

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, May 21, 2026
Regional Office of Education #39
3433 Rupp Parkway; Decatur, IL 62526

Damian Jones called the meeting to order with roll call at 7:38am

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Adam Clapp, Michael Tresnak, Shane Gordon,
(10 in person + 1 late arrival) Travis Roundcount, Adam Ibbotson, Mary Vogt, Emily Weidner, Cheryl Warner, Jonathan Field, Rochelle Clark (arrived 8:17am)

Members Absent: Sacha Young

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Liz Lang, Ellyn Lord, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings, Zakry Standerfer, Nancy Brodbeck

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 April 16, 2026, meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Tresnak. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:39 by Supt Clapp motion to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field (1) Absent: Young (1) Late Arrival: Clark.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 8:56am by Supt Vogt, seconded by Supt Warner. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

- A. Possible Termination of Paraprofessional** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that Crista Hjort be terminated from her position upon ratification on May 26, 2026, seconded by Supt Clark. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- B. Personnel Appointments** Motion by Supt Clapp 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 Tresnak. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- C. Contract with Presence Learning** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend the approval of the contract for psychological and bi-lingual psychological services as presented, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- D. Invoice from Embrace** Motion by Supt Vogt to authorize Decatur Public Schools, as the administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District to pay Embrace Education Invoice# EMB-462 in the amount of \$42,257.96 as presented, seconded by Supt Ibbotson

Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

- E. Invoice from STAR Autism Support** Motion by Supt Roundcount to authorize Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District to pay STAR Autism Support Invoice #236230 in the amount of \$41,700 as presented, seconded by Supt Ibbotson. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- F. Criteria for Speech-Language Impairment** Motion by Supt Ibbotson to recommend approval of the criteria for eligibility for Speech or Language Impairment as presented, seconded by Supt Field. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young
- G. Proposed FY27 Budget** Motion by Supt Tresnak to recommend the approval of the proposed FY27 Budget as presented, seconded by Supt Gordon. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update- Balance is solid. It looks like we are behind compared to last year due to timing of receiving monthly tuition payment from DPS. Waiting on bids for MPSED parking lot re pavement.
- B. Vacancy Update- Not much change. Pre-vocational coordinator position is re-posted.
- C. Program Update- Looking closely at Early Childhood baby 3 program. Many students with late birthdays. 54 students coming for summer leaving no seats for fall. Possibly go down to 1 day/week.
- D. Due Process/ISBE Complaint Update- Mediations settled at W/L and M/F. Closing complaint at MTZ and avoided complaint at DPS.
- E. Summer Programming-84 students start June 1 with the same setup as previous years. SELA will launch a summer program with 18 students during the last 3 weeks of July. Criteria established for students to be in the STEM and community-based program.
- F. Summer Registration for Private Day Placement Students- Liz discussed MPSED hosting registration days over the summer for students attending private day placements. Home district registration packets would be completed along with showing proof of residency. This ensures better tracking of students moving in and out of paying districts. Supt Warner asked is this procedure could be modeled for all program students because of the difficulty tracking when the students move in and out of district. Supt Warner also asked what can be done about private facility students attending part time but being billed for full time status. Liz will have another conversation with the facilities.
- G. Procedures for Private Day Students who become sick- Liz explained that students are getting sick on the bus while in transport to their private day facility and parents cannot be reached. Private day facilities cannot take the student, so Liz proposed DPS students be dropped off at MPSED with an administrator until communication is made with the parent. Liz will check with legal about this before moving forward.
- H. Psychologists' Assignments (including new position)- Liz read off tentative psychologist assignments for the group. MPSED is working on creating 2 new Evaluation Specialist TRS positions. This would be someone with PEL wanting to start the pipeline to become a school psychologist. The position would attend IEP meetings and complete record reviews. This would lessen costs to contracted psychologists through Presence Learning. Board questioned the pipeline model because it could remove retired teachers as possible candidates.

- I. New Director Mentoring Plan-Liz asked the board to consider hiring Kathy as a Mentor to Liz for the 26-27 school year. Liz explained that there are still things that are only done once a year that she will need Kathy's help with.
- J. New Updates to Special Education Procedures (from ICSA)- Press release updated. Kathy has taken ours and compared. Since the procedures are based on already approved policies the Board agreed to bring this back to the table in August.

Call for Nomination of Officers- Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson

Election of Officers-Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the approval of Cheryl Warner as Chairperson and Adam Ibbotson as Vice-Chairperson of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

Appointment of Secretary Motion by Supt Tresnak to recommend the approval of Ellyn Lord continue as Board Secretary of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Clapp, Tresnak, Gordon, Roundcount, Ibbotson, Vogt, Weidner, Warner, Field, Clark (1) Absent: Young

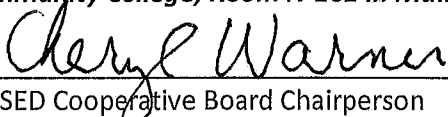
Chairman Jones along with the rest of the Board extended a Thank You to Kathy for her leadership over the years and wished her a happy retirement.

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

Motion by Michael Tresnak to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Ibbotson. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Handouts: *Draft April 16, 2026 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Contract for Presence Learning
 Invoice from Embrace Education
 Invoice from STAR Autism Support
 DRAFT Speech-Language Impairment Criteria with Internal Procedures and ELL
 Considerations
 DRAFT FY27 MPSED Budget Summary
 Treasurer's Report (April)
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List
 DRAFT Special Education Procedures (electronically sent)

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board is Thursday, August 6, 2026, 8:00 am at Richland Community College, Room N-161 in Main Campus, 1 College Park, Decatur IL.**


MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

8/6/26
Date Approved


MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

8/6/26
Date Approved