

**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: June 21, 2021

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 physically present for the roll call were Max McComb, Justin Lamb, Sunny McMurry, Ken Keefe, Meghan Hennesy, and Colleen Schultz. Also physically present were Superintendent, Dr. Lindsey Hall, and Board Recorder, Dawn Quinley. Dr. Jeremy Henrichs was absent.

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 **Keefe**, seconded by **Lamb**, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

5. Consent Agenda Items

President McComb asked the Board if they would like to see any additional changes to the consent agenda.

- Minutes for the May 3, 2021 Board Reorganizational Meeting – Open Session
- Minutes for the May 3, 2021 Board Reorganizational Meeting – Closed Session
- Minutes for the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting - Open Session
- Minutes for the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting - Closed Session
- Bills as presented
- Treasurer’s Report as presented
- Personnel Changes as presented
- Surplus Items: High School Library Books, Spanish Textbooks
- All minutes of Closed Meetings for November 2020 – April 2021 have been reviewed and shall remain closed.

Member McMurry asked for clarification about how books are selected for the weeding list. Dr. Nicole Rummel explained that the school librarians take care of the weeding process which considers age and condition of materials. Surplus items may be donated or discarded.

Motion was made by **McMurry**, seconded by **Keefe** to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-2. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

Dr. Nicole Rummel introduced Brooks Davis as a new Spanish teacher at the High School.

6. Donations

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Donation To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
Bryan Clark - State Farm Good Neighbor Program	High School	Cash for Boys Track & Field	\$500
Mahomet Rotary Club	District	Cash for McKinney-Vento Homeless Account	\$750
Total			\$1,250.00

Motion was made by **Hennesy**, seconded by **Schultz**, to approve the Donation List as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

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

PTO: No report

MSEA: No report

MSEF: No report

Visitors:

Name	Topic
Elizabeth & Cora Tandy	Concerns about High School English Curriculum
Gloria Cherry	Concerns about High School English Curriculum
Laura Lang	Concerns about High School English Curriculum
Steve Greenlee	Concerns about High School English Curriculum
Katy McCue	Concerns about High School English Curriculum

8. Reports, Updates & Informational Board Communication

Colleen Schultz said she finds some of what she heard tonight appalling especially the prurient nature of the texts.

Ken Keefe had no report.

Meghan Hennesy thanked the people who came to speak during public comment. She said the Board talks a lot about curriculum and whose lane is what, and her personal opinion is that we need to provide education for our children in a safe space that is guided by adults. She has expressed concerns as both a board member and parent, and said she has asked for information repeatedly and not been given it. She feels like things are slipped into Consent Agendas and this is why she frequently votes no on consent agenda. She said she is trying to do the job she was elected to do, but the Board spends more time fighting about rules than gathering data to be able to have important conversations. She said books are tools, and she doesn't know how to assess the tool if she doesn't know the context. It is important to her to bridge the gaps between what her children learn at school and what is taught at home and she can't do this if she doesn't know what is happening. Thanked those who spoke for coming and for their bravery to speak to the board.

Justin Lamb thanked everyone who spoke to the Board tonight. He knows it wasn't easy to do. It was uncomfortable to listen to as a parent, but he appreciates the time they took to come.

Sunny McMurry thanked everyone for coming. She said that she feels pretty well versed in young adult literature, but other than *The Hate You Give*, she has not heard of any of the books they referenced. She is thankful that they brought the books to the Board's attention. One of the things that she is proud of, but sometimes feels she has to hide is her Christianity and Christian values. She agrees that parents have a responsibility to fill in the gaps between what they hear in society vs the values they want their children to learn at home. She also expressed her thanks to the Bulldog Blueprint group and facilitating group. She appreciated the chance to hear different ideas and perspectives from those who participated a couple of weeks ago and encouraged people to participate in the process.

President McComb expressed his thanks to the Bulldog Blueprint group. With regard to info shared tonight, he agrees that context does make a difference. He found a lot of what was shared tonight to be inappropriate and appalling. He expressed his commitment to look into it.

Financial Update

Heather Smith, Chief School Business Official, gave a report to the board. She said everything is in line between the budget and actuals. She will be doing some transfers this month. She thanked the County Treasurer for making the May payment on time. The District is in better shape than in the last few years because of this. She is working on the new budget and hopes to have a finance committee meeting at the end of July. Member McMurry asked Ms. Smith if she could share how much the District has spent on the two grievances and the unfair labor practice that the union has filed. Dr. Hall said it is about \$27,000 so far.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lindsey Hall expressed her thanks to those who spoke tonight as she knows it was difficult. She said there will be more discussion about the topic. Board meetings are the place to hear from constituents. Dr. Hall shared that the second Bulldog Blueprint community engagement session was held about two weeks ago. The group is looking forward to the fall when the sessions will pick back up again. Facilitating Team co-chairs will provide an update to the Board in July. She is excited about the work on a new branding process that Chad Benedict has done with students and staff and looks forward to where that will take the District.

9. Regular Business

9. A. Unfinished Business

9. B. New Business

9.B.1. Approve Revised 2021-2021 Budget

Heather Smith, asked the board to approve the revised 2020-2021 budget.

Motion made by **Hennesy**, seconded by Schultz, to amend the proposed budget to include a \$1000 bonus to all employees who are eligible to join the union and building level administrators.

Smith explained that there is no money available in the 2020-2021 budget from ESSER I or ESSER II funds to pay a bonus. This is something that could be discussed for ESSER III funds and the 2021-2022 budget. Member Hennesy said that she estimates the cost to be \$300,000-\$400,000. Member Hennesy said that she would like to use her motion to show her intent to proceed with the bonus from ESSER III funds. The Board discussed the motion. President McComb would like more information about the motion, who would be eligible for the bonus, and the financial implications of the motion before proceeding with a vote. Ms. Smith said there are retirement implications that also need to be considered. Dr. Hall said it sounds like there is interest in discussing this, but there is work to be done and it is not on the agenda as an action item. The Board discussed, but did not reach consensus about whether or not items must be listed as action/discussion on agendas and past advice received from District attorneys. Member Hennesy said would be willing to withdraw the motion for consideration later and Dr. Schultz agreed. President McComb asked if there was any opposition among other Board members about withdrawing the motion and there was none.

Motion was made by **McMurry**, seconded by **Keefe**, to approve the Revised 2020-2021 Budget as presented. Member Keefe asked that Member Hennesy's idea be included as an action item for the July meeting. President McComb said it is a possibility. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 4-1. Members Keefe, McMurry, Lamb, and McComb voted yes. Member Hennesy voted no. Member Schultz voted present. Motion carried.

9.B.2. Approve Insurance Bid

Heather Smith asked the board to approve the insurance bid renewals. Premiums are up based on worker's compensation claims, and an increase in equipment owned by the District. She recommends the option with the higher deductible that offers higher cyber security coverage. The Board asked several follow up questions primarily related to the coverage of ransom wear attacks which are covered by insurance.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to approve Option #2 presented by Bushue for all Insurance Renewals for 2021-2022 as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

9.B.3. Approve Track Bid

Chief School Business Official, Heather Smith, asked the Board to approve the track bid. She recommends approval of the only bid received from Midwest Track Buildings. The Board asked several follow up questions including the timing of the track rebuild in light of the coming recommendations of Bulldog Blueprint. Dr. Hall explained that there is an immediate need to bring the track up to date and make it useable. Any plans to come out of the Bulldog Blueprint process are likely years away still.

Motion was made by **McMurry**, seconded by **Lamb**, to approve the bid to rebuild the existing running track at Mahomet –Seymour High School as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

9.B.4. Approve Child Development Textbooks

Dr. Nicole Rummel shared that the Child Development Class in the CTE department received a grant from the EFE program for the purchase of class materials. The teacher determined that the best use of the funds would be to purchase new textbooks as the current textbooks are over 20 years old. The digital textbook has been available for review in the District Office for 30 days. The District is not able to publish a log in and password to the digital copy, and people have to come in to review it on a District device. The Board discussed which members have reviewed the textbook. Only Member Schultz has reviewed the book. The Board discussed whether the item could be tabled to the next meeting to give members an additional opportunity to review the book or if the item could be moved to the end of the agenda with a recess ahead of the vote to allow Board members who would like to review the book an opportunity to do so. Dr. Rummel explained that the grant deadline has already been extended once and the funds would not be available at the later date.

Motion was made by **Keefe**, seconded by **Lamb**, to approve the adoption and purchase of the Childhood Development Textbooks as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-1. Member Hennesy voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.5. Approve New Staff Positions

Dr. Lindsey Hall asked the Board to approve the new staff positions as outlined in the Board Packet. These positions will be funded from ESSER III funds or Tier money. The Board discussed the positions and asked several follow up questions related to the 504 coordinator position, burden of evaluation on administrators, instructional coaches vs interventionists, stipends for professional development, stipends for case managers, the workload of technology staff, and importance of keeping technology staffing needs as a priority.

Motion was made by **Keefe**, seconded by **McMurry**, to approve the new positions as outlined in supporting documentation. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-1. Member Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.6. ESSER III Funds

Dr. Lindsey Hall and Heather Smith provided the Board an overview of preliminary plans for ESSER III funds. Projects include replacement of equipment, new bipolar ionization air filtration systems in the buildings, outdoor pavilions, bottle filler for drinking fountains, HVAC control system updates at the High School. The Board also discussed several additional ideas such as using ESSER funds to provide a bonus to staff, the possibility of stipends that would allow teachers to begin to record their classes for asynchronous learning. Target class sizes and impacts to the district budget long term from hiring additional staff to reduce class sizes were also discussed.

9.B.7. Curriculum Policy

Dr. Collen Schultz passed out her proposed policy to Board Members. She explained that she would like Board policy to follow Board practice and the proposed policy will formalize the practice. The Board discussed the proposed policy and provision for exceptions to the policy. The Board also discussed whether district level

instructional materials, like novels, are or should be approved the way textbooks are, and the number of days materials should be available for review by interested parties. The Board discussed various communication methods that could be made available to the community to keep them informed about District happenings.

9.B.8. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Lindsey Hall shared that remote learning will not be offered like it was during the 20-21 school year, but there will be a small number of students who will need a remote option. A form is being developed that parents will take to their doctor that would indicate that the child cannot receive a vaccination and there is a contraindication to being in a group setting. She anticipates that this would include some of our families who currently have a student on homebound instruction. The Board asked several follow up questions including whether this option would include siblings. Dr. Hall said each student will need a doctor completed form.

Dr. Hall shared that right now masks are mandated by ISBE and IDPH regardless of vaccination status. She said that she believes the Board should not go against this mandate. District attorneys would not recommend going against that mandate and our insurance company expects that we will follow the mandates. The Board discussed whether or not the District could provide an outsourced option to students who are not able to attend in person. Dr. Hall said this could be considered, but it would not be without cost and would not be managed by or taught by District teachers. It would be a completely separate entity. ESSER funds could be used for this should the Board decide to go that direction. Member Hennesy said the Board should consider expanding dual credit options for high school students as a way to provide more options for off campus instruction.

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) 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 **Schultz**, seconded by **Keefe**, at 10:19 p.m. to go into closed session for the purposes stated by McComb. The motion passed.

Motion was made by **Keefe**, seconded by **Schultz**, at 11:06 p.m., to return to open session. The motion passed.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m. Motion carried.

Max McComb, President

Ken Keefe, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder