

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, 08/02/2022 around 10:30 a.m.
Millikin University Commons Room 142/144
Decatur, Illinois

With new faces at the table, Chairman Damian Jones suggested everyone introduce themselves before starting the meeting. At 11:05 a.m., Chairman Jones called the meeting to order with roll call.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Mary Vogt, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Rochelle Clark, Jeff Holmes (*interim*), Kris Kahler, Adam Clapp, Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner (Vice-Chair)
(11 *in-person*)

Members Absent: Andy Pygott

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

Public Participation:

Hearing no questions or concerns with the minutes presented, Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Meadows to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 05/19/2022 meeting as presented, second by Supt Roundcount. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

No Call for **CLOSED Session**.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

A copy of personnel items is included in your board packet. Notice we were unable to hire very many special education teachers this season – only one new hire since the May meeting. We have a number of non-certified hires, a couple of transfers and several resignations. As you will see by the vacancy list later, we are hurting for the beginning of school. We are trying to arrange subs just to get the school year open. No questions.

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

2. Service Agreement with Presence Learning

Kathy summarizes the large document included in the packet. This is basically a Macon Piatt commitment for \$50k worth of psychoeducational assessments. We have 5 vacant psychologist positions; the remaining 5 psychologists are spread too thin. This will help them out by providing some on-line, virtual psychoeducational evaluations. We have dabbled with this company for the last 2 years – specifically in the bilingual area. All that is required is a document camera, a computer and an attending aid to monitor the child who is being tested directly by the person on the screen. No questions or concerns raised.

Motion by Supt Holmes to recommend the approval of the service agreement with Presence Learning for psychological assessment services, seconded by Supt Heck. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent.

3. Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants, Inc.

No contract was available to bring before the board for approval. **Motion** by Supt Roundcount to table this agenda item, seconded by Supt Holmes. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The item is tabled with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay.

4. **Cooperative Workload Plan for Special Educators in Member Districts**

The cooperative-wide workload plan that was developed in 2009 may need changes especially since it was developed in collaboration with DEA during a time when Macon Piatt employed all the special education teachers that were deployed to the member districts. Kathy invited Travis Roundcount to share with the board his findings...it is required by law each school district have a Workload Plan for their special educators. Since most districts are now hiring their own employees, each district needs to have their own workload plans but it would be beneficial if all districts were working under the same guidelines – draft Workload Guidelines are included in your packet. Kathy mentioned DPS will not be making these changes cause the 2009 plan is still applicable. Inquiry was made regarding the availability of an electronic version. If needed, an electronic version can be sent to the superintendents. No questions or concerns.

Motion by Supt Robinson to recommend the approval to the revisions to the workload plan as presented, seconded by Supt Vogt. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (11) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Heck, Robinson, Clark, Holmes, Kahler, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (1) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Included in your packet are two Treasurer Reports (May/June). Notice the ending fund balance for the fiscal year is unusually high...we are anticipating that your adjusted bills will show a credit. All IDEA grants have been finished and submitted. All are in various stages of approval from the State Board of Education grant writer. Kathy will be watching our fund balance as we get into the billing cycle since we want to start spending the fund balance down. Some funds will be utilized to offset the building renovations but if we can't spend it down by the renovations, then we will start looking at offsetting special education expenses. This will reduce your tuition payment. Kathy does not anticipate needing to start Finance Committee Meetings until after November. An inquiry was raised regarding the expectation of any additional ARP funds. It is not anticipated. Let Kathy know if you do have something you desire to amend for the ARP version of IDEA grants.
- B. Vacancy Update – (included in your packet). This list is a summary of all the special education vacancies...teachers, TAs, psychologists, etc. We are still working towards getting our schools open with teacher subs. We are hurting this year.
- C. Program Update – vacancies are impacting the efficacy of our special education programs. We will be watching the elementary Life Skills program this year since Hope Academy has three vacant LS positions. SEAP also has three vacant positions as a result of the SED program merger but we have reliable subs in addition to having five full-time teachers located in that building. An inquiry was made asking Kathy if there was anything else to be done regarding attracting new hires...job fairs, social media...anything else? What does seem to work is 'growing your own' teachers but most do not have the patience to wait the six years for them to become teachers in your district. Kathy did update the board regarding the name change of the SEAP program. After going through the name change process, it will be called the Social Emotional Learning Academy (SELA)...with a mascot of Labradors. Macon Piatt is looking, working with Decatur Public Schools to find locations for the upcoming transition room for students to exit from the new SELA program to a general education building before migrating back to their own

home school. Once Jay Marino finds available rooms, we will then start working together to figure out which buildings would be culturally appropriate.

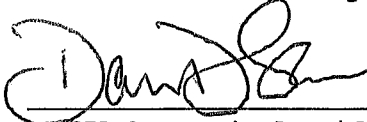
- D. Summer School Update – Travis Friedrich gave the update reporting it was a good summer with 138 students participating in functional academics and community-based field trips. A play was put on at MacArthur which had lots of people (retired teachers, social workers, etc) along with the younger summer school students in attendance. Great experience for these students while working on their social skills. Travis praised all the transportation directors from the districts who were involved in summer school. They did a fantastic job with communicating!! If further information is needed regarding summer school, please feel free to contact Travis.
- E. Administrative Office Building Update – The roof repair, replacement for Harris building has gone on much longer than was anticipated – it’s an extensive job. In addition, a good portion of the building inside has been ripped out causing quite a mess! Buildings and Grounds (B&G) department has been stretched so thin between all the DPS building repairs scheduled to be done this summer that all of the work combined has led to our delay. We are still in our building at Cerro Gordo street and we are happy to stay put until the new location is ready for us!
- F. Assignments – In your packet you have several assignments including our office staff. If you have any questions about specific things, there is a name/phone number for contact. Psych assignments were just finalized yesterday so that is your last page in your document. Let us know if you have any questions about your assignments.

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

Motion by Supt Holmes to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Warner. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

- Handouts:*
- Draft May 19, 2022 Minutes*
 - Personnel Appointments*
 - Service Agreement with Presence Learning*
 - Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants, Inc (pending)*
 - Draft Workload Guidelines*
 - Treasurer’s Report*
 - Vendor Checks (electronically sent)*
 - Vacancy List*
 - Assignment Lists*

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday, 9/15/2022 at Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N-161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

9/15/22

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

9/15/2022

Date Approved