

MACON PIATT SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT (MPSED)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY, 09/15/2022 at 7:30 a.m.
Richland Community College Main Campus – Room N-161
1 College Park, Decatur Illinois 62521

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order with roll call at 7:32 a.m.

Members Present: Damian Jones (Chairman), Mary Vogt, Brett Robinson, Rochelle Clark (*arrive 7:45*) Jeff Holmes (interim), Kris Kahler, Andy Pygott, Adam Clapp, Travis Roundcount (*arrive 7:33*), Bob Meadows, Cheryl Warner (Vice-Chair)
(10 in-person)

Members Absent: DeAnn Heck

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

Public Participation: None

Hearing no questions or concerns regarding the minutes presented, Chairman Jones entertained a **motion** by Supt Pygott to approve the Executive Board minutes from the 8/2/2022 meeting as presented, seconded by Supt Holmes. Voice Vote: All in favor. None opposed.

CLOSED Session called at 7:33 a.m. with a **motion** by Supt Meadows to discuss possible litigation, appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, seconded by Supt Robinson. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

Return to Open Session at 7:40 a.m. with a **motion** from Supt Pygott, seconded by Supt Holmes. Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed.

Roll Call Action Items

1. Personnel Appointments

A copy of personnel is included in your board packet. Notice we have been able to hire several teaching assistants but we still have quite a few vacancies. We did hire a Central A&M special education teacher, Jessica Manual, to become our behavioral consultant. No questions.

Motion by Supt Holmes 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 Kahler. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

2. Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants, Inc.

Kathy emailed regarding this contract agreement for in-person speech therapy. This company has no further therapists to offer so we will be looking at other contractors for the current SLP vacancy. **Motion** by Supt Pygott to recommend the approval of a contract with two speech-language pathologists, seconded by Supt Meadows. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

3. Resolution to Suspend Without Pay Educational Support Person

Kathy recommended that William Scott Wagner be issued a suspension without pay for two days. **Motion** by Supt Roundcount to recommend the Executive Board advise Decatur Public Schools, as administrative district for the Macon-Piatt Special Education District, that the employee be issued a suspension without pay for two days, seconded by Supt Holmes. Chairman Jones calls for a Roll Call Vote. The motion carries with (10) Ayes: Jones, Vogt, Robinson, Holmes, Kahler, Pygott, Clapp, Roundcount, Meadows, Warner. (0) Nay; (2) Absent.

Director's Report

- A. Financial Update – in your packet are two Treasurer Reports (July/Aug). The ending fund balance in August is still really high but we have not gone very far into renovations at the Harris site since all that work has been stalled. We will talk more about this later in the meeting. Everyone was emailed regarding Macon Piatt getting another grant. We have received \$146k for the retention of special education teachers. Kathy was wondering how many other districts have also received this...there is a webinar next week regarding this grant. Travis Friedrich is going to attend since Kathy is out of town.
- B. Vacancy Update – We continue to look for psychologists. We are also short on program teachers and quite a few teaching assistants. A question was raised if college programs are graduating many psychologists. Unfortunately, the answer is no, there are not many graduating psychologists. Kathy is not sure if our cooperative is competitive enough. At the last bargain, attempts were made to make it competitive, but we still are not able to contend with cooperatives that do not have a bargaining agreement. This allows these cooperatives to offer psychologists whatever they need. An additional comment by another district who is finding in certain positions, such as speech and social work, the interviewee does not want to be an employee of the district but would rather contract with the district. This has occurred on a couple of different occasions. Another district was wondering with the bargaining power for such a small group if the best thing would be to get them out of the CPA. It's really difficult, we have asked legal and the union what it looks like to pull a group out of the recognition clause – it's quite extensive. It would have to go before the IELRB (IL Educational Labor Relations Board). Another district member gave the history of the 'why' psychologists joined the union; at that time, it was the best move...but it sure is not for the cooperative. It is difficult to compete. Kathy did mention at one time we were working with ISU regarding a pipeline for educators to get their second degree through night courses for their school psychologist specialist certificate. She is not sure what has become of this...
- C. Program Update – Our SED transition rooms have been progressing. We have a very full SELA – SELA is our new SEAP. Our SED transition rooms are to transition the student out as an intermediate step before the student was returned to their home district. We have been working with Dr. Clark about the locations. For second quarter, we have a location for the intermediate-age population. Another location possibly during second semester for the primary-age population. Dr. Clark interjected that the Baum principal has requested an Assistant Principal at that location due to the overall special education population – not just because of the transition program. Dr. Clark will forward Kathy the email request. If a student is transitioning, Kathy will inform the appropriate district; the transportation directors will need the information.
- D. Administrative Office Building Update – There has really been no progression forward with their renovation at Harris. We are still being told that Christmas is the opening date but when walking through the building, it is a little depressing.

Hearing no further questions or topics, Chairman Jones entertained a motion to adjourn.
Motion by Supt. Robinson to adjourn this meeting of the Macon-Piatt Special Education District Executive Board, seconded by Supt Clapp. Voice Vote: All in favor – Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

Handouts: *Draft August 2, 2022 Minutes*
 Personnel Appointments
 Contract Agreement with Health Services Consultants, Inc
 Treasurer's Report
 Elevating Educators: Special Education Grant letter from ISBE
 Vendor Checks (electronically sent)
 Vacancy List

****Next Meeting of the MPSED Executive Board will take place at 7:30 am, on Thursday, 10/20/2022 at Richland Community College – Main Campus – Room N-161.**



MPSED Cooperative Board Chairperson

10/20/22

Date Approved



MPSED Cooperative Board Secretary

10/20/22

Date Approved