

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 11/15/2022 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – National Sequestration Education Center
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, Jeff Holmes, Kris Kahler, Andy Pygott, Adam Clapp, Travis Roundcount (*arrive 7:34*), Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Rochelle Clark

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth, Nancy Brodbeck (*Interim Asst Regional Supt*), Bret Hitchings, Christine Christensen-District Council from the Law Office of Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller Ltd

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 10/20/2022 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 Holmes. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent: R.Clark, T.Roundcount.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 8:37 a.m. by Supt Meadows' **motion**, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed. After returning to Open Session, there was a 5-minute break before resuming the meeting.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Possible Dismissal of a Paraprofessional

Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for Macon-Piatt Special Education District to terminate employment for Alexis Jackson effective November 16, 2022, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: R.Clark.

2. Personnel Appointments

Motion by Supt Holmes 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 Pygott. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: R.Clark.

3. Contractual Agreement with Urbana School District 116

The annual contract for services we have for our vision/hearing teachers, PD, and Orientation & Mobility services. The O&M is vacant so the bill will be adjusted for that vacancy.

Motion by Supt Heck to recommend approval of the contract for coordinator of vision and hearing services for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Supt Kahler. Chairman Jones calls

for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: R.Clark.

4. Revised Procedures: Billing for Part-Time Enrollment

Recommending that we do not bill districts when a child is placed on non-medical home services but that we still charge the district a portion of the program fee...not a whole- or half-day portion but a quarter-day portion. This would still allow our teachers and assistants to help prepare materials for the home instruction. **Motion** by Supt Holmes to recommend a change in billing for part-time enrollment as presented, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent: R.Clark.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Finance report is in your packet. First bills have been sent out, please call if you have any questions or if students are not accurate. Accuracy is important, so let us know. In March or April, we will be looking at the possibility of reducing a billing structure to get our fund balance back into alignment. Might be offsetting some of the bills and giving back some of your money at some point.
- Funding Formula review and discussion for 2023-2024. This has been included for discussion. Kathy is not seeing any overwhelming desire to change it. This will be brought back next month for a vote.
 - Part time and behavioral homebound students – billing. Discussion regarding this topic was before the roll call vote for revised procedures.
- B. Vacancy Update – A list has been included in your packet. The number continues to grow. We are working toward recruitment. The latest online attempt was for Speech Pathologists and School Psychologists but have not seen any nibbles. Our TA to Teacher pipeline is the only success we have had with getting teachers.
- C. Program Update – We are dealing with teacher burnout due to the magnitude of students' behavior in the SELA program. We are short staffed with three teacher vacancies and eight teaching assistant vacancies. That is contributing to a high level of anxiety/trauma in which our students are doing things to our teachers/staff – they are coming across with lots of assaults. They are hurting people. A handful of students are even willing to come after the adults. We do have plans to go visit a couple of other Illinois programs to try, see what they are doing and if they are being successful. The fact is we are losing staff, our teachers are burning out at a high rate. We are trying to figure out ways to help them.
- SELA Program Proposed Schedule – Kathy is recommending a pilot where our students do a change in schedule, such as four days in-person learning with one day online remote. The theory is to have students come in person Monday, Tuesday, remote on Wednesday, then back in person Thursday, Friday. Staff would present in the building, working all five days. Wednesday would be filled with time the staff can deescalate, decompress, do re-entry meetings for students who need to come back from suspension, do problem-solving, do home visits, conduct IEP meetings, and professional development for restorative circles, trauma, informed practices and behavioral strategy. This schedule is temporary but Kathy would like to try this pilot for second semester then assess if it has made any impact. If it is working, a recommendation for permanent change may be made for fall. Superintendents were invited to share any comments or thoughts regarding this idea. Discussion has been had with the union along with administration and the behavioral specialists. The last two groups have been Kathy's 'think tank' and are the ones who suggested the idea. Again...this is isolated to SELA, it's only for students placed in Educational Environment (EE) code of 04 which is the most restrictive placement option that we have for public school. The next placement option is homebound,

private day or private residential. No severe concerns were expressed by the board members. They would like to move forward and be kept in the loop. It needs to be shown we are supporting, hearing, and seeing the staff in this situation.

- D. Administrative Office Building Update – We are not on track to move over the Christmas break. The move is being delayed until June 2023.
- E. Length of School Day and Special Transportation – This is basically a reminder that we’ve got to make sure our kids are present, in the building during the bell-to-bell schedule of their hosting school. This schedule may conflict with the district’s bus transportation but we’ve got to figure out a way to get them to their attending schools at the bell-to-bell schedule otherwise it is discrimination if we have a shortened day.
- F. Due Process Update – We do have a due process but it is not asking for remedy, it’s mostly a rant. A question was raised regarding which entity is responsible for the due process, is it the individual district or the cooperative. The individual district is the one that will supply the attorney and the cost.

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

Motion by Supt Heck to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Robinson. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

- Handouts:*
- Draft October 20, 2022 Minutes*
 - Personnel Appointments*
 - Contract with Urbana School District 116*
 - Billing for Part-Time Enrollment Procedures*
 - Treasurer’s Report*
 - Vendor Checks (electronically sent)*
 - Approved Formula for Determining Member District Proportionate Share*
 - Vacancy List*

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on THURSDAY 12/15/2022 at Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N-161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

12/15/22

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

12/15/2022

Date Approved