

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
Richland Community College Shilling Hall, Salon Banquet Rooms
Decatur, Illinois 62521

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Member roll call was taken. All were present after two late arrivals: DeAnn Heck (7:49 a.m. arrival); Brett Robinson (7:46 a.m. arrival).

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, , Paul Fregeau, Amanda Geary, John Ahlemeyer, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner
(10 present with 2 others arriving later)

Members Absent: DeAnn Heck *(arrived 7:49)*, Brett Robinson *(arrived 7:46)*

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Vickie Vieth (Secretary), Bret Hitchings

Public Participation:

With great enthusiasm Dr. Ahlemeyer introduced Dr. Kris Kahler to the Macon Piatt Executive Board as the new Maroa-Forsyth Superintendent starting next school year.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:35 a.m. by Supt Jones' **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote to go into closed session. (10) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (2) Absent: Heck, Robinson.

Return to **Open Session** at 9:55 a.m. by Supt Meadow's **motion**, seconded by Supt Fregeau. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote to leave closed session. (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (1) Absent - Not present for Roll Call Vote: D.Heck.

Motion by Supt Jones to approve the Executive Board minutes from January 21, 2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Warner. Voice Vote: All in favor.

No public participation in Open Session.

Roll Call Action Items

A. Personnel and Administrative Appointments

Briefly reviewed personnel specifically mentioning two names that were added to the list since sending the packet out electronically. Hired a new teacher for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing to start in August, and a new TA starting at Montessori Academy for Peace.

Motion by Supt Geary 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 Greenwood. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: D. Heck.

B. Director's Contract

Kathy Horath's five year contract will be starting 7/1/21 and extending through 6/30/26. The other modification in the contract is the salary. We are still currently attached to Decatur's Salary Schedule and the Administrator & Administrative Support Staff Compensation & Benefit Booklet. Decatur board has not yet determined what the salary will be for 21-22 but that will

become the director's salary increase. Based on Decatur's Administrator contract and compensation & benefit package, Kathy is entitled to increases of 5.75% in each of the last four years of her contract. She intends to retire at the conclusion of 2025-2026 school year. There is no other changes in the wording of the contract. No questions were raised.

Motion by Supt Robinson to recommend the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that a new five-year contract for Kathy Horath be approved as presented, seconded by Supt Pygott. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: D. Heck.

Director's Report

- A. Finance – Located in your packet is the latest Treasurer's Report. It does signify that our fund balance is healthy. Desiring to keep this fund balance healthy just in case a building needs to be purchased that requires renovation to make the building habitable. This is Kathy's recommendation regarding the fund balance. The cooperative was asked to participate in a survey regarding CARES funding. We have had to rely on member districts to pick up PPE costs for our students since cooperatives have not been participating or receiving any CARES Act money. This is something MPSED is trying to rectify so that some of the money funnels directly to the cooperative. Just wanted to make everyone aware. It is still uncertain how they will be counting the students...by resident district or serving location. As a side note, we have been relying on DPS a lot for some of the PPEs, but MP has had to purchase all of the gowns and protective coverings for our MP employees in Decatur buildings. The cost is coming out of member district's tuition costs. We are working on the budget and we have a finance committee meeting next Thursday morning, 2/25 at 7:30 a.m. With the size of the conference room and social distancing requirements, Kathy is recommending to keep it in the zoom format. You are welcome to come in-person but make sure to let Kathy know so a cap may be placed on in-person attendees.
- B. Enrollment Projections – More detail will be given at next week's budgetary meeting. We are looking at employee cuts based on the declining enrollment into our program. In order to keep our per pupil cost the same or less than what it was this year, we are looking at some reduction of staff members. This year's costs was really high. Let Kathy know if your district will be bringing students back in to your district buildings – that will affect our program numbers.
- C. Building and Program Location Update – Was able to tour the Garfield Academy building when it was up for sale. It is a nice building located in the middle of a neighborhood in South Shores and it is ideal for us should DPS decide they want to sell the building. At the DPS Board meeting last night, Decatur's recommendation to their board was not to sell Garfield or Stevenson – at least for this year. The other news is...a new location is needed for Parsons Life Skills classes due to combining Stevenson kids at the Parsons campus. Last night the DPS board received a verbal recommendation from the administration that we move two Life Skills rooms to the Hope campus and two Life Skills rooms to the Baum campus. It is a benefit for us to have Life Skills in the same building as Essential Skills at Hope Academy – this will create more opportunity for cross programming. Parents are more agreeable to have their student go to a room next door rather than to a program across the city. Wanted to let all the districts know so they can start looking at transportation for next year.

Additional topic discussed was ISBE sending out letters regarding significant disproportionality in identification or discipline of students by race. One of our districts did receive a letter so we will have to work together in writing the grants in such a way that the funds get allocated for students who are not yet Special Education eligible.

Hearing no further questions or comments. Chairperson Zimmerman 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 Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft January 21, 2021 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Director's Contract – Kathy Horath
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (Electronically Sent)

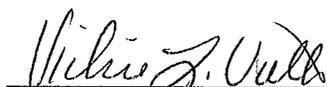
****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place 7:30 a.m., on Thursday, 3/18/21 at Richland Community College – National Sequestration Educ Center – 1 College Park, Decatur IL 62521.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

3/18/21

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

3/18/21

Date Approved