

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 10/21/2021 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N161
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, Brett Robinson, Bobbi Williams - Interim, Amanda Geary, Kristopher Kahler, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Bob Meadows
(9 In-person)

Members Absent: DeAnn Heck, Travis Roundcount, Cheryl Warner

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Vickie Vieth (Secretary), Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings, Brian Braun – Attorney, Michelle Mitchell – DFTA Board President

Public Participation: none

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Jones to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 9/16/2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Greenwood. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:37 a.m. by Supt Meadow's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote, the motion carried with (9) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Meadows. (0) Nay; (3) Absent.

Return to **Open Session** at 7:41 a.m. by Supt Robinson's **motion**, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session. Michelle Mitchell left the meeting.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

Have a few new hires and three resignations – still lots of vacancies. No comments or questions.

Motion by Supt Robinson 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 (9) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Meadows. (0) Nay; (3) Absent.

2. Termination of Specific Educational Support Personnel (Paraprofessional)

Kathy Horath recommends that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that Adam Brue be terminated for cause. Supt Jones made the **motion**, seconded by Supt Pygott.

Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (9) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Meadows. (0) Nay; (3) Absent. A question was raised as to what happens next...Decatur Board will need to ratify this action. The day after Decatur's ratification, a letter giving notification of termination will be sent to him along with an enclosure explaining what he needs to know about unemployment. Attorney Brian Braun leaves the meeting.

Director's Report

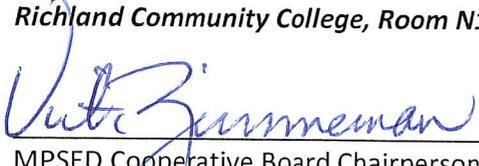
- A. Financial Update – All have received their adjusted beginning bills. Any questions need to be redirected back to Kathy or to the bookkeeper, Laurie VanNatta. We are still working on the transition to our new bookkeeper who will be starting 11/15. Laurie will be retiring 12/10. There may be some tweaks so let Kathy know if you have any questions. Our fund balance is still fine. Our Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for next Thursday morning via zoom. This will be the beginning steps of conversation around the financial formula. Not recommending a major change to the way we bill member districts, but if you have any ideas – this is the time to bring them up.
- B. Early Childhood – As a heads-up, Lindsey Kocher, SpEd Admin, has given an alarm that about 12 students in Early Childhood are not attending the school-based site. Next year, these students will be 5 years old and will be starting kindergarten. These students are very rough/ low skills...behaviors, no communication. Basically we may need to stack the deck with our Life Skills classroom...they might be looking at kids popping out of the wood work. Pershing is already seeing students that are starting out...not at a zero level for skills but at a -20. They are not anywhere ready to be in a school setting. Most kids have been glued to their screen for 18 months – it seems students are having trouble with an addiction withdrawal for lack of better terminology. Several comments were shared around the room where other districts are having similar problems, behaviors with kindergartners. As a heads up, we might be looking at adding a classroom to help address this issue...possibly a Developmental KG classroom specific to training students to be in a KG setting. Much discussion among the room regarding this issue, and the behavior, skills that many students among districts are experiencing post COVID. Not sure this problem is going away anytime soon...but we need to figure out how to support it! Another point of discussion among the group was regarding teacher attendance post COVID.
- C. DPS Buildings – A letter was sent to DPS Board regarding our interest in the Stevenson building. There was no response from them. Todd Covault is interested in coming to chat with Kathy. Just to let you know – we don't know anything yet!

No further comments or questions, 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 8:00 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft September 16, 2021 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Current Vacancies

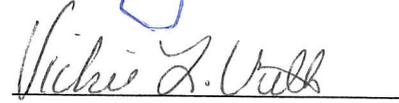
****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Tuesday, 11/16/2021 at Richland Community College, Room N161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

11-16-21

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

11/16/2021

Date Approved