

Quick Board Summary

March 12,
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 and Nezar Kassem were in attendance. Mrs. Larson was able to join the meeting at 7:45 pm.

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

Reports, Updates, Public Participation & Informational Items:

PTO: Michelle Grindley, President of the Elementary PTO, invited the Board to attend the Hands Around the World event at Lincoln Trail. It is held during the school day on April 6th.

Public Participation:

- Sara DeYoung thanked the Board and the school district for the positive experience her family had while living here.
- Diane Fall, Bryan Forbes, Sarah Budden and Paula Jarrett addressed the Board in support of Coach Moxley.
- Meghan Hennesy shared her concern with the implementation of the 1:1 initiative.

Reports, Updates & Informational Items:

Jennifer Wherley, MSHS Agriculture Teacher, and Jaden Klaus, FFA member, were in attendance. Mrs. Wherley shared that Jaden Klaus and Maddie Fugate participated in the National FFA competition and both placed in the top 3. That is an incredible accomplishment!

Jeanne Campion, Rhonda Starkey and many members of the MSHS Interact Club shared information on what the Interact Club is. Mrs. Campion is a retired Mahomet-Seymour teacher, and Rhonda Starkey is the sponsor of the program. To say it is extremely successful is putting it mildly. There are approximately 30 active members and they try to do something every month. Students choose a month and then plan an activity. The students in attendance shared the activities that they have participated in. The best part of this group is that they get to interact with the community. Mrs. Campion would like to have a service award like the academic and athletic letters in the future. Mrs. Starkey would like to see the students work with bigger projects and even with other districts.

Board Communication:

- Mrs. Melchi shared that she was at Mahomet Car Connection when Mr. Roark was there purchasing a

The Board of Education met in regular session at

7:00 pm in the Board Conference Room at

Middletown Prairie Elementary

driver's education car. She was reminded that the District has great support from businesses in our community. She also congratulated Jaden Klaus and Maddie Fugate on their accomplishments!

- Mr. Giles congratulated the high school math team on winning regionals for the 8th year in a row. They will now compete at state, and are hopeful for a first place win for the 3rd year!
- Mr. Raver commented that the high school math team is "crazy good". Also, "hats off to the high school swim team for placing 4th at sectionals"! Raver complimented the high school cross country team on earning an academic letter. He thanked the community for their support during the 8th grade career day, and Kara Allison and her class for holding a food drive for helping hands.
- Dr. Kassem attended the Bulldog Bash, and is impressed at the amount of money that is raised for our district.
- Mrs. Park is grateful to the community for continuing to make the Bulldog Bash a successful event. She also congratulated the math team, commenting, "it just shows how academically strong our district is".
- President McComb thanked the Foundation for hosting another successful Bulldog Bash. He also shared that he attended the open house held at Farm Credit for FFA. FFA students were in attendance and talked with those in attendance about all aspects of FFA.

Financial Report: Chief School Business Official, Trent Nuxoll, shared that the financial report was included in the board packet.

Superintendent Report:

- Dr. Hall had the pleasure of playing "The Cat in the Hat" on Friday, March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday and Literacy Week, and visiting all 14 classrooms at Middletown Prairie.
- The Annual FFA Dinner and Dessert Auction was Sunday, March 4. It was very well attended, and the support for FFA in our community is amazing. We have 97 members of FFA!
- Bulldog Bash was held Friday evening March 9th, and was a huge success.
- Our new employee recognition program, "Excellent Employee Efforts", is going well and adds a positive to many employees' work days. It's wonderful to point out the small and big

things we appreciate about each other and publicly acknowledge our coworkers. So, far, 40 employees from all areas of our organization have been honored.

- Dr. Hall thanked the interview team that contributed to the selection of Mr. Nathan Mills as our new JH principal. Their input was invaluable, and they spent a long day interviewing six outstanding candidates. Mr. Mills was “most outstanding”!
- Dr. Hall had the pleasure of spending time with Representative Will Davis, from the 30th legislative district representing the south suburbs, on Monday March 5. Rep. Davis visited several classrooms, visited our Ag/FFA Feedstore and greenhouse, and spoke with some of our students. Dr. Hall appreciates the time he took to stop by on his way to Springfield. He chairs the K-12 Appropriations Committee and was instrumental in working with Rep. Bob Pritchard in finalizing a budget and working on the Evidence Based Funding model.

Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday, April 19, 2018: Community Open House at Sangamon Elementary from 5-8 p.m. to say final good-byes and tour the building.
- Sunday, August 12, 2018: Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting of Middletown Prairie Elementary

Parent Meetings for Personal Devices Rollout:

- Monday, April 30
- Tuesday, May 1

Both meetings are at 6 p.m., both in HS Auditorium. Parents of 5th through 11th graders should attend ONE of those meetings.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. **Approve Nathan Mills as the Jr. High Principal:** Dr. Hall shared that the interview team interviewed six qualified candidates on February, 27th. They recommend Nathan Mills for this position. The Board approved this recommendation.
2. **Approve the Resolution Reference the Proposed Reclassification of an Administrative Employee:** Dr. Hall recommend that the Board approve the resolution: reference the proposed reclassification of an administrative employee, Courtney Porter, as presented and that the superintendent be authorized and directed to deliver or cause to be delivered the notice to the employee as specified in the resolution. The motion was approved.
3. **Approve the Resolution Reference the Proposed Dismissal of a PEL Employee:** Dr. Hall recommended that the Board adopt the resolution: reference the proposed dismissal of a first year non-tenured professional educator licensed (PEL) employee, Robin Holmes, as presented and that the superintendent be authorized and directed to deliver or cause to be delivered the notice to the employee as specified in the resolution. The Board approved this resolution.
4. **Approval of Roof Labor Bid for Lincoln Trail:** Ryan Benson with Garland Roofing and Damien Schlitt with BLDD shared that in fall the District had a roof analysis completed, and developed a long range plan for roof repairs. Lincoln Trail is the top priority. The lowest bid came in under budget from Top Quality Roofing in Mt. Zion. The new roof is a “built up system” with a 30-year warranty. The Board unanimously approved.
5. **Authorize the Purchase of Lincoln Trail Roof Materials through US Communities Purchasing Cooperative:** The District is able to save money by bidding out labor separate from materials. There is approximately \$20,000 in savings by utilizing the purchasing cooperative. The warranty covers labor and materials. In addition, the company will inspect the roof every two years, and provide online feedback for the District to review.
6. **Double Block Algebra I Pilot Course:** Principal Cheek shared that this course will fill a need of getting more students ready for algebra 1. Mr. Ryan has done a lot of work developing this course. Mr. Cheek and Mr. Ryan have had meetings with Parkland College and the Regional Office of Education. Right now 9 out of 13 districts who achieve higher results than Mahomet-Seymour, use this concept. The goal is to get students into the regular pathway as quick as we can. Mr. Ryan has identified 15 students that would be good candidates. Some of them would continue in double block through high school, while others will transition out of the double block. Most students in this pilot will utilize a portion of their study hall. If the Board is in agreement Mr. Ryan will reach out to the students and families to provide them with information regarding this course. The board indicated they would like for Mr. Ryan to move forward.

7. New Look to the Start of School for Kindergarteners: Kindergarten teachers Karen Mchale, Karen Badger and Melissa Gibson shared the new concept for this fall. They feel this will provide a little more success for new students. Right now all students and parents come at the same time, and it is very overwhelming for all. The new plan allows parents to sign up for a 15 minute conference held on August 17th. This will allow them to share information about their child and allow the teacher to begin building a relationship with them. In addition, they can bring in their child's supplies, see the classroom and meet the teacher in a less stressful atmosphere. The teacher can talk to the parents about what lunch time looks like, dismissal process, food allergies and any anxieties their child is having about school. On day two and three, half of the class would attend each day. They can find their desk and the bathrooms, and review their routine.

8. Approval of Jr. High and High School Internet Infrastructure:

Mr. Lynn shared that the current wireless internet access coverage in the Jr. High and High School was installed in 2013. Over the years, this coverage has successfully kept up with the increasing number of devices used in the buildings. However, we have reached a point where this equipment must be upgraded, not only to continue providing coverage for the increasing number of personal devices, but also to ensure a successful rollout of the 1:1 device initiative at the Jr. High and High School next school year. In terms of funding, this project qualifies for E-Rate Category 2 funding through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The E-Rate program provides funds for K-12 schools and libraries to obtain internet access and telecommunications services. Through this funding source, the District will be reimbursed for half of the \$73,342.20 cost. The Board unanimously approved this item.

9. Approval of Grades 6-12 Student Chrome Books and Teacher Laptop Financing:

Jared Lynn, Chris Forman, and Trent Nuxoll have shared information on the 1:1 initiative at previous board meetings. To allow sufficient time to prep the devices for the rollout in 2018-2019, it is time to submit the order. Also, teacher laptops have not been replaced since 2013, so Jared received quotes on laptops as well. This was approved by the Board.

Closed session was held for: 1) 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. 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.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01pm.