

**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: September 20, 2021

7:00 Regular Board Meeting

1. **Call to order**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 7:02 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

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

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 **Lamb**, seconded by **Keefe**, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

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 August 16, 2021 Study Session – Open Session
- Minutes for the August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting – Open Session
- Minutes for the August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting – Closed Session
- Bills as presented
- Treasurer’s Report as presented
- Personnel Changes as presented
- High School Graduation – May 20, 2022
- EIS Administrator/Teacher Salary & Benefit Report
- Out of State & Overnight Trips

Motion was made by **Lamb**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve the consent agenda with the addition of a leave of absence for Kristin Hood from November 1 to November 5, 2021. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-2. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

Dr. Schultz asked why girls sports fees are paid for by participants, but boys wrestling trips are paid for by the district. Dr. Hall will ask Athletic Director Matt Hensley to look into this. Meghan Hennesy asked if all district teams receive funds from the district for things like uniforms because it has not been her experience that all teams have access to district funds. President McComb suggested asking Doug Fisher and Matt Hensley to give the Board a presentation about this at a future meeting.

Dr. Nicole Rummel introduced the following new teachers:
Margaret Jarvis, District 504 Coordinator

Lindsey Conner, Lincoln Trail PE teacher
 Kristine Rousseau, Lincoln Trail 4th Grade Teacher
 Carrie Mattsey, Middletown Prairie 2nd Grade Teacher

6. Donations

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Donation To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>
Tara & Daniel Biggs	High School	Cash for Mom's Pantry	\$500
Robert & Lisa Mercer	High School	Cash for Boys Soccer	\$500
Ramona Seaman	High School	Cash for Boys Cross Country	\$500
Janto & Augustina Tjahjadi	High School	Cash for Boys Soccer	\$500
Total			\$2000

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to approve the donations as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

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

PTO: Leslie Radice spoke on behalf of the MSPTO. Dawg Walk fundraiser raised over \$150,000. This is a record. She thanked the students, staff, and community for making it a success. This year’s PTO Book Fair will be in person October 18-21. Staff appreciation gifts this year from the PTO include fanny packs for Middletown Prairie and Lincoln Trail teachers filled with coupons from area businesses and a raffle ticket.

MSEA: No report

MSEF: No report

Visitors:

Name	Topic
Steve Greenlee	Curriculum concerns
Erica Kennedy	Harassment concerns
Monica Cherry	Curriculum concerns
Gloria Cherry	Curriculum concerns
Kim Greenlee	Mask mandate
Marcy Hall	COVID-19 testing

8. Building Reports, Updates, & Informational Board Communication

Ken Keefe had no report.

Dr. Colleen Schultz had no report

Meghan Hennesy said that she is struggling with what to say tonight. There have been requests from the community to look at curriculum to understand what goes on in the classrooms. She is concerned about the abuse suffered by the USA gymnastics team. They told people in authority about things happening to them, and those people failed to act. She said there are things going on in our own district where kids are suffering and being bullied. They are reaching out to the adults and asking for help. She does not want to be one of the people sitting in the room doing too little, too late. She ran for a seat on the Board to make a difference for students, and feels she has done nothing but fight for things that never seem to get done. She feels no one is doing the right thing and she is exhausted and saddened.

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs said there are some things in the pipeline that haven’t come to the surface yet and he is confident that those things will be arriving soon.

Sunny McMurry thanked the HS administration and student council for having a homecoming for students. She appreciates the out of the box thinking to give kids a normal event. She's also excited about the amazing turnout from the Dawg Walk. She is very excited about the return of reading shapes at Middletown Prairie.

Justin Lamb said that spirit week was a great week for the students and he said it was great to see happy kids.

President McComb shared that at Friday night's football game, between marching band, cheerleaders, and the football team had $\frac{3}{4}$ of high schoolers involved. Over 750 kids participated in the homecoming dance. The Dawg Walk success was tremendous.

Financial Update

Heather Smith, Chief School Business Official, gave a report to the board. We are tracking and doing well with revenues and expenses. Sales tax is up from last year and up from previous year as well. EBF money is coming in and receiving property tax money is coming in from the county. The board did not have any follow up questions

Director of Student Support Services Report

Christine Northrup's report was included in the Board Packet.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dr. Nicole Rummel's report was included in the Board Packet. She reported that since she submitted the report, there has been positive feedback from the time spent on the early dismissal day regarding unfinished learning. They appreciated the time to address the issue. The board did not have any follow up questions.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Lindsey Hall reminded everyone about the Bulldog Blueprint meeting in person tomorrow from 6:30-8:30 with a virtual meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 on Thursday evening. She congratulated the HS Interact Club on receiving the Rotary Service Award. They were recognized for their project to provide multicultural crayons to students at Middletown Prairie and Lincoln Trail. She also shared that the High School graduation date has been set for Friday, May 20.

Member McMurry added that Girls Swimming was left off of the Fall sports list in the building reports. There are 21 girls on the high school swim team this fall.

9. Regular Business

9. A. Unfinished Business

9. B. New Business

9.B.1. Audit

CSBO Heather Smith introduced Hope Wheeler, Principal with Clifton, Larson, Allen. Mrs. Wheeler gave a presentation to the Board regarding the 2020-2021 Annual District Audit. The full audit packet is included in the meeting packet. The Board asked several follow up questions. Heather Smith thanked the Central Office and building EOPs for their help during the audit. Ms. Smith and the Board thanked Hope and her team for their work during the audit and throughout the year.

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, and seconded by **Schultz**, to approve the 2020-2021 Annual District Audit as presented. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

9.B.2. Budget

CSBO Heather Smith gave the board a recap of changes made to the preliminary budget since the Budget Hearing on September 14, 2020. She asked the Board to approve the preliminary budget. The Board asked several follow up questions including changes in budgeted revenue from the prior year, sales tax amounts included in the budget, and amounts set aside for abatement, and several district projects.

Motion was made by **McMurry**, and seconded by **Lamb**, to adopt the 2021-2022 District Budget as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-2. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.3. Temporary Transfers

CSBO Heather Smith asked the Board to approve the resolution for temporary transfers out of the working cash fund. Approval will enable the District to cover any deficits that might occur during the year while waiting for money from various sources throughout the year.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve the resolution for temporary transfers out of the Working Cash Fund. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Member Hennesy voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.4. Permanent Transfers

CSBO Heather Smith explained the need for the resolution. Approval will enable the District to cover any deficits at the end of the year.

Motion made by **McMurry**, seconded by **Lamb**, to approve the resolution for the abatement of Working Cash Fund. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Member Hennesy voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.5. E-Learning Plan and Resolution

Dr. Nicole Rummel presented the E-learning during the public hearing earlier in the evening. A question was asked about teacher contract hours and if the plan could be changed in the plan to the teacher contract hours. Dr. Rummel will change the plan to reflect this.

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **McMurry**, to approve the E-learning plan and pass the Resolution as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Member Hennesy voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.6. Adaptive Pause

Dr. Nicole Rummel shared the plan with the Board. It outlines expectations should the District have to close temporarily during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed plan was included in the board meeting packet. The board asked several follow up questions.

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **McMurry**, to approve the Adaptive Pause plan for instruction. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-2. Members Hennesy and Schultz voted no. Motion carried.

9.B.7. PRESS 107

Dr. Lindsey Hall shared that this is the first reading of the policies included in the PRESS 107 update. Dr. Schultz said she is concerned about the PRESS 107 service and feels like the Board should be more judicious about how these policy updates are looked before approving them. She spoke primarily of Policy 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship. The Board discussed Dr. Schultz’s concern that the updates delegate the Board’s authority to the Superintendent and whether or not the recommended updates accomplish that. Dr. Schultz favors the statutory language that covers this topic. President McComb asked Attorney Shelli Anderson if she had any thoughts on the issue. Mrs. Anderson explained that it is not uncommon for school districts to use PRESS because of the cost and time savings. Statutory language isn’t usually user friendly and this is why it is not commonly used. Dr. Schultz would like to see the statutory language from 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 used in the update to be approved for the policy.

9.B.8. Policy Revision/Development Discussion

Sunny McMurry would like the Board to discuss making meetings shorter and more efficient. She referred to Policy 2:240 - Board Policy Development. She would like to see Board members who have ideas for policy change or new policies to involve the Superintendent in discussion before bringing them to the Board table. The

Board discussed the use of a policy committee as one possible way to gain efficiencies, and whether any Board member can bring a policy forward, and how that is done. Mrs. McMurry said she doesn't think it's a matter of members being able to bring policies to the table, but that it is happening without any knowledge of the Superintendent. There is a difference between what Policy 2:240 says and what is happening with the Board. President McComb suggested that some of the work the Board needs to do to come to some agreements around this and other issues is to actively participate in the Board self-evaluation process that is scheduled for the March study session.

9.B.9. Curriculum Discussion

President McComb said that he wants to discuss what are considered instructional materials and what does the Board expect to approve. He feels that people seem to be referring to materials that historically were not classified as instructional materials. He asked Dr. Hall and Dr. Rummel to provide an update as to where we are at in the process of addressing the concerns brought to the board about curriculum. He asked the Board to define what they are looking to approve. The Board discussed what the members considered instructional materials to be approved by the Board.

The Board also discussed the idea of a syllabus posted online for each junior high and high school class or subject area so that parents and students know what will be taught and the materials that will be used. Dr. Hall said she thinks that there are some courses that already have this sort of information available, but not all. A concern was expressed that a syllabus that is set and not able to be changed may not provide the flexibility needed to bring in additional materials that weren't on a syllabus when they need to in order to do what is best for the particular learners in a class. Some Board members expressed a preference for a defined list and standardized format for the information to be shared with parents. Dr. Rummel shared the curriculum website with the Board and said the goal is to have everything on the website. District teams such as the District Instructional Review Team (DIRT) and Vertical Teams are actively working on adding content to the website. Dr. Hall said work continues on criteria for selection of reading materials. Conversations with staff continue about how we can communicate better with parents about what their students are learning. The Board will discuss the topic further in a future study session. The Board seemed in favor of trying to determine how parents feel about current tools available to them in this area.

9.B.10. Board Member Requests

Due to the lateness of the hour, this topic will be considered for the next agenda.

9.B.11. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Lindsey Hall was asked how the Governor's new mandate will change what we are doing with regard to quarantining students and staff. Both Dr. Hall and District Nita Bachman said there will not be any changes. We will continue to follow the guidance from CUPHD. Vaccinated students with no symptoms are not required to quarantine after exposure. Test to stay is still in place.

Dr. Hall was asked to clarify outdoor lunches for K-5 kids. Dr. Hall said that she could speak to MPE and they are spread out as much as possible. Lincoln Trail has been eating outside as much as weather permits.

10. 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. 2) 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. 3) 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.

Motion was made by **Lamb**, seconded by **Hennesy**, at 10:25 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 **Hennesy**, seconded by **Lamb**, at 11:21 p.m. to return to open session. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

11. Proposed MOU with the MSEA

After discussing the proposed MOU with the MSEA in closed session, the Board of Education returned to open session.

Motion was made by **Hennesy**, seconded by **Schultz**, to approve the proposed MOU with the MSEA. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

12. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Henrichs, seconded by McMurry, to adjourn. The motion passed by “yes” vote, 7-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Max McComb, President

Ken Keefe, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder