

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, 8/3/2021 at 10:30 a.m.**  
Millikin University, University Commons - Room 142/144  
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

**Members Present:** Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), DeAnn Heck, Bobbi Williams (interim), Amanda Geary, Kristopher Kahler, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner  
(10 present)

**Members Absent:** Sheila Greenwood, Brett Robinson

**Also Present:** Kathy Horath, Travis Friedrich, Vickie Vieth (Secretary), Matt Snyder, Bret Hitchings

**Public Participation:** Rise' Davis – several topics

Rise' was given the floor to discuss several topics. Each superintendent received a folder containing a list of people from their district who were CPI trained last year. The desire is to have established teams for the buildings. County districts have the choice to opt out if their buildings never use physical restraint. Since CPI training requires 8 hours every year, discuss with your principals and let Rise' know what is decided for buildings in your district. If you wish for new employees to be on your building crisis team, a training will be next Monday from 8 am – 1:30 pm. Send Rise' a note or email with names of those you desire to attend. This year your district needs to identify who your CPI team is...who your contact person is...whether it is a teacher or a principal. Once materials are taken to your district, a date will be set 30-45 days for return of material collection and physical training. Everything will be collected before the physical training begins; all trainees will need to have completed all tests, classes, and videos before commencing physical training. The blue cards and form will be sent to you.

Also inside your packet is an orange form which shows how to access post-vention services. If you know of someone who is very ill and going to pass, or an emergency...there is a hotline for contact. We are partnering with Decatur Area Crisis Team. My number is located at the bottom of the form. We will work with you on making a plan...how many times we need to go, what needs to happen, what you need to consider. Please post this form, take a picture on your phone to have in emergencies...give a copy to secretaries and assistant principals so they know what to do when a crisis occurs.

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Jones to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 5/20/2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Heck. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 10:49 a.m. by Supt Meadows' **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Geary. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor of moving to closed session.

Return to **Open Session** at 10:57 a.m. by Supt Geary's **motion**, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

### **Roll Call Action Items**

#### **1. Personnel and Administrative Appointments**

In your packet is a long sheet of summer hires and resignations. No comments or questions.

**Motion** by Supt Heck 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 called for a Roll

Call Vote. The motion carried with (10) Ayes: Jones, Heck, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

**2. Settlement Agreement with Specific Extra Support Personnel (Paraprofessional)**

**Motion** by Supt Meadows to recommend the approval of the Settlement Agreement as presented, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (10) Ayes: Jones, Heck, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

**3. Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants, Inc.**

This is for the purchase of one SLP for 5 days a week, 7 hours a day, at the rate of \$80 per hour including SLP's benefit time. This is to start August 15.

**Motion** by Supt Jones to recommend the approval of a contract for one speech-language pathologist service, seconded by Supt Warner. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (10) Ayes: Jones, Heck, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

**Director's Report**

- A. Financial Report - in your packet are two pages for the May, June Treasurer's report. The final June figure reflects a decent fund balance for the cooperative – just where we needed to be for the end of the year. Everyone should have had an opportunity to ask Laurie Van Natta any questions regarding your district's adjusted bills. Let Kathy know if there is anything that is not reconciled. We will be happy to help.
- B. ESSER III Grant for Cooperatives – First time the cooperative has received a sizeable grant, \$186,000. This is specific for the SEAP program, however it is divided up by learning loss, summer enrichment and the after-school program. Specific amounts have been slated for each area. We have partnered with Decatur's after-school program since SEAP is located in a DPS building. Decatur has offered their after-school services for any county student who is being serviced in a DPS school – it would be for just the portion of the grant that is for after-school care. Feeling that was a great partnership, Kathy broached the idea to a couple of district superintendents who affirmed the partnership. The goal is to start the after-school services around September 7<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the grant is being slated for the SEAP program since the grant money came from this student population. We will be working with Jessica and her teachers to look at sensory rooms for helping students de-escalate. Flexible seating arrangements are also being considered in order to help students get their wiggles out while remaining in the classroom. The summer portion is being ear-marked for next summer to offset the summer COVID support program – if that program is offered.
- C. DPS Extended Day Program – this topic was discussed within the previous subject discussed. There were no questions.
- D. FY22 ARP IDEA Grants – this is something that is coming – it just has not 'dropped yet'. All districts will receive another IDEA grant. This is ARP (American Rescue Plan) IDEA grant. Kathy feels that this grant will be ear-marked for the same rules as the IDEA grant so it will be denoted for SpEd. Kathy is willing to work with each district if you would like help writing this grant. We are assuming there will be the same 'set aside' amounts for Professional Development and for Private & Parochial. We just don't know the rules yet since it has not happened. It was mentioned that the previous ARP grant received by the districts did not have to include setback for Private and Parochial...wondering if this ARP IDEA grant will be the same.
- E. Annual Screening and Child Find Notification – In your packet is the annual screening procedures. This may also be found in the google folder that was sent to you in the link. Annual notice that all school districts have the responsibility to try and find students with disability.

- F. Personnel – Various assignment lists show the SpEd Administrators by district (and school) along with showing the assigned psychologist for that district. It also lists the Occupational Therapist that is assigned to your school buildings. Phone numbers are provided for any special education support staff at MPSED. These forms will be updated as necessary. Even though we still have quite a few vacancies for TAs, nurses, teachers, and psychologists, we are going to do the best we can by utilizing long-term subs and retirees.
- G. Special Education Information for Administrators – topic was discussed previously.
- H. Legislative Updates – Even though this is not included in your packet, we need to briefly inform you about some legislative updates related to Special Education.
- HB 40 – became a public act last Thursday. If a student ages out (turns 22) in the middle of the school year, they shall be allowed to finish that school year without consequence.
  - HB 2748 – also became a public act last Thursday. This has to do with students who aged out (turned 22) during the Pandemic (starting March 2020 to the end of FY21 school year). In the entire cooperative, there were only 8 students this affected; all students were in our Life Skills program. Kathy will be contacting you directly if one of your students was on this list. A letter needs to be mailed within 30 days stating what is being offered for missed instruction due to school being closed for a portion of the Pandemic time...the family will need to contact us if they wish to take advantage of the offer for missed services.
  - HB 219 – has not been signed yet and it has to do with restraint and timeouts. This will affect board policy. An oversight team will need to be developed to follow benchmark to the end of reducing and eliminating (if at all possible) the use of anything hands-on restraint and seclusion. Within 90 days of the bill becoming law, ISBE is supposed to provide the actual benchmarks – giving us the steps on how to eliminate restraints and timeouts. We are assuming Attorney Brandon Wright will be working on the committee to help with FAQs. We are following this matter closely. A lot of the things we are doing with CPI do provide for those. We have even increased the amount of time for refreshers as part of the state guidance. We will keep abreast of the specifics that are required.
  - Last piece of legislation that is needing to be brought to your attention is...in addition to handing out Procedural Safeguards at all IEP annual reviews, SpEd teachers are also needing to hand parents a brochure that talks about PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services). This is a funding source that happens for kids that age out. A brochure has already been sent to the SEAs – they are supposed to include that in their annual procedural training for your teachers. They have to hand out Procedural Safeguards and PUNS at every meeting. The SEAs will let the case managers know. A PUNS brochure will also be put in the Embrace system (like we did for the Procedural Safeguards) – thereby it can be downloaded and emailed to the parents.
- I. Developmental Delay Documentation Checklist – A documentation checklist for determining developmental delay has been included in your packet. This is not a change to our eligibility criteria...we are still asking for 30% delay in 2 out of the 5 areas. This is a guidance document for the evaluation team as to what specific documents or evidence they may collect in order to find the 30% delay in each of the areas. This is only to give you an idea of what we are informing our evaluation teams. This documentation checklist is just to ‘proceduralize’ our evaluations. Developmental Delay is not as cut and dried as a normal disability – DD is not a disability but only a delay. What we are trying to do is to bring it all in so we are speaking the same language to what a delay ‘is’ in a specific area.

- J. Revised DPS Bell Times – Please note these are revised bell times if you have a student that you are transporting to Johns Hill or Montessori Academy for Peace. DPS had a shortage of school bus drivers and had to change a couple of school times in order to accommodate the shortage of drivers.

No further comments or questions, Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion to adjourn. **Motion** by Supt Geary 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 11:13 a.m.

*Handouts:*      *Draft May 20, 2021 Minutes*  
                      *Personnel Appointments*  
                      *Settlement Agreement*  
                      *Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants Inc. and Attachment*  
                      *Annual Notice of Screening*  
                      *SEA and Psychologists' Assignments*  
                      *Current Vacancies*  
                      *Special Education Information for Administrators (electronically sent Google Folder)*  
                      *Developmental Delay Documentation Checklist*  
                      *DPS School Bell Times*

**\*\*Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 a.m., on Thursday, 9/16/2021 at Richland Community College, Room N161 (note new location).**

  
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MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

9-16-2021  
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Date Approved

  
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MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

9/16/21  
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Date Approved