

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY MAY 21, 2020**  
Macon Piatt SpEd District – Conference Room via Zoom Platform  
335 E Cerro Gordo Street, Decatur IL 62523

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

**Members Present:** Damian Jones (*Vice-Chairperson*), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Paul Fregeau, Amanda Geary, John Ahlemeyer, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (*Chairperson*), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Kristen Kendrick-Weikle  
(1 physically)  
(11 conference)

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth (*Secretary*), Bret Hitchings, via conference – Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy, Brian Plummer

**Public Participation:** None

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained the motion to approve the minutes from the 3/19/2020 meeting. Supt Heck motioned to approve the Executive Board minutes as presented, seconded by Supt Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:34 a.m. by Supt Robinson’s motion to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Return to Open Session at 7:53 a.m. by Supt Robinson’s motion, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor.

**Call for Nomination of Officers – Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson**

After opening the floor for any nominations, Supt Robinson moved to nominate our current Chair and Vice-Chair, seconded by Supt Fregeau. Supt Fregeau moved to close the nominations. With no other nominations given, Supt Heck seconded the motion.

**Election of Officers – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

With only having one nomination for each position, by acclamation, Vic Zimmerman is Chairperson and Damian Jones is Vice-Chairperson of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board for FY2021.

**Appointment of Secretary**

Supt Robinson motioned to recommend the approval of Vickie Vieth as the Secretary of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, seconded by Sheila Greenwood. Call for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**Roll Call Action Items**

**A. Personnel and Administrative Appointments**

Briefly reviewed personnel. Mentioned the positives of full staffing at Muffley and ability to finally hire a teacher for Visually Impaired. Disappointing to have new vacancies at Parsons along with still having 5 vacancies for school psychologists. Discussion was had regarding what if people were not found for the psychologist positions. Supplementary on-line psych assessment services were discussed. Interest was expressed by one of the districts about the possibility of finding/hiring their own psychologist. If so, questions were raised how that would look under the current funding formula. After no further questions or discussion. Supt Kendrick-Weikle

motioned 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 Fregeau. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**B. Presence Learning Contract for Bilingual Psychological Assessments**

Document found in your packet along with a cost sheet. Agreement is to pay for a series of bilingual evaluations, either speech, psychology, or both. Supt Kendrick-Weikle motioned to recommend the approval of the contract service agreement for a minimum of \$10,000 of bilingual speech-language and psychologist assessments for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**C. Embrace IEP and DS Contract Renewal**

This includes 504 for all member districts. With the IEP and 504 bundled, the cost is \$35,100. Embrace DS, the Medicaid claiming portion cost is only a 5% fee of all revenue we collect. Same contract/ terms as this year. With no further questions, Supt Jones motioned to recommend the approval of the contract renewal for IEP and Medicaid billing software, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**D. Proposed FY21 Budget**

This budget is aggressive and it assumes all districts are in, fully staffed with all schools and all students. If this does not happen, might be looking at a reduction of budget. Estimated budgets for next year have already been sent to each district. It is based on how many kids are being sent into the programs. The final budget approval happens later through Decatur. Next time approval happens it will be through DPS, July 7, the first Board Meeting in Decatur. There is a 30-day period and a hearing held publically the last meeting in August. After all questions were answered, Supt Roundcount motioned to recommend the approval of the proposed FY21 Budget as presented, seconded Supt Robinson. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Kendrick-Weikle. (0) Nays; (0) Absent.

**Director's Report**

**A. Finance Update**

- IDEA Grant (end of FY20, and FY21 allocations) – All districts will need to have a final expense report uploaded after books are closed in July. This will allow ISBE to calculate carry over for the next fiscal year. Starting to write grants – notify Kathy of any changes from last year. If there are no students in Pershing but your district has a preschool allocation tuition, Kathy will be contacting to verify use of your funds. Money will not carry over the second year.
- Estimated Bills for FY21 – already discussed. Contact Kathy if you have any questions. We expect a carryover from what each district paid into Macon Piatt due to not being fully staff FY20. Carryover funds will be applied to each district on their first FY21 bills. This was the past practice and it appears to still be the desired preference. If any district desires a refund instead, please contact Kathy.

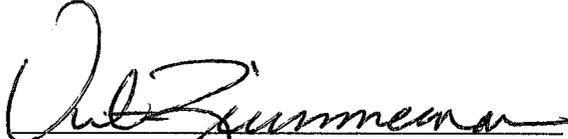
- B. **Vacancy Update** – vacancies were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- C. **Cooperative Structures** – A short review was given from the status of the February Finance Committee meeting. Out of that discussion, a letter was written on behalf of Macon Piatt to send to Decatur’s board. Decatur’s Supt shared that they are evaluating the situation and appreciated the outreach. In June, Decatur’s board may reach out and talk about next steps if any. After the update, Kathy went over the current cooperative structure showing how very enmeshed we are with Decatur. In this current format, Macon Piatt as an entity does not exist. Kathy concisely reviewed other possible cooperative structures – a summary of which was included in the board packet. There were no further questions or comments about the alternate cooperative structures. The board was appreciative of the summary. At this point, Macon Piatt board feels it would be premature to go any further at this time until something is heard from Decatur’s board.
- D. **Location of Programs for FY21** – A document is provided in the packet listing building addresses and hours. The only location change is the Enterprise Life Skills program. It is moving with the Montessori school to the new Montessori campus at Thomas Jefferson. All principals have been hired and are in place. Decatur will be looking at some of their building times thereby there may be a change from what is listed on the sheet. Supt Fregeau thinks it will only be by 5 minutes at the most.
- E. **Purchase of a Building for MPSED** – Revisiting the idea which was brought up about a year ago regarding purchasing a building to house our SEAP and Administrative offices. We approached Decatur at one point; we did not want to lose that thought. Supt Fregeau believes Decatur is still interested in selling. A question was raised if something could be worked out between the two entities without going to auction. According to Supt Fregeau’s discussions with the attorney, that is an option since we are another public entity. We are waiting on DPS to make some decisions. Will be updated.
- F. **August Meeting Date/Time** – a tentative date was set. Due to personnel, it was best to plan on meeting the first Thursday, August 6 at 7:30 a.m. in the MPSED conference room – hopefully in person. At this time, the ROE breakfast is uncertain. While discussing a meeting date, the topic of our agreement and the interpretation of ‘meeting every month’ was broached. It seems there is varying interpretations of ‘meeting every month’. Macon Piatt’s interpretation is to meet every month school is in session. Traditionally, there is no need to take action in June or July.

**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 Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

*Handouts:*

- Draft March Minutes*
- Vendor Checks (Electronically sent)*
- Personnel Appointments*
- Presence Learning Contract*
- Embrace IEP and DS Contract*
- FY21 Tentative Budget*
- March and April Treasurer’s Report*
- Vacancy List*
- Cooperative Structures*
- Program Locations and Addresses*

**\*\*Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 7/8/20 at Regional Office of Education #39 Conference Room (Zoom link available)**

  
MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

7-8-20  
Date Approved

  
MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

7/8/20  
Date Approved