

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

Held in the Board Conference Room

Date: April 13, 2020

6:00 Special Meeting

1. Call to order

The Special Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 6:00p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Board member physically present for the roll call was Max McComb. Lori Larson, Merle Giles, Meghan Hennesy, Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Ken Keefe, and Dr. Colleen Schultz attended virtually. Also physically present were Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent, Heather Smith, Chief School Business Official, and Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder.

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 Hennesy, seconded by Giles, *to approve the agenda* as presented. The motion passed.

5. Public Comment

President McComb reviewed the visitor guidelines and called for any public participation. Mrs. Quinley read comments from Garret Risley, Nikki Gallier, Lauren Crider, Kari Baumann, Katie Stafford, Polly McCoy, Nikki Melander, Erin Kesler, Pat Ziegler, Jeremy & Peg Busch, Lisa Frerichs, Robert DeAtley, Steven & Kristina Schoolcraft, Jason & Melissa Hirsbrunner, Mona Seaman, MSEA Executive Committee, and Serra Nicolette. All commenters shared their concerns about the proposed hiring freeze, and asked the Board to not vote in favor of a hiring freeze.

6. Discussion of Financial Essentials

Heather Smith, CSBO, provided an overview for the Board of District essential costs. She indicated that the District will get the full allocation of state funds expected for FY20. She reviewed several what-if scenarios for FY21 explaining that school budgets will be dependent on the State's budget. If Evidence Based Funding minimums cannot be met, the state has indicated that districts will be provided with pro-rated funding, and the loss in funding would be spread over several years with the amount depending on the loss in funds at the state level. Ms. Smith reviewed fund balances in the Education, O&M, and Working Cash funds. She reviewed essential costs in the Education and O&M funds. Ms. Smith also presented four scenarios of possible financial impacts from COVID-19 on state funding and sales tax in future years. The Board asked several follow up questions. The Board indicated that they would be in favor of letting the County Board know that the District is not in favor of delayed tax payments for the County.

Prior to going into closed session, President McComb shared his thoughts with the Board about the possibility of shuffling District staff around in order to cover needed areas in lieu of hiring. He encouraged the Board to consider the educational experience of the students that has been made possible because of some of the positions we currently have including instructional coaches, interventionists, special education, and administration.

7. Closed Session

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: *1) 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 Larson, at 7:18 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 Henrichs, seconded by Giles, at 8:16 p.m., to return to open session. The motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:23 p.m. with all previous attendees attending either physically or remotely.

8. Staffing

Based on closed session input and discussion tonight, the Board indicated that they are going to move forward with replacing current open positions and move forward with all new positions approved in March. There will be no hiring freeze and no change in hiring direction and staffing.

Dr. Nicole Rummel gave the Board an update on Summer School classes and positions. She shared that if schools are still in a position to offer only virtual instruction this would work for the classroom portion of Drivers Education and Speech. It would not work for summer school PE. There has not been strong enough enrollment for Algebra 1B, so it has been cancelled. Staff will check with the ROE about the requirements for offering virtual instruction for summer school classes. The Board agreed to proceed with the hiring of Speech and Driver’s Education positions for summer school.

Dr. Hall asked the Board to confirm that they are comfortable proceeding with the projects slated for Lincoln Trail this summer. She indicated that she wants to give the architect the go ahead, if it is the will of the Board, for repairs to the outside stairs and the secured front entrance so the projects can be scheduled with the contractors. Both projects will be paid for with Health Life/Safety and Tort funds, and both projects are below the bid threshold. No Board members voiced any opposition.

9. Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:40 p.m.

Max McComb, President

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder