

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

Held in the Board Conference Room

Date: September 16, 2019

7:00 Regular Board Meeting

1. Call to order

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 7:27 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Board members present for the roll call were Max McComb, Merle Giles, Meghan Hennesy, Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Ken Keefe, Lori Larson, and Colleen Schultz, and. Also 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 Giles, *to approve the agenda* presented. The motion passed.

5. Consent Agenda Items

President McComb asked the Board if they would like to see any changes to the consent agenda. Mrs. Hennesy asked to remove Minutes for 8/5/19 – Open, and Mrs. Schultz asked to remove Minutes for 8/19/19 – Open from the Consent Agenda.

- Minutes for the August 5, 2019 Special Meeting – Closed Session
- Minutes for the August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting – Closed Session #1
- Minutes for the August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting – Closed Session #2
- Bills
- Treasurer's Report
- Personnel Changes

Motion was made by Larson, seconded by Henrichs, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Motion carried.

Minutes for the August 5, 2019 Special Meeting – Open Session

Mrs. Hennesy stated that she would like the minutes to reflect that she voted present, not that she abstained.

Motion was made by Henrichs, seconded by Hennesy, *to approve the Minutes for August 5, 2019 – Open Session as amended*. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Minutes for the August 19, 2019 Special Meeting – Open Session

Mrs. Schultz stated that she would like the minutes to reflect that she asked for additional meetings to be scheduled for the budget process.

Motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Hennesy, *to approve the Minutes for August 19, 2019 – Open Session as amended*. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Nicole Rummel introduced Emily Fernandez as a new Kindergarten Teacher at Middletown Prairie and Conan Jurkowski as a Math Teacher at the Junior High School.

6. Donations

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

- JBBA: Lincoln Trail, Cash, \$1000
- JBBA: Junior High, Cash, \$1000
- Mahomet Area Youth Activities Association: Junior High, Cash, \$673.44

- Ashley Boyd, Charity Bundren, Angelle Difanis, Jodi Fan, Jama Grotelueschen, Meghan Hennesy, Amy Randolph, Jen Scheeley & Mary Turner: Junior High, Tent, \$600
- Ron & Margaret White, High School, Cash, \$1000

Mrs. Schultz indicated the Meghan Hennesy was inadvertently left off the list of donors for the tent for the Junior High.

Motion was made by Giles, seconded by Henrichs, *to approve the Donation List* as presented with the addition of Mrs. Hennesy's name. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

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

PTO – Dr. Hall commented that the PTO, will provide an update in October on the Dawgwalk

MSEA – None

Foundation – None

Visitors – Kevin Brooks asked for a closed meeting with the Board. President McComb indicated that Mr. Brooks will need to request that in advance of a Board meeting. Mr. Brooks agreed to share his concerns in general at tonight's meeting. He expressed his concerns regarding the involvement of the Board's attorneys in the process of his request for a 504 plan and IEP for one of his children. He stated that he will request a closed meeting with the Board to discuss his concerns in more detail.

Kris Rath shared thoughts about sheep, sheep dogs, and wolves.

Lea Ehrhardt shared that she was impressed with the Knowledge Share at the high school last week. She complimented both students and teachers, and said it was a delightful evening. She commented that she feels strongly that outside groups like PTO and Boosters need to handle their own business. She encouraged the Board to work together, and focus on its job, and said she is looking forward to a good year.

Katrina Roberts shared some thoughts about an experience she had that she believes is a good example of unnecessary and negligent spending. She believes her son received some misadvice that led to him missing out on a scholarship opportunity to play football in college. Because of the situation, she stated that she felt she had no choice but to file a due process, and the legal fees as far as she could tell were more than \$18,000. She believes this was avoidable. She also encouraged the Board to do a better job of representing the people that are elected to represent, and consider that there are people who are less fortunate and less privileged than others. She provided the Board with examples that illustrate her concerns.

Gloria Cherry shared that she was impressed by the Knowledge Share program. She shared some information that she came across regarding the teacher shortage in the United States. Mrs. Cherry also shared details about two FOIA requests she recently made. She expressed some concerns she has about several topics including things she believes are being swept under the rug, and public participants not being treated equally. She stated that she believes there should be term limits for Board members, and commented that she thinks a public petition is needed to look into the possible OMA violations.

Mahomet Daily, Dani Tietz, shared that she believes she was the recipient of an unfair email from Dr. Hall regarding a FOIA request she submitted to the District. She mentioned seeing the non-binding resolution to acknowledge news media and shared her thoughts about the nature of her business the Mahomet Daily, the treatment she has received from administration in the District, and what constitutes a news source. She shared additional thoughts about FOIA requests she has filed in the past that she believes were not filled properly. She stated will not be responding to the email she received last week, will not be paying for the FOIA request, and will be contacting the Public Access Counselor about the validity of the response to her request.

Lance Raver shared that he was also impressed by the Knowledge Share program. He shared his thoughts and concerns about Mr. Keefe's involvement with the PTO fundraiser, Dawgwalk, and several ways he believes Mr. Keefe broke the trust of the public. Mr. Raver commented that he feels Mr. Keefe was deliberately trying to hide information from the PTO. He stated that he believes Mr. Keefe has decided not to follow rules that are specifically designed to identify and prevent conflicts of interest to his employer and voters. He asked Mr. Keefe to publicly, tonight, ask the Regional Superintendent to investigate the matter alongside any ongoing law enforcement investigations. Mr. Raver asked the board to model effective leadership and encouraged the Board to ask Mr. Keefe to voluntarily suspend his board seat until the investigations are completed.

Reports, Updates & Informational Items

Board Communication:

President McComb thanked the public for their comments. He also stated that over the past few weeks, there have been some questions raised by the public about Mr. Keefe and the situation surrounding him and how it relates to his position on the Board of Education. President McComb shared that his understanding is that the local Board of Education has no jurisdiction in this matter. These matters are handled exclusively by the Regional Superintendent of Schools and that removal of a school board member is rare.

Mrs. Larson stated that Knowledge Share was awesome and thanked Mr. Pogue for organizing. She loved the Dawgapalooza event. Recently took a tour of Lincoln Trail with Mrs. Hunter, and thought it was exciting to learn of all of the things happening at the school.

Mr. Giles stated that most people think of fall as football season, he thinks of it as marching band season. He is thankful that we have both.

Dr. Henrichs stated that the Marching Band is having a fundraiser on September 29 with the Harlem Wizards and local celebrity basketball players. He asked everyone to please come out and support the Marching Band.

Mr. Keefe stated that the issue with the PTO is a private matter between his business and the PTO. He stated that it is not appropriate to discuss a private matter with the Board. He thanked President McComb for stating clearly that it is outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

Mrs. Hennesy shared that she's having a tough time tonight. She hears people say that the board needs to get along, but she is torn between saying what she feels needs to be said, and what the backlash might be for saying what she believes. She wants to do things for kids and teachers. She encouraged the Board to follow established policies and procedures, and to not pick and choose which ones to follow. She feels that following policy is important in all areas, and she encouraged the Board to know its own policies and procedures. She wants to move forward as a Board, but not in a broken manner with regard to policies and procedures, and will continue to ask the questions she feels are important.

Mrs. Schultz stated that she feels she missed out on something really great at the Knowledge Share. She thanked the public for coming and talking. She shared that the economic disclosure form asks for disclosure of things that pertain to the District, and she believes that Mr. Keefe filled out the form properly. She also shared that she feels that somewhere along the way the idea that if you disagree with someone means that you hate them. She stated that she doesn't hate anyone. She has strong opinions, was elected to do a job, and she will do it. She believes the work this Board needs to do is to figure out how to get the work done.

Financial Update: Trent Nuxoll

Chief School Business Official, Trent Nuxoll, provided a financial update to the Board. His financial report was included in the board packet. Mr. Nuxoll also shared some information about a request that came through the business office regarding reimbursements made to administrators and Board Members during 2018-2019. He referenced policy 2:125 and the Local Government Expense Control Act of 2017. During the 2018-2019 school year, \$2,000-\$3,000 was reimbursed to 10-12 people in total. All reimbursements were approved by the Board and filed on the appropriate form.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lindsey Hall:

- Congratulations to Nathan Mills for being named to the "40 Under 40" list by Central Illinois Business Magazine. This is an annual list of impactful young leaders in our communities.
- Congratulations to our own Tim Glumac, a National Merit Semi-Finalist! This is a significant accomplishment and is a result of high performance on the PSAT. A tiny percentage of HS students earn this designation.
- Opening of 2019-2020 School Year:
 - Overall positives:
 - Family Nights at MPE and LT
 - Open Houses/Back to School Nights at all buildings
 - Professional development on Institute Days
 - Meetings with small teacher groups on Institute Days
 - New Teacher Orientation
 - Format for starting Kindergarten (2nd year)

- Additional teachers at MPE
- Schedule change at MSJH
- Looking forward to the new

Areas of Growth/Need:

- Transportation—proactive communication and more planning needed, still navigating issue between bus route software and Skyward, appreciate the patience of parents, teachers, secretaries, and other personnel.
- A few glitches with food service, not unexpected as we have a new provider
- Will likely bring a request for a new computer science course in the Fall at the High School. In anticipation of that, Dr. Rummel did an interview with WILL radio and that will air on September 17.

Mr. Keefe asked if there was an instance of running out of food. Dr. Hall stated, yes, but that no one went without food. The District has a new provider and many new employees. She expects next year to go more smoothly.

Mr. Keefe asked if there was an instance of misplaced students. Dr. Hall stated that there was. Mr. Keefe asked what will be done to avoid that in the future. Dr. Hall commented that clearer communication of who is on which bus is needed. The transportation process is extremely complicated with students who switch buses, and some students who need to go different places on different days. The District wants to work with families to accommodate all of those requests, and will also work to make sure it doesn't happen again. Mr. Keefe wondered if it would be possible or helpful to push back the registration deadlines so that there is more time to build the routes. The Board discussed some possibilities with regard to changes in the timing of the registration process. Dr. Hall stated that suggestions are always welcome.

Mr. Keefe shared some concerns about an email exchange between the Board, Dr. Hall, and a concerned parent. Mr. Keefe was concerned that Dr. Hall didn't include the full board on her reply to the parent. Dr. Hall commented that she replied just to the parent, and included President McComb, out of an abundance of caution to avoid any possible violation of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Keefe stated that he thinks the seven Board members are the only ones to be held to the standard of the Open Meetings Act. He asked that Dr. Hall included the full Board on similar future communications. Dr. Hall provided some context regarding the situation, and commented that she would be happy to publicly share her response. Mr. Keefe replied that this wasn't necessary. Dr. Henrichs thanked Dr. Hall for doing a great job and taking a lot of arrows. He stated that he appreciates what she does and how she balances a tough job. He has received many comments from parents who have been very supportive of the communications Dr. Hall has had with them. Mr. Keefe stated that he agreed that Dr. Hall was acting out of an abundance of caution in the way she responded.

9. Regular Business

9. A. Unfinished Business

9. B. New Business

9. B.1 2018-2019 Annual District Audit: Hope Wheeler:

Hope Wheeler, Principal with Clifton, Larson, Allen, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the 2018-2019 Annual District Audit. The full audit packet is included in the meeting packet. The Board asked some follow up questions.

Motion was made by Henrichs, and seconded by Giles, to approve the *2018-2019 Annual District Audit* as presented. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9. B.2 Blended Learning:

Dr. Nicole Rummel introduced Chad Benedict and Keith Pogue who gave a presentation on Blended Learning. A hybrid model World History class will be available to students in the second semester. The Board thanked Mr. Pogue and Mr. Benedict for their work.

9. B.3. BSN Apparel Contract:

Mr. Trent Nuxoll shared that he worked with Mr. Hensley and BSN Sports on some wording about the terms in the contract. He shared the updated language of the contract with the Board via email. The Board asked several follow up questions including whether spirit wear is available through the agreement and whether the District is obligated to use BSN for all spirit wear offered. Mr. Benedict stated that Booster Clubs, parent organizations, and other similar organizations will not be required to use BSN, but school teams who offer spirit wear will need to use BSN Sports. Athletic uniforms will be purchased through BSN Sports per the apparel contract.

Motion was made by Giles, and seconded by Henrichs, to approve the *BSN Apparel Agreement* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.4. 2019-2020 Budget Adoption:

Mr. Keefe, Dr. Schultz, and Mrs. Hennesy expressed concerns about the amount of time provided to review the proposed budget. Dr. Schultz and Mrs. Hennesy expressed concern that Board Policy was not followed in the budget process. Mr. Keefe, Dr. Schultz, and Mrs. Hennesy do not feel they have had enough time to review in the level of detail they would like. Mr. Nuxoll shared that an enormous amount of time goes into the preparation of the budget in a manner that is easy for others to understand. Mr. Keefe, Dr. Schultz, and Mrs. Hennesy expressed their appreciation to Mr. Nuxoll for the hard work he puts into explaining District finances. Mr. Nuxoll stated that he takes pride in this and in historically preparing a very accurate budget annually. He indicated that he has followed past practice in supplying the proposed budget in the format provided and according to state guidelines. Mr. Nuxoll answered some specific questions related to several different line items. Consensus was that any Board member who wants additional details should plan to meet with Trent for a budget discussion.

Motion was made by Giles, and seconded by Henrichs, to adopt the *2019-2020 District Budget* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Members Giles, Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted yes. Members Schultz, Hennesy and Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.5. Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report:

Mr. Trent Nuxoll gave a report to the Board regarding the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report. It has been posted on the website per state law requirement.

9.B.6. Resolution for Permanent Transfer from the Working Cash Fund:

Mr. Nuxoll provided some background information related to the need for a permanent transfers from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund and Transportation Fund. The board asked several follow up questions related the transfer and the possibility of future transfers if needed or wanted by the Board.

Motion was made by Giles, and seconded by Larson, to authorize the *Resolution for Permanent Transfer from the Working Cash Fund* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.7. MAYC Service Agreements:

Sarah Balgoyen, Executive Director, from MAYC and Dr. Nicole Rummel gave a presentation about the agreements between the School District and MAYC. They provided an overview of the all the available programs: Kids Club, B.L.A.S.T., MAYC Jr. High, Bulldog Makers/Work Study, and ATLAS. The Board thanked MAYC for their partnership.

Motion was made by Larson, and seconded by Schultz, to approve the *MAYC Service Agreements* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.8 PRESS 100, PRESS 101, & Local Policy Updates:

The Board discussed the policies being presented for approval. The phrase, “shall evaluate each Building Principal and Assistant Principal” was added to the second sentence under Evaluation Plan portion of Policy 3:60. Consensus was to send Policies 2:240, 6:210, 6:310, 8:95 back to the Policy Committee for further work.

Motion was made by Keefe, and seconded by Henrichs, to approve the *PRESS 100, PRESS 101, & Local Policy Updates* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.9 Self-Evaluation Meeting on October 7, 2019:

The Board discussed having Dean Langdon back for a continuation of the Board self-evaluation process and whether to hold the session in open or closed session. Mrs. Hennesy offered to work on gathering input from the Board regarding an agenda for the session. Mrs. Quinley will be there to serve as the Board Recorder.

Motion was made by Larson, and seconded by Giles, to approve the *Self-Evaluation Meeting with Dean Langdon from the IASB at a cost of \$500*. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Motion carried.

9.B.10 Follow Up to Joint Meeting Between BOE & VOM:

The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting for further discussion about the next steps needed after the September 4 joint meeting with the Village of Mahomet.

9.B.11 Agenda Format:

The Board discussed public participation at Board meetings. Consensus was to try a second public participation section at the end of new business agenda items, and get a countdown clock to be able to visually track time.

9.B.12 Agenda Building:

The Board discussed scheduling a special meeting for discussion about the September 4 Joint Meeting with the Village of Mahomet, and one for a discussion about community engagement. Dr. Hall will send out doodle polls to pick dates for these meetings. The Board agreed that the start time for the October 7 self-evaluation at 7pm.

9.B.13 Administrator Goal Sharing Meeting:

The Board discussed the length of time needed for administrator goal sharing meetings, what materials should be provided to the Board ahead of each meeting, and how to align administrator goals with District goals. Consensus was to begin scheduling these presentations in November, looking for additional meeting times for the meetings, and schedule administrators by building.

9.B.14 Board's Attorneys:

The Board discussed when the Board's attorneys are consulted by the District and the level of detail on the invoices received. Discussion also centered on how and when the Board should be notified when Board attorneys are consulted. Consensus was that a closed session may be needed to discuss this sort of issue in further detail, and to ask Christine Northrup to provide an update to the Board of ongoing situations where Board attorneys are involved. Dr. Hall will see if Mrs. Northrup is available on October 7 at 7pm. The Board agreed to limit the update to 1 hour so that the self-evaluation can begin by 8pm.

9.B.15 Non-Binding Resolution to Acknowledge News Media Organizations:

Mr. Keefe presented a resolution for Board consideration to acknowledge new media organizations. The Board discussed the proposed resolution and what constitutes news media.

Motion was made by Keefe, and seconded by Henrichs, to approve the *Non-Binding Resolution to Acknowledge News Media Organizations* as presented. The motion was not approved by "yes" vote, 3-4. Members Keefe, Schultz, and Hennesy voted yes, and Members Henrichs, Giles, Larson, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

Mrs. Schultz proposed an amended motion: We, the Board of Education, and by extension the Mahomet-Seymour CUDS #3, will publish all required notices in both the Mahomet Citizen (The News-Gazette, Inc) and the Mahomet Daily (Sangamon Current, LLC). The Board discussed other outlets where information can be shared including using Skylert, and the District website, and whether there are additional outlets that could be considered beyond the two organizations named in the motion. Dani Tietz offered to provide the Board with data about her business the Mahomet Daily. The Board indicated that they would review any information provided.

Motion was made by Schultz, and seconded by Hennesy, to approve the *Non-Binding Resolution to Acknowledge News Media Organizations* as amended. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 6-1. Motion carried.

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, 2) Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff or public property.*

Motion was made by Hennesy, seconded by Henrichs, at 11:34 p.m. to go into closed session for the purposes stated by McComb. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keefe, seconded by Schultz, at 11:49 p.m. to return to open session. The motion carried.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:50 p.m.

Max McComb, President

Merle Giles, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder