

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 12/16/2021 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N161
Decatur, Illinois

Vice Chair Damian Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, (10 in-person; 1 late arrival) Bobbi Williams (*arrive 7:34*), Amanda Geary, Kristopher Kahler, Andy Pygott, Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner

Members Absent: Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson)

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth, Matt Snyder, Jill Reedy, Bret Hitchings

Public Participation: None

Vice Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Pygott to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 11/16/2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:31 a.m. by Supt Robinson's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, real estate purchase/lease, collective bargaining, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Geary. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Roll Call Vote, the motion carried with (10) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 7:40 a.m. by Supt Heck's **motion**, seconded by Supt Geary. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

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 Pygott. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent.

2. Contract with Ford County Special Education Cooperative (FCSEC) for Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHH) Teacher to cover Maternity Leave

Motion by Supt Greenwood to recommend the approval of the agreement for service with FCSEC as presented, seconded by Supt Geary. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Included in your packet is the Treasurer's report. Our fund balance is still very healthy. This will allow us to use some of the funds to help get the building ready. The transition to our new Claims & Statistical Analyst is going well. Remember to be thoughtful, everything is new for a whole year.
- B. Elementary SED Program – On track to move the elementary program K-5 to Harris campus and the 6th grade to Stephen Decatur campus. Letters have gone out to parents and transportation directors have the list of names (who, when, where). Will be happy to over communicate this information in case your district needs to share – just let Kathy know if you need a 'repeat' of

the email. The building hours for Harris (7:40 am – 2 pm) are the same as Muffley, but hours for Stephen Decatur (9:05 am – 3:30 pm) are quite a change for the 6th graders. The main reason for this move is due to the administrative resources at the Muffley campus. Our students tend to overwhelm a building's administration due to needing a lot of attention managing extreme behaviors. This semester will be used as a measuring stick whether we need to close the elementary SED program or not, or fold them into SEAP as our location for emotionally challenging students at the k-6 level. Folding them into the SEAP location means the mainstreaming concept may be lost until the student returns to your building. Mainstreaming and possible legal ramifications was discussed among the superintendents. The other idea was to return SED to the Muffley location with an additional full-time administrator – this would increase the program costs around another \$80k to be divided back out by students. Some decisions will have to be made.... Kathy wants to hear from the districts regarding their thoughts on either model.

Most superintendents definitely agreed that a separate, dedicated building administrator who is consistent and long term would be beneficial for this program - overseeing and managing the high needs of students. It was suggested to draw up both proposals with pros/cons of each. After getting the general thoughts of those in the room, this matter will need further conversation whether it is a lot of support in a self-contained building or a lot of support with more costs in a general ed building.

- C. Building for 2022-2023 – this topic has already been covered in closed session. We are on track to draw up a proposal for a lease agreement with one of the buildings in Decatur. We will start working on that proposal.
- D. Excess Cost Worksheets – These are due to drop at the end of January. Giving a heads up that this information will be due at that time. The federal government had to make changes so expect some changes in the worksheet. Most superintendents loathe this report – it may cause districts to be creative with your numbers.
- E. DLM vs IAR/PSAT/SAT – Reminder for your principals and your IEP teams that DLM is reserved for students with IQs below 55. Several of you have LifeSkill students in your CrossCat program – make sure you are not overusing the DLM. DLM is down to 1% of your general population which includes students that your district sends into MPSED programs.

Additional topics of conversation that came up in the room...

- Kathy emailed final allotments – go in to ISBE and look at what has been added to your IDEA grants. The 5% set aside amounts have to be in place at the end of the year. An amendment can be made to move them back or you can make that carryover for next year. If you told Kathy what you wanted to do with the professional development set aside, it was submitted to you for approval through ISBE. It's basically the final allocations...so those of you who did not have carryover will have a final allocation amount that was slotted into your existing budget timeline for ease of purpose.
- When students have poor or non-existent attendance in special education programs, it was suggested the district superintendent call an IEP team meeting to bring that student back into your district. Watch the attendance sheets – make sure your district is getting value out of paying for the programs. If a student is not taking advantage of this special ed program, reduce costs by bringing them back to their home district. We know the costs are really high.
- Reminder...we are opening up a morning only blended class at Pershing this spring.
- The topic of reviewing the funding formula was broached. If administrative costs keep increasing exponentially, then we need to revisit the funding formula as to whether or not costs are averaged across all programs or have specific programs that cost more. Averaging all the costs out, in some ways, is a very sound thing to do because

principals/superintendents don't ever make a decision based upon costs – they make it based upon servicing our kids. Currently the only itemized cost is early childhood which is sensible since it is a half-day program. Kathy agreed...when things change we need to look at it. It will be a topic of conversation at our Finance Committee Meeting, January 27th. We can still vote on a funding formula anytime just as long as it is before the budget is approved.

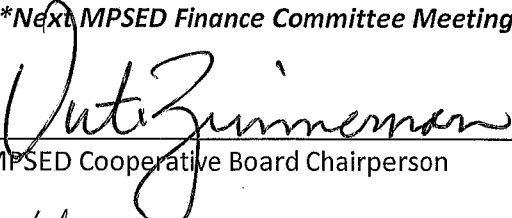
Hearing no further questions or topics, Vice Chairman Jones entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Supt Pygott to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Meadows. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:11 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft November 16, 2021 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Contract with Ford County Special Education Cooperative (FCSEC)
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday, 1/20/22 at Richland Community College, Room N161.**

****Next MPSED Finance Committee Meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, 1/27/22, 7:30 a.m.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

1-20-2022

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

1/20/22

Date Approved