologists, serve as a resource person and advisor in enhancing the understanding of the abilities, achievements, emotions, development and behavioral patterns of students.
3. Participate as a member of the building level assistance team when academic and/or behavioral issues are a concern.
4. Help design and develop interventions as a member of the building level assistance team as needed.
5. Process parent and school referral information for special education evaluations.
6. Prepare pre-evaluation data folders.
7. Complete a review of school records, social and developmental history/parent checklist, and systematic observations.
8. Provide written documentation of pre-evaluation data (record review).
9. Complete screenings and academic achievement testing as needed.
10. Communicate and collaborate with school psychologist and multidisciplinary team members as part of the educational evaluation process.
11. Attend Domain Meetings and Eligibility Determination Conference (EDC) Meetings as needed to provide information and recommend strategies and interventions when appropriate.
12. Participate in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings to assist with development of appropriate academic and/or behavioral goals and objectives and/or development of strategies.
13. Review records for students due for a three-year re-evaluation, and prepare written documentation for the school psychologist.

14. Provide information and support for professional development for teachers, administrators, and support staff (examples: multi-tiered system of support, data management, disability specific information, etc).
15. Share resources with parents regarding child development, special needs, and response to intervention.
16. Participate in research projects, program development and evaluation.
17. Arrange for on-site delivery of service to students in collaboration with the special education administrator.
18. Perform such other tasks and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:

One-hundred-eighty school days (180) per year. Salary determined by the Board.

EVALUATION:

Performance in the position will be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of Board policy Evaluation of Professional Personnel.

The physical demands, work environment factors, and mental functions described below are representative of those that must be met by an employee to perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individual with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk, see, hear, sit, walk, and stand; use hands, to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. The employee is occasionally required to climb or balance; stoop, kneel, or crouch.

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus with or without correction.

Hear in the normal audio range with or without correction.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

MENTAL FUNCTIONS: While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly is required to compare, analyze, communicate, coordinate, compile, instruct, synthesize, evaluate, use interpersonal skills, negotiate, and maintain emotional control under stress. The employee frequently is required to compute. The employee occasionally is required to copy.

The foregoing statements describe the general purpose and responsibilities assigned to this job and are not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills that may be required.

TREASURERS REPORT - MAY, 2026

Beginning FUND Balance	5,087,476.33
------------------------	--------------

REVENUE

1342 - Tuition	2,827,072.65
1510 - Int of invest.	
1950 - PRIOR YEAR REFUND	
1993 - TMH-SUPPLY	
1999 - OTHER MISC. REV	
3001 - EBF	127,492.00
4625 - ROOM AND BOARD	
4951 - VOC REHAB	
4991 - ADMIN OUT	88,744.57
4992 - MEDICAID	123,240.85
ADJUSTMENT	
	3,166,550.07

Expenditures

Payroll - 100	1,731,018.84
Benefits - 200	580,574.57
Purchased Services - 300	174,540.80
Supplies - 400	7,921.17
Other - 500-800	346,472.67
ADJUSTMENT	
	2,840,528.05

CHANGE/INTEREST

BALANCE	
AS OF	
5/31/2026	5,413,498.35

Balance Last Year	\$	5,482,425.90
-------------------	----	--------------

TREASURERS REPORT - JUNE, 2026

Beginning FUND Balance	5,044,605.54
------------------------	--------------

REVENUE

1342 - Tuition	1,935,084.18
1510 - Int of invest.	
1950 - PRIOR YEAR REFUND	
1993 - TMH-SUPPLY	
1999 - OTHER MISC. REV	
3001 - EBF	127,481.45
4625 - ROOM AND BOARD	32,940.00
4951 - VOC REHAB	3,400.00
4991 - ADMIN OUT	
4992 - MEDICAID	690,137.91
ADJUSTMENT	
	2,789,043.54

Expenditures

Payroll - 100	970,318.07
Benefits - 200	129,267.62
Purchased Services - 300	40,287.91
Supplies - 400	9,401.84
Other - 500-800	338,014.24
ADJUSTMENT	
	1,487,289.68

CHANGE/INTEREST

BALANCE

AS OF

6/30/2026

6,346,359.40

Balance Last Year

\$

6,699,261.88