

# Quick Board Summary

May 15,  
2017

## 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

Rick Johnston

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

[mahometseymour.org](http://mahometseymour.org)

## Overview

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

**Consent Agenda Items:** All minutes, bills, activity funds, personnel changes, record management items and the sanitary hauling agreement were approved as presented unanimously.

Mary Weaver introduced the new High School High School Science teacher, Laura Gowler.

### **Reports, Updates, & Informational Items:** Public Comment:

There were two guests that asked to address the Board at the meeting. Mary Fortune referenced a local media report and asked Mr. McComb to ensure Board public discussions before any action on potential consulting for oversight on the Phase II project. Mr. McComb reiterated that "I think my comment was that if and when the Board would discuss that topic, it would be at a public board meeting as a discussion/action item." Mark Webb asked Mr. McComb when would the specifications for the position be made available to the public and how would the search committee determine who would be the best candidate for that role? Mr. McComb thanked Mr. Webb for bringing good questions to the Board and shared that those things would be considered if and when that discussion is warranted.

### Board Communication:

- Member Larson shared that the Bulldog Bash was the best attended ever and that it seemed everyone liked the new venue. The Foundation will be distributing scholarships on Wednesday and serving refreshments after graduation. She also mentioned that she recently received an email thanking her for her volunteer work. Mrs. Larson wants to make sure that the work done by staff and administrators is also appreciated.
- Member Raver shared that he has three daughters in three separate buildings and he is so impressed with all that the teachers do for our children. Mr. Raver wants to make sure that they know they are appreciated.
- Mr. Giles commented that there a lot of great activities right now; musicals, math team and WYSE events and awards. In addition, he attended the Baccalaureate on

The Board of Education met in regular session at  
7:00 pm in the Board Conference Room at

Middletown Prairie Elementary

Sunday and Mr. Starwalt was the guest speaker. It was a great event, and Mr. Starwalt did a wonderful job. "God Bless our Kids."

- Member Melchi is so glad to see the work the Community Action Group at the Jr. High is doing. That program takes a lot of energy. She also mentioned that she attended the 50th year celebration at Lincoln Trail. It was wonderful to see the history of that school.
- President McComb also shared that the 50th celebration was very well done. He thanked the Foundation for all the work they put into making the Bulldog Bash a success. President McComb also thanked building principals for the reports they provide for each meeting. "The Board reads those reports and appreciates the time principals invest in them."

**Financial Report:** The April financial report was included in the board packet. CSBO, Nuxoll, shared that the District received the first categorical payment for FY 17 at the end of April. At this point we are short \$711,133.39 from the State of Illinois. Mr. Raver asked if that is why the "days of cash on hand" is low. Mr. Nuxoll concurred and said that we would add 10 or 11 days if we had received additional categorical payments. Giles said that last year the State underfunded the General State Aid. While this year they have said they are fully funding Education, but in reality they are underfunding schools more so in categorical payments.

### Superintendent Report:

- **Congratulations to the WYSE team and the MSHS Math Team on their state academic championships:**
- **Ittner/B-R Coordination Meeting:** At the April meeting we mentioned value engineering items of discussion that were ongoing. Since we have seen a large number of the items come to the forefront during this process, Broeren-Russo is preparing estimated costs to include a maintenance area so badly needed by the building and the district overall. B-R is also reviewing a revision in the layout of the restrooms to increase the number of stalls available at the southwest corner of both the upper and lower set of restrooms.
- **Graduation May 19<sup>th</sup>:** We do have a larger number of Board members who will be participating at this year's

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graduation ceremony on Friday night. High school organizers have shared that the preparations are in place.

- **Evidence Based Funding Model:** As the BoE is aware, our district has been very active in public awareness of the funding issues facing K-12 Education in Illinois. I was asked by Advance Illinois to present at a town hall meeting in Bloomington recently with fellow superintendents Dr. Hall (Morton), Mark Daniel (Unit 5), Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat (Peoria Public Schools), and Gary Tipsord (LeRoy).
- **Administrative Team Training:** All MS building principals and assistant principals completed an Administrator Academy as a team entitled, *Gathering Evidence During Observations and Conferencing Using the Danielson Model*. This academy is one of two required by administrators to take during a 5-year cycle to maintain their status as trained teacher evaluators. The outcomes of the training included-
  - Using classroom observation evidence as applied to a rubric to demonstrate a high degree of accuracy and consistency in ratings.
  - Calibrating evidence vs. interpretation to control for bias and standardize teacher ratings.
  - Applying strategies to provide high-quality, targeted and actionable feedback to educators.
  - Calibrating accuracy of evidence collections, alignment and ratings to insure consistency and inter-rater reliability.
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup> Bid Opening:** Reminder that the bid opening is next Monday as per the public notice on the sale of Sangamon property.
- **CSBO Nuxoll Newsletter(s):** Mr. Nuxoll has begun his next round of “Making Sense of the Dollars & Cents” newsletters. We have received excellent feedback on this series in the past in working to educate our public on how school funding works in common sense terms. (Fund sources, historical tax rates/area rankings, fund balance history/sustainable budgeting to name a few)

## Discussion/Action Items:

1. **Extended Learning Program Update:** Christine Northrup, Director of Special Education shared the background behind the ATLAS Program and the Extended Learning Program. Mrs. Northrup shared the highlights of this program which includes transitioning for college or job ready students providing life skills, career skills, and transportation. “I know we have a parent here tonight of student in the program and she is very proud as she should be of his progress--as we are”, Northrup shared. Dr. Kassem asked what the maximum capacity is for ELP? Northrup responded saying it depends on our staff and the student’s needs/schedules. There are six students in the program right now, and the District has been able to operate without adding staff. Kassem also asked if any families have moved to the District for this program. Mrs. Northrup said that has not seen moving into the District, but has seen postponing moving out of the District in order to complete the program. Students do need to meet residency requirements to participate in the program and tuition into the district for this program is not an option.
2. **Title I School Wide Waiver:** Director of Instruction, Mary Weaver discussed the application process for a waiver of the 40% poverty threshold requirement for school wide implementation of Title I funds. She explained that the school wide flexibility allows a school to upgrade the entire educational program to provide a high quality education and close achievement gaps. Mrs. Weaver, upon approval from the Board, will submit an application for waiver of the 40% poverty threshold each of the following buildings: Middletown Prairie, Sangamon and Lincoln Trail. If approved, the waivers will allow Title I funds to impact the entire educational programs at those schools for the 2017-18 school year. The Board approved this waiver.

8:00 p.m. Closed session was held for: (1) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06, and (2) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## Upcoming Meetings

June 26, 2017 – Regular Board Meeting, Board Conference Room, Middletown Prairie, 7:00 PM

July 17, 2017 – Regular Board Meeting, Board Conference Room, Middletown Prairie, 7:00 PM