

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 4/21/2022 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N161
Decatur, Illinois

Vice Chairman Damian Jones called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. Member roll call was taken.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Vice-Chair), Sheila Greenwood, Brett Robinson, Amanda Geary, Andy Pygott, Travis Roundcount, Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner
(8 in-person)

Members Absent: (4) DeAnn Heck, Rochelle Clark, Kris Kahler, Vic Zimmerman (Chairman)

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

Public Participation: None

Minutes have been presented. Vice Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Meadows to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 3/17/2022 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Greenwood. Voice Vote: All in favor. Motion carries.

Call to **CLOSED Session** at 7:37 a.m. by Supt Geary's **motion** to discuss collective bargaining, possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Warner. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Roll Call Vote, the motion carried with (8) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Geary, Pygott, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (4) Absent: Heck, Clark, Kahler, Zimmerman.

Return to **OPEN Session** at 7:41 a.m. by Supt Meadows' **motion**, seconded by Supt Pygott. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Voice Vote with all members present in favor to leave closed session.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

Brief review of personnel. Do not have any new hires. 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. Vice Chairman Jones called for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carried with (7) Ayes: Jones, Greenwood, Robinson, Geary, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (1) Andy Pygott was not present in the room; (0) Nay; (4) Absent: Heck, Clark, Kahler, Zimmerman.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – Fund balance is high which is normal this time of month. The balance will decline as the end of the year draws to a close. Regarding next year's fiscal budget, it is still being tweaked. A zoom finance committee meeting will be held next Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. (4/28/22). An invite with a zoom link will be sent out for your convenience. If we have consensus after the finance committee meeting, Kathy will start district visits regarding estimated bills – comparing last year versus this year. We are hoping to be on track to have the final budget approval completed on the May meeting. As a reminder, this approval requires an 80% majority. If we are not on track to have the final budget completed, a June meeting will have to be scheduled. No further questions about money.
- B. Vacancy Update – available handout in packet. The total number of open positions are 17 teaching positions, 12 teaching assistant positions, and 5 LPN positions. We are really hurting for next year in our programs.

- C. Program Update – Kathy briefly reviewed the status of our special ed programs. Early Childhood program is fine – it is fully staffed. Essential Skills only has one vacancy at the high school level. Concerned about the number of vacancies with the Life Skills program – trying to get good longterm subs. Majorly concerned with the SED program and the number of vacancies. With this program, it is hard to find subs. Starting to see instability again in the program. Kathy shared why she recommends closing the elementary SED program and folding them into SEAP. Along with having a better climate at SEAP, the program is adequately staffed and they are our best trained staff. Wanted to give the board a sense of where we are going before talking to the union and parents. Expecting this will create quite a stir but this is the best way to salvage the situation. It is difficult but we feel it is the right thing to do to provide some sense of stability for the kids. Remaining SED staff may go to SEAP if they so desire.
- D. Summer Programming – we have around 131 students which is about the same number as last year. The county has 34 students attending this summer. The summer school locations are at MacArthur, Hope, and instead of meeting at Pershing, these students will be going to Garfield due to construction at the Pershing facility. Student names have been provided to the transportation directors. This summer we will be meeting Monday through Thursday (8 am – 12 noon). The early childhood will meet at 9-11 and 12-2 for their AM/PM students. Projected costs will be much less than last year since staff will be working at their normal teacher/ TA rate.
- E. 2022-2023 Tentative SEA Assignments. Included in your packet is the draft SpEd Administrator assignments. This does include the extra SEA to manage our elementary LifeSkills and elementary SED. This will still be used with the SEAP program because the SEAP kids will be adding to the numbers. They can help with transitioning students back to home schools.
- F. Needs Assessment Results – Travis Friedrich quickly reviewed the highlights of the results. Out of 399 responses, there were 118 – general education teachers (much higher than last year); 18 responses from Macon Piatt program staff; 51 from Cross Cat teachers; 54 – Teaching Assistants; 17 – SLPs; 24 – Social Workers; various other staff members; and 79 – parent responses. Most of the responses are positive as far as meeting the needs of students. Very few negative comments. Even though this year we did not have as many responses as last, the responses seem to be consistent from year to year. If you wish to have more specific information, Travis can break it down by district and send it out with or without pie graphs and charts.
- G. 2022 – 2023 Professional Development Plan. To help plan out professional development, some of the responses from parents indicated the top areas were ‘how to be more affective at helping my child meet their IEP goals’, and ‘collaboration with parents of students with IEPs’. Regarding staff responses...one of the top areas was regarding 504 processes and procedures; but the most responses given were regarding mental health supports for students. Another high response area was FBAs and behavior intervention plans.

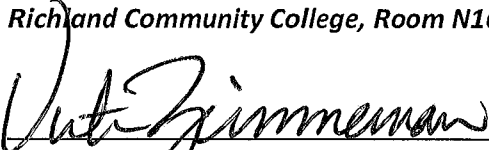
Travis Friedrich as asked to give any updates on Restraint/Time Out. He gave a quick update summarizing what was ascertained from meeting with a group in Danville. The plan will basically look the same for every district. We are going to make it as easy as possible – just copying, pasting from the downloaded ISBE Student Care template. The title of the plan is ‘Restraint Time Out and Isolated Time Out Reduction Plan’. Districts need to have this plan adopted by their school board by July 1st. Travis will compose and send out an email explaining what it is regarding and why it is needed so superintendents have the correct language to share with their boards. The overall feeling, consensus of the superintendents was it would be best to have their SEAs help create and work with their teams. A team should consist of one general education teacher and one special education teacher, two paraprofessionals, a school service personnel, and two administrators.

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

Motion by Supt Pygott to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Roundcount. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft March 17, 2022 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Treasurer's Report
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List
 2022-2023 Tentative SEA Assignments

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday, 5/19/2022 at Richland Community College, Room N161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

5-19-2022

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

5/19/2022

Date Approved