

**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: April 6, 2020

**1. Call to order**

The Special Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 6:04 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

President Max McComb was physically present for the roll call. Board members attending virtually were: Lori Larson, Merle Giles, Dr. Colleen Schultz, Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Meghan Hennesy, and Ken Keefe. Also physically present were Superintendent 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. The motion passed.

**5. Public Comment** McComb reviewed the visitor guidelines and called for any public participation. Mrs. Quinley read a letter to the Board from Trent Nuxoll, former CSBO. Mr. Nuxoll shared his concerns about an article that appeared recently on the Mahomet Daily website that he believes shared inaccurate and misleading information regarding school district finances, more specifically with regard to the District's financial profile score from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

**6. Closed Session**

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: *1) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 2) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting, 3) 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.*

**Motion** was made by Giles, seconded by Schultz, at 6:14 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 Larson, seconded by Hennesy, at 7:24 p.m., to return to open session. The motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:35 p.m. with all previous attendees attending either physically or remotely, and with Heather Smith, CSBO, attending remotely.

**7. Financial Update**

Dr. Lindsey Hall and Heather Smith shared information related to the Field House project. Dr. Hall shared that \$451,504 has been expended on the project so far. Heather Smith gave an updated on the process to issue bonds for the project. The Board asked several follow up questions including what the money has been spent on so far, and what the impact might be if the Board were to suspend the project. Ms. Smith shared that the project would likely cost more, and there would be costs incurred to store already purchased materials. In addition, the \$400,000 grant from the

State of Illinois, and the \$50,000 school maintenance grant also from the State, might be in jeopardy if the project does not move forward to completion.

The Board discussed a proposal from member Ken Keefe to suspend further progress on the project with some noting that the agenda item was not listed as an action item for the meeting. Suspending the project would also have an impact on issuance of the bonds for the project. Each Board member took the opportunity to share their thoughts about the idea of suspending the project with a majority of the Board expressing a preference to proceed with the project. The Board discussed moving up the start date of the project since the Field House isn't currently being used and construction is considered essential and allowed under the Governor's executive order.

The Board asked Ms. Smith to elaborate on possible impacts to the project if the District faces a reduction in revenue. Currently, Ms. Smith said worst case scenario models are using a 20% reduction in funds, and she believes that even with this sort of reduction the District would have available funds to complete some miscellaneous projects and could take advantage of other sources of funds like a line of credit.

Dr. Hall gave a review of staffing for FY21 and what the outcomes would be of not adding the new positions. She asked the board to confirm that it is permissible to replace existing open positions. The Board discussed the implications of not adding new positions and not replacing existing open positions. A majority of Board members favored a freeze of all hiring until the Board has a chance to discuss the issues further. The Board considered going back into closed session to discuss open positions and specific current staff members who might be able to fill the positions. Ultimately, the Board decided against an additional closed session. Dr. Schultz will schedule time to discuss her ideas with Dr. Hall ahead of the April 20 meeting.

Dr. Hall shared that Districts in Illinois are slated to receive approximately 80% of their Title 1 allocation in additional funds from the federal CARES stimulus package. Mahomet-Seymour's amount to be received is estimated at \$274,000; she is not sure when this money will be received. At this time, there does not seem to be requirements on how the money is used.

Ms. Smith shared that the balance in the Education fund at the end of the fiscal year is estimated to be \$2,449,151. She also reported that the County Clerk and Treasurer's Office indicate that they are on schedule to send out property tax bills this year. Collectability may be down, and if the District receives late payments from the County, tax anticipation warrants, or a line of credit are options. The District is seeing cost savings in some areas from the buildings being closed, and continues to look for additional ways to save money during this time.

Dr. Hall gave the Board an update about several other summer projects previously discussed by the Board:

- The secured entrance at MSJH has an estimated cost of \$100,000. She does not recommend going forward with this project especially in light of the hiring freeze discussion from earlier in the meeting.
- The secured entrance at Lincoln Trail is estimated to cost \$22,000. This is higher than originally expected.
- The estimated costs for the projects in the Office/Administrative and CTE areas at the High School are close to the bid threshold. Dr. Hall recommended going out to bid for these projects.
- There are issues with the glue for the floor in the Commons area of the High School not working as it should. This is an urgent problem that needs to be fixed. The contractor is willing to honor the warranty, even though the floor is technically out of warranty. Dr. Hall will ask architect, Damien Schlitt, to provide a description of the problem and solution for the Board to review prior to the April 20 regular meeting.

## **8. Public Comment**

President McComb called for any additional public participation comments. There were none.

## **9. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:48 p.m.

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Max McComb, President

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Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder