

**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: February 18, 2020

**7:00 Regular Board Meeting**

**1. Call to order**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 7:07 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**5. Teaching/Learning Showcase**

The Youth Leadership Club from Lincoln Trail shared a video highlighting the group's activities and introduced themselves to the Board. Lincoln Trail 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Dana Martin and James Heinold, lead the 21 member group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

President McComb asked the Board if they would like to see any changes to the consent agenda. There were none.

- Minutes for the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting - Open Session
- Bills
- Treasurer's Report
- Personnel changes

**Motion** was made by Larson, seconded by Giles, *to approve the consent agenda* as presented. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

**7. Donations**

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

- |                       |               |                                     |            |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| • Lisa Powell         | Lincoln Trail | Cash for Give Me 5 Backpack program | \$75.00    |
| • The Vineyard Church | District      | Cash for Social Work Fund           | \$5,000.00 |

**Motion** was made by Schultz, seconded by Hennesy, *to approve the Donation List* as presented. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

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

**PTO:** none

**MSEA:** none

**Foundation:** Lori Larson shared that on March 1, 2020, MSHS seniors may begin applying for many local scholarships available for graduating seniors. The Foundation plans to award over \$20,000 in scholarships. Most of these scholarship funds are raised during the Foundation's annual Bulldog Bash.

**Visitors:** **Dani Tietz** shared a concern regarding chaperones for school sponsored activities. She asked the Board to consider a board level chaperone policy.

**Jill Guth** shared her support for the extension of the TIF district. She also expressed concern with recent activities of the Board and the agendas that appear to be stalling important work that needs to be done. She encouraged the Board to rectify the situation.

**Chapin Rose**, Illinois State Senator, delivered some good news to the Board. The State of Illinois is awarding a \$400,000 grant to the District to help renovate the Fieldhouse. A written agreement between the school district and the Village of Mahomet that increases public access was suggested by the State as part of the project. Sean Widener, Village President, was present for the meeting indicated that the Village is looking forward to cooperating with the District to increase community access to the Fieldhouse.

## **9. Reports, Updates & Informational Board Communication**

**Dr. Colleen Schultz** had no report.

**Mrs. Meghan Hennesy** had no report.

**Dr. Jeremy Henrichs** thanked Trent Nuxoll for his efforts, and integrity.

**Mrs. Lori Larson** echoed Dr. Henrichs thoughts about Trent Nuxoll. She thanked him and his family for their commitment to Mahomet. She is also excited about all of the good things she sees happening in the District.

**Mr. Ken Keefe** shared that he has heard several positive stories about the leadership that the principals are providing in the District. He appreciated the work they are doing.

**Mr. Merle Giles** thanked Trent Nuxoll. He also expressed his appreciation that there are music programs that our students can be a part of in Peoria instead of having to travel to Chicago.

**President Max McComb** appreciates all of the great things going on in the District. He also expressed his thanks to Trent Nuxoll and said he leaves difficult shoes to fill. He expressed his appreciation for everything Trent has done over the years and for his commitment to the District.

### **Financial Update**

Trent Nuxoll, Chief School Business Official, explained the Illinois State Board of Education financial score. The District receives this score every year based on five factors. The 2020 score, which is based on 2018-2019 data, has not been released yet. ISBE allows school districts to add comments to explain extenuating circumstances after seeing the score and reviewing it for accuracy. This fiscal year, several comments were required to explain the late property tax payments from Champaign County. He reviewed the five factors that make up the financial score and the comments he submitted to the State. The Board asked several follow up questions.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lindsey Hall acknowledged two employees who retired at the end of January. Debbie Cawley, Educational Office Personnel, worked at Sangamon and Middletown Prairie for 16 years. Jay Watts, Bus Driver, worked for the Transportation Department for over 28 years. She congratulated High School senior Tim Glumac who has been named a National Merit Finalist. Dr. Hall also gave the Board a review of the process in place to find a replacement for Trent Nuxoll. Interviews will take place on February 28. Ken Keefe asked Dr. Hall to send the Board copies of all applications received.

## **10. Regular Business**

### **10. A. Unfinished Business**

#### **10. B. New Business**

##### **10.B.1. Proposed Board Policy 4:11, Tax Increment Financing**

Ken Keefe reviewed the proposed policy. The Board asked why he is recommending ¾ majority vote instead of just a majority. He indicated that he feels it is important when the Board is being asked to approve something so significant and long lasting as a TIF district. The Board discussed the proposal.

**Motion** was made by Hennesy, and seconded by Schultz, to *approve proposed Board policy 4:11*. The motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Schultz, Keefe, and Hennesy voted yes; Giles, Larson, Henrichs, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

### **10.B.2 Trent Nuxoll Resignation/Contract**

Mr. Trent Nuxoll has resigned his position. Dr. Lindsey Hall asked the Board to accept Mr. Nuxoll's resignation and to release him from his contract.

**Motion** was made by Giles, and seconded by Henrichs, to *approve the release of Trent Nuxoll from his employment contract and accept his resignation as an employee effective March 27, 2020.*

A **second motion** was made by Keefe and seconded by Hennesy, to move the agenda item to the end of open session with the intent of moving into closed session to discuss the topic. The Board discussed the motion. President McComb called for a vote. The motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Keefe, Schultz, and Hennesy voted yes; Giles, Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

The Board discussed the original motion. A concern was expressed that the contract was not followed. President McComb explained that Dr. Hall checked with the attorney and there is a provision in the contract to mutually agree to release Mr. Nuxoll from his contract. President McComb called for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 5-0. Larson, Henrichs, Schultz, Giles, and McComb voted yes; Keefe voted to abstain; Hennesy voted present. Motion carried.

### **10.B.3. Summer School Fee Increase**

Dr. Nicole Rummel reviewed the proposed increases to summer school fees. Summer school fees have not been raised for several years. Algebra 1B will be offered this summer, and transportation will be offered. The purpose of offering Algebra 1B is to get more students on track for Algebra 2 during their junior year. More of the students who would be on track to take Algebra 1B over the summer are on Free and Reduced Lunch and will need transportation to summer school. The goal is for summer school to pay for itself, so an increase in fees is needed to provide the new math class and to add transportation. The Board discussed the proposal and asked several follow up questions.

**Motion** was made by Larson, seconded by Henrichs, to *approve the Summer School Fee Increase* as presented. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 6-1. Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

### **10.B.4. New Special Education Math Readiness Course & Elimination of Action Ed Course**

Dr. Nicole Rummel provided an overview of a new math course for the High School proposed by teacher, Garret Risley. The Math Readiness course would be offered to students who have an IEP, and is focused on transitional goals that are part of their IEP, along with preparing students for entrance test at Parkland College. She also proposed elimination of the Action Ed course. Enrollment in Action Ed has been declining and there is an education pathway offered by Parkland College that is open to high school students and offers a practicum piece.

**Motion** was made by Schultz, seconded by Hennesy, to *approve the addition of the Math Readiness course and the elimination of the Action Ed course* as presented. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

### **10.B.5. Resolution for Extension of TIF Letter of Support**

Dr. Lindsey Hall reviewed the request to extend the east end TIF for another 13 years. She explained that the vote needed tonight doesn't approve the extension, it just shows support. It takes approval by the State legislature to extend it or not. She thanked the several representatives from the Village of Mahomet for being at the meeting to serve as a resource for the Board. The Board discussed the issue with some expressing concern about the amount of money the District will be giving up over the life of the extension, and the busyness of the road planned that will cut through District property. Questions about whether the matter could be tabled so more questions can be answered or whether it could be postponed until the next legislative year were discussed. Representatives from the Village indicated that the letters of support are needed in February and it is not advisable to wait. The Board asked several follow-up questions and the representatives from the Village provided feedback.

**Motion** was made by Henrichs, seconded by Giles, to *approve the Resolution and Letter of Support for extending the east end TIF District by 12 years.* The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 5-2. Henrichs, Larson, Giles, Keefe, and McComb voted yes; Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

### **10.B.6. Approve Bids for Field House and MSHS Projects**

Mr. Trent Nuxoll and Damien Schlitt reviewed the bids received for the Field House and MSHS projects and the recommendations from BLDD. Mr. Nuxoll reviewed the project totals and the funding recommendations. The Board asked several follow-up questions.

**Motion** was made by Keefe, seconded by Hennesy, to accept the following bid package combination and instruct BLDD Architects, Inc. to accept the lowest bids for these packages on behalf of the district.

- Package 1, Alternative 3 – HVAC Replacement – Estimated at \$63,135
- Package 6 – Field House Floor – Estimated at \$578,460
- Package 7, Alternative 4 – Goal Height Adjusters – Estimated at \$42,870
- 5% Contingency for work above – Estimated at \$34, 223
- HS Industrial Arts Project – Estimated at \$80,000
- Package 7, Athletic Equip & Controls – \$214,480

Total amount is \$1,013,168

These projects will be funded by the following:

- \$50,000 – School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG)
- \$56,000 – MSEF (Hoop Controls Donation)
- \$143,153 – Health Life Safety Funds (FH HVAC & Industrial Arts)
- \$364,015 – District Funds
- \$400,000 – State of Illinois Grant

Mr. Keefe explained that he wants to avoid taking on new debt and he targeted the things that are not cosmetic. The Board discussed the motion. Support for the recommendations from BLDD was voiced by some. A concern was expressed that the Board needs to discuss the larger space needs that the District has. Dr. Hall explained that the amount of money needed to address the Field House and High School doesn't come close to what would be needed for facility expansion. In addition, she stated that the community engagement plans that would inform a long-term strategic plan for the District keep being put off by the Board.

After a time of further discussion, **Mr. Keefe's motion was amended** by Giles, seconded by Henrichs, to *approve the contracts as detailed in the letter from BLDD*. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 6-1. Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

### **10.B.7. IASB Online Platform**

Dr. Lindsey Hall gave the Board a brief demonstration of the IASB Online Platform for board policies. She explained that the system is user friendly, provides greater public accessibility to board policy, and is easier to use than the current system of pdf documents uploaded to the District website. The Board discussed the online platform and asked several follow-up questions.

**Motion** was made by Giles, seconded by Henrichs, to *approve the subscription to the IASB's Board Policy Platform at a cost of \$2250 per year, starting July 1, 2020*. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 5-2 with Members Schultz and Keefe voting no. Motion carried.

## **11. Communication from Visitors**

**Chuck Thompson** thanked the board for supporting the TIF which would provide a much needed road in the Village.

**Gloria Cherry** apologized for her tone last month. She mentioned that she would like to see the board be more cordial with each other and doesn't like to see conversations shut down.

**Dani Tietz** spoke again about the chaperone issue. She encouraged the Board to see it as a serious issue, and not a one-time event.

## **12. 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. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.*

**Motion** was made by Henrichs, seconded by Giles, at 10:31 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 Henrichs, seconded by Schultz, at 11:43 p.m., to return to open session. The motion carried.

**13. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:43 p.m.

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Max McComb, President

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Merle Giles, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder