

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 1/19/2023 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College Main Campus, Room N-161
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, Brett Robinson, Jeff Holmes, Kris Kahler, Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Rochelle Clark (*arrived 7:53 am*)
(7 in-person; 1 late arrival)

Members Absent: (4) DeAnn Heck, Andy Pygott, Adam Clapp, Cheryl Warner (Vice-Chair)

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth, Jill Reedy, Nancy Brodbeck, Bret Hitchings, Jason Fox-DPS Human Resources, Ellen Lueking-Attorney, Lawrence Trimble-Complaint Manager

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 12/15/2022 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Holmes. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:31 a.m. by Supt Meadows' **Motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Kahler. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (7) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Roundcount, Meadows. (0) Nay; (5) Absent: Heck, Clark, Pygott, Clapp, Warner.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 8:49 a.m. by Supt Robinson's **Motion**, seconded by Supt Clark. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

1. 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 Kahler. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (8) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Roundcount, Meadows. (0) Nay; (4) Absent: Heck, Pygott, Clapp, Warner.

2. Response to Appeal to Investigation dated December 27, 2022

Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the Executive Board affirm the findings of the Complaint Manager in the report dated 12/27/2022, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (7) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Roundcount, Meadows. (1) Abstain: Clark. (0) Nay; (4) Absent: Vogt, Pygott, Clapp, Warner.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – If you are interested, Finance Committee meeting is downtown at MPSED Thursday, 1/26/23 – it is optional. Going to explore how we cost out the Transition House Program and how to bill it if we are desiring to proceed. Even though it is an extension of Life Skills, it is open to students outside of the Life Skills program. We will get into more detail on Thursday with some estimates of cost and how it will be fair to bill that program. We have a very significant fund balance since Decatur has not billed us yet for the work being done at our new MPSED site at Harris campus. Once we receive their bill, we will have a better understanding of our true fund balance. In addition, we will need to shut off our monthly bills:

to member districts early due to the payments we have been receiving for students. In error, we have been billing as if we are fully staffed; thereby, we will not be billing districts for April and May...depending on the Decatur bill. On Thursday, we will also be considering enrollment projections and what our recommendations are for staffing our programs next year. Lastly, we are slowly declining our fleet of vans. We have a suggested need for 5 replacement vans and we are having great difficulty finding replacements. We have been trying to buy vans for 3 years. We will need to start looking at changing our van usage as our vans expire. Our vans are primarily used for community, for students to go to jobsites, or to the grocery store, basically extension of IEP goals. Several superintendents mentioned looking at a MFSAB (Multifunction School Activity Bus) vehicle as a replacement for the vans. Even though the wait is lengthy and the cost is more, it will provide a larger capacity (14+1 driver) plus they are more comfortable, with more storage, safer, and they can be handicap accessible. These have the same standards as a school bus. The driver does not have to have special training or bus training to drive it and it is legal as long as the MFSAB is not being run as a regular route – you cannot pick students up from home or take them home at the end of the day. The MFSAB is a white bus without a stop arm - drivers still need to stop at railroad tracks. A couple of dealers were mentioned as possibilities: Bob Ridings in Taylorville and Midwest Transit. The length of wait may decrease with utilizing Midwest Transit. Thank you for sharing...sounds like some great possibilities...

- B. Vacancy Update – Our vacancies are still very large. We are now entertaining conversations with Decatur’s union groups about hiring virtual employees. We’ve got a draft job description for a virtual Speech Pathologist and now we are starting conversation regarding numbers for School Psychologists. This is not the desired path, but we have children not being served because we have nobody. Compensatory speech services will again be provided this summer since our kids are not getting what they need based on their IEPs. For virtual, an aid will need to assist by bringing the student to the virtual computer then stay in the room with the virtual. It was encouraging to hear the thoughts of one district who is currently utilizing this method. The company agency person providing these services is thorough and does a great job with Goals/IEPs; she has even done some virtual screenings. Instead of going through an agency or company, Kathy is proposing a direct hire under a teacher’s contract (and under the DEA contract) – it’s just that this person will not be onsite. Kathy believes we can post the job as virtual with the job assignment as ‘TBD’...if a ‘live’ person is found, then we would be able to replace the virtual with a live person. Concerns were discussed regarding replacing virtual employees when a full-time person has been found. This is definitely a conversation for us to have with union since we don’t want to maintain a virtual person when we start finding someone to come in and fill those positions. Unfortunately, we feel like we are going to be going down this road for a lot of positions.
- C. Program Update – We have been talking to you briefly about the concept of a Transition House for 18-22 year old students from the county, Decatur and from the Life Skills program. It maybe more of a half day program where the student(s) would come from their home district/home high school to this house for half day then either go to work or come back to their high school. There would be an afternoon group and a morning group with up to 8 students in a section. We could possibly serve 16 students. This will be discussed more on Thursday at the Finance Committee meeting. Monday, there is a meeting with ROE to even see if the house will meet health and safety guidelines. The portion of the house that is being utilized for public school students will need to meet all the health/safety guidelines which means an architect will have to sign off on it so a permit of occupancy is allowed. Monday, we will be running over to look at it to see if it’s even going to be an option before paying for an architect to go through it...the

bathrooms (and whatever is used for) classrooms will have to be ADA compliant. We were talking about starting a conversation with Heartland and Richland Community College (RCC) to build an outside temporary classroom that is a house on their campus. They are open to the concept but the program would not be able to be started until about 2 years down the road once the house is built. If this current house we are viewing Monday does not look promising, then we probably will table the whole program until we can get onto Heartland's calendar to look at a build with their building trades program.

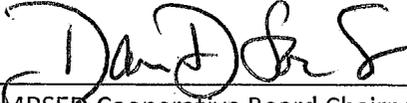
Updates on the Harris campus...all painting has been done and work of replacing classroom lockers with drywall have been completed. They are almost to the point of carpeting; then it will be ready for us to start putting in furniture.

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

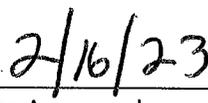
Motion by Supt Meadows to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft December 15, 2022 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List

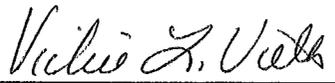
****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday 2/16/2023 at Richland Community College Main Campus – Room N-161.**



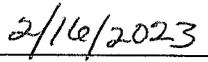
MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson



Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary



Date Approved