

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

Held in the Board Conference Room

Date: February 22, 2021

7:00 Special Board Meeting

1. Call to order

The Special Board Meeting 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, Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, and Merle Giles. 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

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Larson**, *to approve the agenda* as presented. Member Schultz explained that she would not be voting yes on the agenda because of a concern she has about items that were not placed on the agenda even though they were requested in the agreed upon manner. She said she understands that items cannot be added to the agenda of a special meeting at the beginning of the meeting, but because of her concerns, she would not be able say that she agrees with the meeting agenda.

President McComb called for a vote on the motion. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-1. Members Larson, Henrichs, Giles, Keefe, and McComb voted yes. Member Hennesy voted no. Member Schultz voted present. Motion carried.

President McComb introduced attorney Shelli Anderson from Franczek. He asked her to join the meeting in case there are questions or issues that need her guidance.

5. Consent Agenda Items

President McComb asked the Board if they would like to see any changes to the consent agenda. **Motion** was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Giles**, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Member Schultz expressed concern that PRESS 106 was on the Consent Agenda without having a first reading of the policies at a previous meeting. She feels this is a violation of Policy 2:240. Motion was not approved by a vote of 2-5. Members Henrichs and Larson voted yes. Members Hennesy, Schultz, Keefe, Giles, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

President McComb recommended removing PRESS 106 from the consent agenda. Motion was made by **Hennesy**, seconded by **Giles**, to remove PRESS 106 from the consent agenda. President McComb called for a vote on the revised consent agenda. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-2. Members Henrichs, Larson, Giles, Keefe, and McComb voted yes. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

- Minutes for the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting - Open Session
- Minutes for the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting - Closed Session
- Minutes for the January 22, 2021 Special Meeting - Open Session
- Minutes for the February 1, 2021 Study Session - Open Session
- Minutes for the February 1, 2021 Study Session - Closed Session
- Bills as presented
- Treasurer’s Report as presented
- Personnel Changes as presented
- High School Graduation – May 28, 2021, 7:00 PM, Krannert Center

PRESS 106

The Board discussed past practice of the Board regarding first readings of policy updates and revisions. Motion was made by **Larson**, seconded by **Giles**, to treat the meeting as the first reading and move the vote on PRESS 106 to the next agenda. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0, Motion carried.

6. Donations

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Donation To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
Anonymous	High School	Cash for MSJH Volleyball Program	\$2,268.00

Motion was made by **Larson**, seconded by **Schultz**, to approve the *Donation List* as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

7. Communications from PTO, MSEA, Foundation, Visitors and Board Commendations

PTO: No report

MSEA: No report

MSEF: Lori Larson shared that the Cash Bash has been cancelled for this year. The Hall of Fame has been postponed from April to a later date, and the Grants Committee will be meeting and will award grants at the beginning of April.

Visitors: There was no public participation.

8. Reports, Updates & Informational Board Communication

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs had no report.

Lori Larson said that she appreciates all of the academic reports, loves the positive behavior reports, and thanked the co-chairs of the community engagement team: Jama, Adi, Jim, and Jennifer. She is grateful for their time and service.

Ken Keefe had no report.

Meghan Hennesy shared that the United Way of Illinois has kicked off an equity challenge. It is a 21 week program, but it is easy to jump in and catch up as the exercises usually take about 10-15 minutes.

Merle Giles shared his observations about board member behavior at the February 1 meeting that he believes calls for public censure because it violated the privacy of the individuals involved and also violated the Open Meetings Act intentionally. He encouraged the Board to refrain from governance that pre-empts active ground-level intelligence, drop the anti-establishment charade, and embrace human response to ambiguity. He further encouraged each member of the Board to have answer ready about the last time they set foot in the Superintendent’s office and even in the Board room in order to seek out the subtleties of human communication on the ground.

Dr. Colleen Schultz had no report.

President McComb had no report.

Financial Update

Heather Smith, Chief School Business Official, gave a financial report to the Board. She shared that the District is running steady on the budget in the operational funds, and is at 85 days of cash on hand. She said she has received several calls and emails and appreciates this and welcomes them at any time. She provided the Board with background information related to the budget, days cash on hand, tier money, federal COVID relief funds, and funding adequacy.

Director of Special Education's Report

Christine Northrup & High School Special Education Teacher, Rhonda Ehrecke, Therapy Dog, Jordyn, gave a presentation about therapy dogs. Therapy dogs are tested, licensed, and insured through a national organization. Therapy dogs are designed to bring joy and happiness to people. There is a District Protocol in place, the dog's handler provides required insurance, there is administrative observation and building approval, permission slips to receive a visit, and a google form for staff to request a visit. The Board thanked Mrs. Ehrecke and Jordyn for coming.

Christine Northrup's report was included in the Board packet. She gave a brief overview of the special education data the ISBE puts out every year in January based on the December 1 child count. The District uses the data to inform decisions about criteria, student eligibility, staffing and professional development needs, and whether the District is under or over identifying a particular group of students. Marissa Hill, Coordinator of Student Services, gave the Board a review of data specific to the Mahomet-Seymour school district.

Director of Instruction's Report

Dr. Nicole Rummel's report was included in the Board packet. Member Larson thanked her for the SEL presentation that was recently held for the community. Dr. Rummel indicated that the recording is posted to the district website. Member Henrichs asked Dr. Rummel about the 2 or 3 year process that the District will go through to catch students up. Dr. Rummel said that she is working with administrators and instructional coaches and will hopefully have more information at the next meeting or April. There will be a process that begins next school year for students who only have one or two years left. She is working with counselors and teachers at the high school on that plan. More information coming, along with discussions and training for teachers.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lindsey Hall's report was included in the Board packet. The next meeting of the Facilitating Team is this Thursday evening from 6:30-8:30. The Co-Chairs are Jama Grotelueschen, Adi Puckett, Jim Risley, and Jennifer Soderlind. The team came up with Bulldog Blueprint as the tagline for the Community Engagement initiative. The process is moving ahead and going very well.

9. Regular Business

9. A. Unfinished Business

9. B. New Business

9.B.1. Approve Contract with CliftonLarsonAllen for Auditing Services

Heather Smith, Chief Financial Business Officer, asked the Board to approve the two year contract as presented.

Motion was made by **Giles**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, as the auditor for the District for the next two Fiscal Years, and that the Board approve the contract and authorize the Superintendent to execute the Professional Services Agreement. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.2. Parkland Dual Credit Fees

Dr. Nicole Rummel shared that because there was some concern following last month’s meeting that there might be students who would not be able to attend the Parkland dual credit courses because they could not afford to pay the fees, she is bringing more information to the Board. She clarified that the District will cover fees for students who are unable to pay. Currently, two classes are offered: chemistry and physics. Meeting with Parkland and hoping to be able to share several new classes for next year.

Motion was made by **Larson**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve passing along the Parkland dual credit fee to families for dual credit courses taught by Mahomet-Seymour staff at the Parkland Community College per student rate charged to the district with the district covering fees in full (free lunch), or in part (reduced lunch), for qualifying students.

The Board discussed the topic and asked several follow up questions including why this issue was being brought back to the Board. Dr. Rummel explained that she was clarifying misinformation surrounding the topic that arose since the last meeting. The Board discussed how the District might assist families who cannot afford to pay the course fees and whether or not the District has an obligation to pay for the dual credit courses as part of providing K-12 public education. Member Schultz suggested that the District use the funds historically budgeted for the Triple I conference to pay for two years of dual credit fees to which Member Giles suggested that the funds be used to pay for special education teachers.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to amend the motion to state, “with the district covering the fees in full for any student who cannot pay, and eliminate the free and reduced lunch qualifier.” Motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Members Hennesy, Schultz, and Keefe voted yes. Members Giles, Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

Motion by was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to amend the motion to state, “pay fees in full (free lunch) or in part (reduced lunch) for qualifying students or for any student who is unable to pay.” Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

President McComb called for a vote on the original motion. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.3.3. Adaptive Pause from In-Person Learning the week of March 22-26

Member Hennesy said her reason for requesting the agenda item was because she wanted the Board to have a discussion centered about Spring Break and the District’s travel policy. She expressed frustration at the Superintendent’s recommendation in the Board Packet to not approve an adaptive pause before discussion had taken place. Member Hennesy believes there should be a large number of students and staff who will be in quarantine after Spring Break if IDPH guidelines are followed as outlined. Nita Bachman, District Nurse, explained that the recommendations from IDPH are guidelines, and not something the District can enforce as policy. She explained that there are different measures that should be taken for different types of travel, that they should be handled on a case by case basis, and not one size fits all people. The District is doing the best they can to ensure mitigation factors are in place. An additional drive through COVID testing event will be offered on Thursday, March 11, before Spring Break begins. The item was listed as an action item on the agenda, but no motion was made, and no action was taken.

9.B.4. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Lindsey Hall had nothing additional to add related to COVID-19. There were no questions from the Board.

10. Closed Session

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: *1) 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 **Giles**, at 8:51 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 **Giles**, seconded by **Henrichs**, at 9:10 p.m., to return to open session. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by “yes” vote, 7-0 at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Max McComb, President

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder