

**MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 9/16/2021 at 7:30 a.m.**  
Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N161  
Decatur, Illinois

Chairman Vic Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:42 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

**Members Present:** Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, DeAnn Heck, Brett Robinson, Bobbi Williams-interim, Amanda Geary, Kristopher Kahler, Andy Pygott, Vic Zimmerman (Chairperson), Travis Roundcount, Jonathan Field (for Bob Meadows), Cheryl Warner  
*(7 in-person; 5 virtual)*

**Members Absent:**

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

**Public Participation:** none

Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a **motion** by Supt Pygott to approve the Executive Board minutes from the August 3, 2021 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Robinson. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:44 a.m. by Supt Pygott's **motion** to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Heck. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor of moving to closed session.

Return to **Open Session** at 7:52 a.m. by Supt Heck's **motion**, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairman Zimmerman called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

### **Roll Call Action Items**

#### **1. Personnel Appointments**

In your packet is a sheet of 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 Robinson. Chairperson Zimmerman called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (12) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Heck, Robinson, Williams, Geary, Kahler, Pygott, Zimmerman, Roundcount, Field, Warner. (0) Nay; (0) Absent.

### **Director's Report**

- A. Financial Update – Treasurer's report for July and August is in your packet. The fund balance is still at a healthy level even though the first billing has not been done. Billing will come later in the month or by the first of October.
- FY2022 Finance Committee Meetings need to be set up this fiscal year. Will need to start working on a new funding formula in the last part of October. It was agreed to set up the meeting every fourth Thursday at 7:30 a.m. It was also discussed that zoom meetings would allow more ease and flexibility. Kathy will send out the invites for the Finance Committee meeting starting in October (10/28/21).
  - ESSER III Grant Update – we are continuing to work on this grant for the cooperative. Most of the money is going to the SEAP program since it is for 'learning loss' tied to those specific students. Jessica is working with her SEAP teachers to get what is needed...working on creative ways to spend money. Mostly it is about behavioral, mental health support and social/emotional support. As explained last month, the

extended learning portion (about \$32k) is being given to DPS in exchange for opening their doors for county students. Extended learning started last week with only a few hiccups. A refresher was given as to what was included with extended learning...snacks, tutoring, gross-motor play, etc. This includes both before and after school...NO transportation is provided for anyone.

- Discussed Changes in Medicaid claiming – item not included on the agenda. This affects finances. Kathy asked V.Vieth to give a brief update on changes the state is implementing this year. The state is expanding the program to include School Health Aides (and other selected positions) but they are also starting to tie both systems, the quarterly Medicaid Administrative Claims and the Medicaid Fee For Service (FFS) claims together. Every quarter LEAs are required to submit a Staff Pool List for random moment time study (RMTS) selection. If an individual is not included on this list for time study selection, then their financial ‘cost’ (salary/benefits) may not be submitted for quarterly reimbursement. ‘No cost’ submitted, then there will be no annual settlement cost rate calculated for FFS reimbursement. If your rosters are incorrect or not inclusive, then your reimbursement will be lacking. In order to maximize your Staff Pool List, Vickie will send out a list of positions that districts need to include for RMTS. This is a big concern for MPSED since Medicaid revenue is a big source of funds for private facility tuition costs.
- B. LEA Determination Letters – Every district should have received their own LEA Determination letter. Another good year for MP – all 12 districts were ‘meets requirement’. In a couple of targeted districts, there are a few scores that are concerning. Kathy is working with the SEA to reach out and do either a corrective action plan or make it a goal to increase the number of students in general education setting.
- C. Current Vacancies – provided in your packet the list of special education vacancies. Still experiencing difficulty in hiring even teaching assistants. We are posting and trying to recruit – it just seems as though there are not enough people. I’m sure all districts are experiencing a similar hiring consternation.
- D. Illinois Elevating Special Education Network – Travis Friedrich discussed this exciting opportunity. This is a resource that has been created specifically designed for special education teachers. Met with them on Tuesday to begin initial planning. Part of their focus is to enhance effectiveness of staff, to support students with disabilities, research ways for professional development, to deliver mentoring to increase the retention of early career special education teachers, increase engagement of families as partners in the decision-making process, and to deliver professional learning and technical assistance for special education delivery. This is a 5-year grant with millions of dollars. It is not mandated – it is a resource. Travis shared all of the PLC dates for our member districts along with the needs-assessment information collected from last year to the network group. Inquiry was made regarding thoughts on what would be best for line of communication. It was expressed that it made more sense to communicate with the SEAs and go directly to the building administration in order to facilitate the actual planning. Travis reiterated this will be a great opportunity!
- E. COVID Impact – much discussion arose regarding short tempers and overall grouchiness from individuals who are not normally characterized by this behavior. This led to discussion about contact tracing and how this is bogging down staff...from nurses to principals. Most agreed. Much discussion ensued including districts getting out the quarantining business. Per advice from legal, our letters just notify of possible close contact...then ask for them to follow health department guidelines. This discussion then led to the ‘extended’ areas of school...such as busing. Busing and school is one in the same...it’s just an extension of the school. The discussion finalized with concern that we are going to be back in the same situation as last year. If retail establishments have to close at certain times because they are not able to staff, what’s

the expectation for schools with our staffing. If a school can't staff, can't pull buses out, can't serve food, don't have 3-4 teachers...then we can't open. There is the safety of children to consider. Most superintendents feel as though they (the state) are putting us in a vice. Most state attorneys are not touching this. Be careful with the advisement.

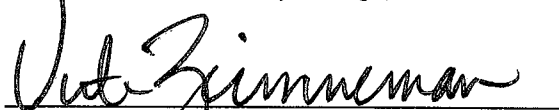
- F. Stevenson School Building – Received word from DPS that they are going to be putting this school off-line. It has mold issues from sitting vacant in the heat and humidity. DPS is cleaning up the mold. This building does fit our needs. After a short discussion, it was decided MP should send DPS a letter informing them we are formally interested. It was asked if DPS could use the Governmental Real-Estate Transfer Act to allow negotiation of a price instead of having to bid or pay the full-asking price. It was agreed to get the ball rolling....

No further comments or questions, Chairperson Zimmerman entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Motion** by Supt Roundcount to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Interim Supt Williams. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

*Handouts:*      *Draft August 3, 2021 Minutes*  
                      *Personnel Appointments*  
                      *Treasurer's Report for July 2021 and August 2021*  
                      *Vendor Checks for July 2021 and August 2021 (sent electronically)*  
                      *Current Vacancies*

**\*\*Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 a.m., on Thursday, 10/21/2021 at Richland Community College, Room N161.**

  
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MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

10-21-2021  
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Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

10/21/2021  
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Date Approved