

Quick Board Summary

January
2018

Board of Education

President
Max McComb

Vice President
Cheryl Melchi

Secretary
Lance Raver

Member
Merle Giles

Member
Nezar Kassem

Member
Lori Larson

Member
Jenny Park

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Lindsey Hall

District Office
1301 S. Bulldog Dr.
Mahomet, IL 61853

mahometseymour.org

Overview

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by President McComb at 7:00 p.m. Max McComb, Lance Raver, Cheryl Melchi, Merle Giles, Jenny Park, Nezar Kassem and Lori Larson were in attendance.

Consent Agenda Items: All minutes, bills, activity funds, personnel changes, surplus items and record management items were approved as presented unanimously.

Reports, Updates, Public Participation & Informational Items:

Foundation:

Mrs. Larson shared that Bulldog Bash Tickets are available for sale. It will be held on Friday, March 9th at the City Center.

Board Communication:

- President McComb acknowledged the 70 Illinois State Scholars, and commended them on a “job well done”. The Board of Education is very proud of your hard work!
- President McComb congratulated Ellen Ericson on receiving the 2017 Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Distinguished Educator Award. This award recognizes educators who’s exemplary teaching has provided inspiration to large numbers of foreign language students and/or teachers. McComb thanked Mrs. Ericson for all she does for our students.
- Member Larson is happy to see that our students will be working on a Rube Goldberg device. Larson also enjoyed the Variety Show at the High School. She thanked the Interact Group at the High School for helping put together 179 bags for the “Give Me Five” Program.
- Melchi is glad that Sangamon was able to complete assessments before winter break. She added “we know that is a tremendous feat”. She is also glad that teachers are meeting to identify not only students who need additional intervention, but also ensuring that they are meeting the needs of higher readers.
- Mr. Giles impressed with the story done by Channel 3 featuring Sangamon PE students and their Polar watches.
- Mr. Raver shared that the Jr. High Cheer Team placed 6th out of 33 teams at state! He also commented that the High School Jazz Band has been playing at the Jr. High home basketball games, and that it adds a layer of excitement!
- Dr. Kassem welcomed everyone back from winter break. He also thanked Dr. Hall for deciding to have school on that first day back, as well as thanking Shane Truitt and his crew for having our facilities ready to go.

The Board of Education met in regular session at

7:00 pm in the Board Conference Room at

Middletown Prairie Elementary

Kassem commented that “knowing the facilities and grounds will be ready, helps Dr. Hall make that decision”. Dr. Kassem also thanked Mr. Cheek and the coaches involved, for keeping our students safe during the incident at the high school over break.

- Member Park is very proud of our teachers. Several have been recognized recently, including: Kirsten Flodstrom at Lincoln Trail, Julie Myers at Middletown Prairie, Ellen Ericson at the High School and Melinda Douglas at Sangamon.
- President McComb thanked Shane Truitt for playing plumber and trouble shooter over winter break. McComb also thanked Mr. Truitt’s team for having everything ready to go.

Financial Report: Chief School Business Official shared that Moody’s has contacted us to do an updated rating. That is in the works now. Nuxoll also said that the facilities committee met on January 10th and discussed the 5 year facilities plan. Dr. Hall and Mr. Nuxoll have been attending workshops and webinars regarding the new Evidence Based Funding Model. The District should know in March or April what tier we fall in. President McComb would like to know what plays into the differences between the tiers.

Superintendent Report:

- Dr. Hall introduced Emily Jankauski, who is the new Editor at the Mahomet Citizen.
- Thank you to Shane Truitt and staff for preparing our facilities in the cold early morning hours. Also thanked Jeremy Roark for checking the roads very early in the morning.
- Dr. Hall is very impressed with the Village of Mahomet and surrounding townships and the work they do, and the care they show in getting the roads ready for us.
- The Variety Show was amazing, with incredible talent.
- Dr. Hall shared that district employees have been participating in a poverty simulation. It is impactful to watch, and she has received a lot of positive comments. Thank you to Nicole Rummel, Chris Forman and Courtney Porter for all of the work they put into making this happen for our District.
- The next Bulldog Dialog is Thursday, February 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room at Middletown Prairie Elementary.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. **Elementary Level Professional Development Update:** Dianne Bollman, Julie Henry and Philisha Paragi addressed the Board regarding this

year's professional development. These teachers along with Melissa Kneller are leading out K-5 professional development focused on guided reading and small group instruction. To support teachers with the guided reading implementation, the role of the Interventionist/Reading Specialist changes to one of a coach. Interventionist/Reading Specialist are now coming into the classroom providing intervention support to students, coaching opportunities for teachers and modeling lessons. Mrs. Paragi said "the best part is...it is impacting students and the data looks good". To support the Interventionist/Reading Specialists in this new role, the group (Dianne Bollman, Julie Henry, Philisha Paragi and Melissa Kneller) is participating in a book study with Mr. and Mrs. Starwalt and Dr. Rummel utilizing the book *Evocative Coaching*.

2. **Approval of Construction Change Order #9:** Dr. Hall presented Change Order #9 that will address the fire alarm system at Middletown Prairie, allowing the addition and the current Middletown Prairie facility work as one unit. Dr. Kassem asked why this wasn't caught when it was originally bid. Shane Truitt, Facilities Director explained that the current fire alarm panel does not have the capacity to cover the addition. Dr. Park asked who should have caught this error. Truitt believes that it was an oversight. It would meet code the way it was bid. Project Manager, Rick Johnston, has had many conversations with Ittner Architects and the fire alarm company regarding this issue. Member Park asked that Dr. Hall have Mr. Johnston share our frustration again. Truitt also commented, that out of all the pieces, this was the only one that was overlooked. Change order # 9 was approved.
3. **Approval of Kiln for Middletown Prairie:** Dr. Hall told the Board that this item approves the purchase of a Kiln for Middletown Prairie. Member Kassem asked if we could move the current one, or give the new one to the High School. Mrs. Starwalt commented that the space at Middletown Prairie has already been specked with vents for this particular kiln. It would not work to change them out. The kiln at Sangamon is also very old. This item was approved by the Board.
4. **Approval of Scoreboard Purchase for the Gymnasium at Middletown Prairie:** This item is for a scoreboard that is needed for the new gym at Middletown Prairie. It is anticipated that a local business will partner with us, and that will help offset the cost. This purchase was in the original budget. The Board approved this purchase.
5. **Alternate Revenue Source Bond Abatement Resolution:** The Board adopted a resolution to abate all payments for the alternate revenue source bond series 2010 and series 2016C in the amounts of \$153,550 and \$69,320 respectfully. Instead, these payments will be paid using proceeds from the 1% sales tax.
6. **Property Tax Abatement Resolution:** The Board approved this resolution which relates to the District's promise to annually commit 1/3 of the sales tax revenue to property tax relief. The Resolution will abate taxes for the Tax Levy Year 2017 to pay debt service on certain outstanding bonds in the amount of \$760,126.04. The District will instruct the County Clerk not to collect this amount since sales tax revenue will be used to pay these bond amounts for the Levy Year 2017.
7. **Resolution to Transfer Capital Projects Fund Sales Tax Revenue to Debt Service Fund:** The Board approved this resolution which is an accounting function that allows the transfers the two abatement amounts (above) to the Debt Service Funds. Sales tax revenue must be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund; bond payments must be paid from the Debt Service Fund. \$980,996.04 will be transferred.
8. **Approve Contract with BLDD for \$28,500 to Design and Bid Roof Repairs at Lincoln Trail:** As discussed with the Facilities Committee, a comprehensive, district-wide roof analysis identified three sections of the roof at Lincoln Trail as the highest priority in terms of repair. BLDD will begin the process of designing and preparing bid documents to address these repairs with a fixed cost of \$28,500. The Board approved this item.
9. **Authorization to Bid for Roof Repairs and Replacement at Lincoln Trail:** This item coincides with item # 8, and allows the project to go out for bid. This project will be funded with Health Life Safety funds. This item was approved.

Closed session was held for: 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. 2) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 3) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.