

**Mahomet-Seymour
COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 3
Champaign County, Illinois
Meeting of the Board of Education
Study Session**

Held in the Board Conference Room

Date: November 2, 2020

7:00 Study Session

1. Call to order

The Study Session was called to order by President Max McComb at 7:01 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Board members physically present for the roll call were Max McComb, Lori Larson, Merle Giles, and Dr. Jeremy Henrichs. Board members Meghan Hennesy, Ken Keefe, and Dr. Colleen Schultz attended remotely. Also physically present were Superintendent, Dr. Lindsey Hall, and Board Recorder, Dawn Quinley.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

President McComb asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Member Hennesy asked for COVID-19 to be added as a standing agenda item moving forward. President McComb said the request will be taken into consideration moving forward.

Motion was made by Larson, seconded by Giles, *to approve the agenda* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Before moving on to the business of the meeting, President McComb expressed condolences to the Mt. Zion community on the unexpected passing of Mt. Zion Board of Education President, Todd Gardner.

5. Comments from Special Guest, Senator Chapin Rose

President McComb welcomed Senator Chapin Rose to the meeting. Senator Rose thanked the Board for the cooperation that occurred between the Board and the Village of Mahomet with the intergovernmental agreement regarding the use of space at the Fieldhouse. He also shared his concern that there doesn’t seem to be a plan going forward regarding the sale of 13 Acres to the Village of Mahomet. He explained that there are state and federal grants available to the Village that are not available to the school district that could be used to make improvements to 13 Acres, and using state and federal grant dollars would ultimately provide tax relief to local tax payers. He encouraged the Board to work together to figure out how to work with each other for the good of the community. He suggested that the Village of Mahomet would be open to re-engaging in the discussion about the sale of 13 Acres if the Board could come to an agreement within the next month.

6. Public Comment

Name	Topic
Kristina Hinebaugh	COVID-19 school plans
Kristina Hale	COVID-19 school plans

Katty Sievers	COVID-19 school plans
Melissa Kneller	COVID-19 school plans

7. Unfinished Business

A. Community Engagement Board Charge

Rod Wright from Creative Entourage and Damien Schlitt from BLDD Architects were present at the meeting to answer any questions from the Board regarding the proposed Community Engagement charge. The Board asked several follow-up questions including differences between the proposal currently being considered and the community engagement proposals received last spring. Dr. Hall explained that the current proposal is more narrowly focused toward a facilities plan where the one last spring had a broader focus. The Board discussed why this project with a proposed cost of \$60,000 doesn't have to go out to bid. It was explained that professional service projects do not fall under the bidding guideline. Several concerns were raised including the Board being removed from the decision making process with this sort of project, along with a concern that there is a trend to remove the Board from the work of the Board, and the lack of a needs assessment being done before forming the facilitation team. Mr. Wright explained that there is nothing in the process that cuts the Board out of the decision making process. He encouraged all Board members to attend all of the meetings if they want to. Further, he said that a needs assessment is part of the process and there is value in the community feeling they have input into the plan. It is a discovery process for the community. He also indicated that staff can be invited to be part of the needs assessment process at the community engagement meetings.

A suggestion was made to allow any Board member to be a part of the facilitating team. Mr. Wright said that while it is not his, or Mr. Schlitt's, decision, if a majority of the Board were to be part of the team, it would cause issues with the Open Meetings Act, and could also create a perception that the Board is running the team. The audience is open to anyone who wants to attend, even Board members. The Board discussed how the committee will be chosen. Mr. Wright suggested that a good way to proceed with formation of the team is to ask for names from Board members, principals, village administrators, and community members, and then a group comes together to select the committee from the list of names. Member Schultz indicated that she would like the Board to be the group who comes together to recommend/veto people to be on the committee. Mr. Wright and Mr. Schlitt explained the breakdown of costs.

Motion was made by Larson, seconded by Henrichs, to approve the attached document regarding the community engagement initiative.

Member Keefe suggested that the Board needs to be aware of calendar ahead of them with an election in April 2021 and said he was concerned that this process will result in a product that will be used by the Board that exists in November 2021. He thinks the Board should prepare for this as much as possible up until next April and then let the next board decide if this is the process they want to utilize. Member Giles said this is something that comes up for Boards all the time and the hand off is natural.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Keefe**, to amend the motion to say that any Board member who wants to be on the facilitating committee can be, and that the Board will be involved in the selection of the committee including the ability to veto. Member Giles said that he feels this is unwise to have to make an official public Board meeting every time three or more board members show up. President McComb agreed. Mr. Wright suggested that he thinks this sends the wrong message to the

community. Member Henrichs thinks the Board needs to trust the community members to work through the process intelligently and thoughtfully without influence from the Board.

President McComb called for a vote on the amendment. The motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Members Hennesy, Schultz, and Keefe voted yes. Members Henrichs, Larson, Giles, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

President McComb called for a vote on the original motion. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-1. Members Giles, Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted yes. Member Keefe voted no. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted present. Motion carried.

B. Resolutions for Delegate Assembly Meeting

Dr. Lindsey Hall shared that the IASB Delegate Assembly meeting will be held virtually this year on November 14. Typically the Board Vice President has been the delegate. The Board needs to vote on the resolutions contained in the resolutions committee report that was included in the Board Packet. Dr. Hall recommended supporting what the IASB recommends. Member Larson said that she would be happy to be the delegate again this year.

Motion was made by **Giles**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve Lori Larson as the Board’s delegate and approve the recommendations proposed by the IASB for the resolutions to be presented at the Delegate Assembly meeting on November 14, 2020. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-2. Members Giles, Larson, Keefe, and McComb voted yes. Members Schultz and Henrichs voted no. Member Hennesy abstained. Motion carried.

8. New Business

A. School Improvement Plans

Building Principals reviewed their School Improvement Plans and goals for this year. The School Improvement Plans were included in the meeting packet. The Board asked several follow up questions and asked for a follow up from building principals in the spring with regard to plans to catch students up academically in light of the difficulties encountered because of COVID-19. The Board and Dr. Hall thanked the principals for their work on the plans.

B. Town Hall Conversations Follow-Up

Dr. Nicole Rummel thanked Dr. Kevin Tan from the University of Illinois for joining the meeting. Dr. Rummel gave the Board an update on the ongoing diversity, inclusion and equity activities in the District. She reviewed the professional development, curriculum updates, and research that has already occurred, along with the professional development, curriculum updates, town halls and team building that are happening now, and direction needed for the future.

Dr. Tan expressed his thanks to the District for the work that is being done, and said he is very encouraged by working with the District. Dr. Rummel thanked Dr. Tan for the countless hours that he and his colleagues have given the District with their work in this area. Dr. Rummel and Dr. Tan are working together to write grants proposals for support of this effort. Member Larson suggested that Dr. Rummel make a request of support from the Foundation.

Motion was made by **Hennesy**, seconded by **Schultz**, to create a board level committee focused on inclusion, diversity, and equity that’s tasked with gathering and assessing input and making recommendations for meaningful change in actions in the Mahomet-Seymour School District. The

Board discussed that this was not listed as an action item on the agenda, and a vote could not be taken. Member Hennesy said that the Board's policies allow action to be taken when the general topic is listed on the agenda. She said that if this isn't something the Board wants to act on tonight, she would request that it be added to the next agenda as an action item. President McComb said that since it was not listed as an action item on the agenda, it could not be voted on tonight. Member Hennesy said that if President McComb could assure her that the action item would be included on the next agenda, she was fine with waiting until then. He assured her that it would be on the next meeting agenda for a vote.

9. Closed Session

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: *1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.*

Motion was made by Henrichs, seconded by Larson, at 9:36 p.m. to go into closed session for the purpose stated by McComb. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Henrichs, seconded by Giles, at 10:06 p.m., to return to open session. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

After the Board returned to open session, there was some confusion about whether Member Hennesy had withdrawn her motion regarding the formation of a Board level committee to address inclusion, equity, and diversity earlier in the meeting, or whether it was still an open motion on the floor. To clear up the issue, **motion** was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Larson**, to table Member Hennesy's motion until the next meeting. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 4-3. Members Henrichs, Larson, Giles, and McComb voted yes. Members Hennesy, Schultz, and Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m. by "yes" vote, 6-1.

Max McComb, President

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder