

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 5/19/2022 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – National Sequestration Education Center (NSEC) Exhibit Hall
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Before member roll call was taken, current members introduced themselves to the new superintendents who will be taking over in FY2023. Welcome to Adam Clapp – Monticello CUSD 25 and Mary Vogt – Bement CUSD 5 who will be starting their new positions July 1st. Roll call....

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Rochelle Clark, Amanda Geary, Kris Kahler, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairman), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner
(12 in-person)

Members Absent:

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

Public Participation: Jayden Lawrence, Lloyd Davis, Barbara McCall, Courtney Beckett, Heather Durbin

Five individuals registered to speak, to share their comments and concerns with the board. Before proceeding further, the Board President quickly reviewed the DPS61 policy on public participation in Board Meetings. Inquiry was also made if there were any further written correspondence received before proceeding. None indicated. Jayden Lawrence, 5th grade student read what the SED program means to him along with his concerns of starting in a new environment – Jayden left his written comments for the board. Lloyd Davis, parent of a student in the SED program, shared his views regarding student differences between the SED and SEAP program. Feels SEAP is inappropriate for his child since it is one of the most restrictive learning environments. Barbara McCall, the third speaker, has a grandchild in the SED program. A primary concern expressed is for child's safety. She feels as though the children are losing caring, available staff. The SEAP environment is extremely restrictive. Courtney Beckett, has a 10-yr-old in the SED program. Courtney voiced concern that this movement will cause students to regress – asking for reconsideration to keep the SED program open. Heather Durbin, has an 8-yr-old child in the SED program. She described the attributes of her student before being placed in SED program along with sharing child's improvement/strides made while in the SED program. This has been the fifth time her student has been moved which is difficult for kids that already have trust issues. It seems that special education programs are always pushed aside...she does not feel it is a fair option for families to either return back to their home school or attend SEAP.

All items were collected (written comments, poster boards). Before moving on with the agenda, Chairman Zimmerman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for those sharing their thoughts, concerns with the board.

Chairman Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Greenwood to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 4/21/2022 meeting as presented, second by Supt Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:53 a.m. by Supt Jones' **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, second by Supt Pygott. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Roll Call Vote, the motion carries with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner.

(0) Nay; (0) Absent.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 8:07 a.m. by Supt Heck's **motion**, second by Supt Pygott. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

A short break (5-10 minutes) was given before continuing Open Session.

Call for Nomination of Officers – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Since Vic Zimmerman is retiring and not going to be with us next year, Kathy Horath opened the floor for any nominations for chair and vice-chair. A nomination was made for Damian Jones to be chairperson with no further names voiced. A nomination for Cheryl Warner to be vice-chair was made with no other nominations voiced. Hearing no other nominations for either position, the nominations were closed.

Election of Officers – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Supt Greenwood **motioned** to recommend the approval of Damian Jones as Chairperson and Cheryl Warner as Vice Chairperson of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, second by Supt Robinson. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor, none oppose. Motion carries. Roll Call Vote was not necessary since we did not have multiple nominations for these positions.

Appointment of Secretary

Supt Geary **motioned** to recommend the approval of Vickie Vieth as the secretary of the Macon-Piatt Special Education Cooperative Board, second by Supt Jones. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor, none oppose. Motion carries.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

Brief review of personnel. Thrilled to have a new hire for SLP – still have 3 other SLP vacancies. Several transfers and lots of resignations. No questions.

Motion by Supt Meadows 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 Geary. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

2. Embrace IEP and DS (Medicaid Billing Software) Contract Renewal

As a cooperative, we are paying for all the 504 add-ons to the IEP software allowing districts to electronically store 504 documents. The price is not much of an increase. No questions.

Motion by Supt Robinson to recommend the approval of the contract renewal for IEP and Medicaid Billing software, seconded by Supt Heck. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

3. Proposed FY23 Budget

Kathy Horath reviewed the budget summary form. Enough money is in our fund balance to handle the renovations on the Harris facility; we are not extending the charge to our member districts. Quick review of the budgeted items/programs along with reasons for increase/decreases. Kathy gave a brief summary of the renovations to be done on the Harris building this year. Inquiry was made regarding which districts still purchase employees from Macon Piatt and for what specific field/area. No further questions....

Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the approval of the proposed FY23 Budget as presented, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairman Zimmerman calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Treasurer's Report shows the reason why Kathy feels comfortable utilizing the fund balance for renovations. Kathy also shared what her expectation is for the fund balance amount at the end of the fiscal year.
- B. Vacancy Update – (included in your packet). Not much to say...we need teachers, speech therapists, school psychologists.
- C. Program Update – Conversation regarding elementary level SED and SEAP program. Over the last year, the SEAP program has undergone many changes regarding the way they deliver instruction to the students. Historically it has been a consequence-driven restrictive model. SEAP has gone under 2 years of intensive restorative justice training and cultural change to where they are no longer approaching students as a punitive or consequence driven model. This is the same manner of instruction as the SED program. Both programs have similar staff to student ratios. The only major difference now between the 2 programs is the location. SEAP is located separate from a public education building and historically, the SED program has been located in a DPS building with general education. The SEAP program is altering their restrictive measure next year as anticipation of blending with the SED program – they will be allowing students to bring their lunches and backpacks to school. Students will be escorted to a sensory room as needed for de-escalation. With these similarities, along with the staffing shortages for SED, it makes sense to combine the 2 programs at the elementary level at this time. We will be having an open house for the community to see once all the renovations and updates occur.
- D. Summer Programming – 148 students are registered which is about 25-30 more than last year. All enrollment is firmed up and there is a 'wait list' for classes. All transportation has had communication about the time and bussing. Met with the staff and everyone is really excited – it should be a good summer. This year the cost for summer session is a lot cheaper since the payrates for teachers and TAs have been brought back down to the 'normal rate' for both fields. We thank DPS for doing this! There was discussion among several of the districts regarding summer session and what they were experiencing...many districts are seeing a lag in summer enrollment and staffing.
- E. SEA Assignments (Recall) – Kathy wanted to have a discussion and gather thoughts from the board regarding how to handle 'recalls'. Does there need to be a cutoff date or a procedure set up? If there is a recall situation (which hopefully is an anomaly), do we still want to make it the director's unilateral decision to place the SEA based on strength/weaknesses, or simply have the 'recall' fill the vacant position. Several districts shared their perspectives on the issue... The consensus was not to memorialize or set a procedure, just make sure to have a conversation with everybody involved, communicate...over communicate.
- F. August Meeting Date / Time – meeting AUGUST 2, 2022 around 10:30 a.m. at Millikin University Commons.

Since there were no further questions or topics to be discussed, Chairman Zimmerman shared parting words and encouragement to the board before entertaining a motion for adjournment.

Motion by Supt Greenwood to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Pygott. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:42 a.m.

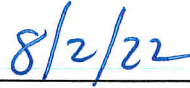
*Handouts: Draft April 21, 2022 Minutes
Personnel Appointments*

Invoice from Embrace Education
MPSED FY23 Draft Budget Summary
Treasurer's Report
Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
Vacancy List

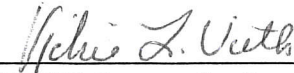
****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 10:30 am, on Tuesday, 8/2/2022 at Millikin University Commons.**



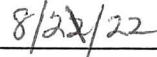
MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson



Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary



Date Approved