

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 4/15/2021

Richland Community College, National Sequestration Education Center – Exhibition Hall
Decatur, Illinois 62521

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the MPSED April meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. Member roll call was taken. All were present after one late arrival: Brett Robinson (9 a.m. arrival).

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Paul Fregeau, Amanda Geary, John Ahlemeyer, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner
(11 present with 1 arriving after roll call)

Members Absent: Brett Robinson *(arrived 9:00)*

Also Present: Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth (Secretary), Matt Snyder, Bret Hitchings, Henry Walker, Jason Hood

Public Participation:

Supt Paul Fregeau quickly introduced a couple of guests present in the room...Jason Hood, the new Human Resource Director for DPS and Henry Walker, Director of Operations.

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Jones to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 3/18/21 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Heck. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:36 a.m. by Supt Fregeau's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Greenwood. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote to go into Closed Session. (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (1) Absent: Robinson *(arrived 9:00 am)*.

Return to **Open Session** at 8:55 a.m. by Supt Fregeau's **motion**, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

It was agreed to take a 5-10 minute break before continuing with open session.

Roll Call Action Items

A. Personnel and Administrative Appointments

Attention was briefly directed to resignations listed...no further questions.

Motion by Supt Geary to recommend that the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for Macon-Piatt Special Education District, the employees presented be recommended as listed, seconded by Supt Ahlemeyer. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

B. Embrace IEP and DS Contract Renewal

Annual renewal notice – the rates have not changed from previous year. No questions...

Motion by Supt Heck to recommend the approval of the contract renewal for IEP and Medicaid billing software, seconded by Supt Fregeau. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

C. Policy 2.260 Appeal Decision

Motion by Supt Geary to recommend the board affirm the March 30, 2021 decision of the complaint manager, Henry Walker, seconded by Supt Pygott. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (11) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent; (1) Abstain: Robinson.

D. Contractual Agreement with The Baby Fold

The rate is going up but a large bill is still not expected since the contract is for a short window of time – April to June. Hearing no further questions....

Motion by Supt Jones to recommend the contractual agreement for support for specific students with behavioral needs, seconded by Supt Heck. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Fregeau, Geary, Ahlemeyer, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Finance Update – Fund balance is significantly higher due to districts paying out the second semester administrative agent fees combined with a decrease in expenditures. Going to be watching this figure as the last three months unfold since it is higher than should be. The tentative date for the next finance committee meeting will be Thursday, 4/29 at 7:30 a.m. A calendar invite will be sent out for zoom format.
- B. Vacancy Update – handout is in packet. Another vacancy for Life Skills teacher will be posted later today.
- C. Location of Programs for FY22 – Decatur has finalized the location for Life Skills....Baum, Montessori, and Hope are the new locations for this program. We are working on sorting out the students by the building and keeping district students together. To help eliminate bussing issues as much as possible, if one student is at a specific school, all the rest of the students from that district will go to that same building location.
- D. Summer COVID Support Program Update – summary is included in your packet showing the breakdown of the 113 registered students. We are exploring the idea of combining high school into one building...all can fit at MacArthur. To align with Decatur, it will be a 5-hour clock day starting from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Program times will stagger to help with transportation. Dates will be June 1-24, meeting four days a week (M-Thurs). The estimated cost has gone up due to Decatur increasing teachers' summer salary hourly rate.
- E. 2021 – 2022 Tentative SEA Assignments – Draft is located in your packet. Very slight changes after taking a look at work load and preferences.
- F. Needs Assessment Results – Assistant Director, Travis Friedrich, led this topic and the 21-22 Professional Development Plan topic. May refer to the handout in the packet. Instead of 378 responses, the updated number reflected 500 responses with 87 from parents and 413 staff respondents. Snap shots for each district regarding specific responses is available. The specific information/feedback needed to plan for professional development is balanced and is included in your district's snap shot. It will be sent out to you today. In attempts to get more direct feedback from staff, Travis will be going out into the district(s) to get direct perspective on some of their needs. This has proven to be very productive and helpful in planning. As far as staff is concerned, received very positive information about support for the students within programs and for local schools. There was a lot of feedback on trying to build more capacity at the county schools to meet the needs of those students who do not qualify for eligibility in our SpEd programs. More staff related support to address those needs as well as increasing the amount of staff. Would like to see if there is interest in a parent support group in the county. All is included in a snap shot that has been completed for you in the shared folder.

- G. 2021 – 2022 Professional Development Plan – this topic was discussed along with the Needs Assessment Results.
- H. Decatur CARES Act Purchase for Programs – a big thank you to Decatur Public Schools for purchasing 38 Promethean paneled boards for our SpEd program. They only asked for a small portion of payment to cover some of the cost. The initial purchase is around \$100k – DPS is only asking MP to reimburse \$16,800 of that amount. This is a great gift! Around the room, many superintendents expressed thanks and appreciation for DPS’s gracious gift to our special ed students.

One additional comment was expressed since it seems we have a number of employee concerns regarding cell phone usage. Was wondering if it would make any sense for our administrators to review the current cell phone policy...does it need to be tightened up any further. Since all our staff is housed under DPS’s buildings (including SEAP), all policies are really Decatur’s. The idea was brought up if Macon Piatt could also have specific rules for our staff to help address certain issues/behaviors that are problematic within a building. It can certainly be looked at and discussed. Kathy and Travis can work with leadership regarding what MP needs to do for next steps.

No further comments or questions, Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion to adjourn. **Motion** by Supt Greenwood to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Geary. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

- Handouts:*
- Draft March 18, 2021 Minutes*
 - Personnel Appointments*
 - Embrace IEP and DS Contracts*
 - Contractual Agreement with The Baby Fold*
 - Treasurer’s Report*
 - Vendor Checks (Electronically Sent)*
 - Vacancy List*
 - Program Locations and Addresses*
 - Summer COVID Support Program Information*
 - Tentative 2021 – 2022 SEA Assignments*
 - Needs Assessment Results*

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place 7:30 a.m., on Thursday, 5/20/21 at Richland Community College – National Sequestration Ed Center – 1 College Park, Decatur IL 62521.**



 MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

5-20-21

 Date Approved



 MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

5/20/2021

 Date Approved