

**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: October 19, 2020

**7:00 Regular Board Meeting**

**1. Call to order**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by President Max McComb at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed all present to the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

Board members physically present for the roll call were Max McComb, Lori Larson, Merle Giles, and Dr. Jeremy Henrichs. Board members Meghan Hennesy, Ken Keefe, and Dr. Colleen Schultz attended remotely. Also physically 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 **Giles**, seconded by **Henrichs**, *to approve the agenda as presented*. The 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 changes to the consent agenda.

- Minutes for the September 14, 2020 Budget Hearing - Open Session
- Minutes for the September 14, 2020 Study Session – Open Session
- Minutes for the September 14, 2020 Study Session – Closed Session
- Minutes for the September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting - Open Session
- Bills as presented
- Treasurer’s Report as presented
- Personnel Changes as presented

**Motion** was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Larson**, *to approve the consent agenda as presented*. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Members Giles, Henrichs, Larson and McComb voted yes. Members Hennesy, Schultz, and Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

**6. Donations**

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

<b><u>Name of Donor</u></b>	<b><u>Donation To</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Value</u></b>
MSBBA	Junior High	Annual cash donation	\$1,000
Grace Church of Mahomet	High School	Cash for School Social Work fund	\$2,500

**Motion** was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Larson**, to approve the *Donation List* as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

**7. Recognition of Principals Week**

President McComb shared a proclamation from Governor J.B. Pritzker designating the week of October 18-24, 2020 as Principals Week, and Friday, October 23, 2020 as Principals Day. President McComb asked everyone to join him in thanking our Principals, Assistant Principals, and Coordinator of Student Services for all their hard work and efforts on behalf of students and families in our District.

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

**PTO:** No report

**MSEA:** Megan Jones, co-president of the MSEA, spoke to the Board on behalf of the MSEA. She shared union concerns with Board plans to return to school 4 or 5 days per week in January. Union membership feels the only safe plan forward is to continue with the current hybrid plan until Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan. The MSEA is willing to discuss ways to address the social emotional needs of students beyond the in person instruction time in the current hybrid plan in a way that doesn’t compromise health and safety. They urged the Board to reconsider its decision to reopen fully in January in favor of the current hybrid plan. The MSEA has decided on two courses of action in the meantime: 1) MSEA is in discussions with county health officials and will walk through the buildings with them so that health officials can determine if adequate distancing is possible, and if a plan to reopen in full in January is feasible. 2) Submitting a demand to bargain letter to the Board in light of contract language that protects staff from having to work in hazardous conditions.

**Foundation:** Lori Larson shared that the Foundation’s annual campaign letter will be sent in early November. She encouraged everyone to please support the teachers through this annual campaign.

**Public Participation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agenda Topic</b>
Frank Howard	Replat of Conway Farms
Russ Taylor	Replat of Conway Farms
Jody Wesley	Replat of Conway Farms
Scott Irwin	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Kelli Kirby	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Tiffany Bowie	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Ryan Majeres	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Emily McGill	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Lara Handsfield	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Katty Sievers	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Polly McCoy	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Emily Fernandez	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Madelyn Grindley	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Matt Difanis	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Ellen Ericson	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Kayleigh Holt	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Amy Roberts	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Tanya Knauff	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Emily Chapman	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Becky Severns	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week

Martin McFarlane	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Amber Munds	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Kim Holt	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Dee Chapman	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Justus Vrona	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Rachel Smith-Bolton	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Mickey Gilbert	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week
Deborah Tender	COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 days per week

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

**Ken Keefe** thanked President McComb for allowing all of the public comment and thanked him for encouraging everyone to keep personal attacks out of the discussion.

**Colleen Schultz** thanked everyone who has emailed and took time to come and speak to the Board as a way of providing feedback from teachers and the community. She appreciated hearing what people had to say.

**Meghan Hennessy** thanked everyone who emailed and who came to speak to the Board. Part of the role of the Board is to find a way for the community to work together. She said that she feels there has been a lack of surveying of parents, students, and staff, and hearing from everyone is helpful. She is determined to find a way to move forward together.

**Merle Giles** said he has talked to a number of people recently, principals, teachers, MSEA, and community members, about a variety of topics. It is clear to him that Mahomet-Seymour has earned its reputation for all the right reasons. He thanked all who spoke tonight for the quality input.

**Jeremy Henrichs** thanked everyone for their participation in the past few weeks. All of the input has been extremely valuable. He believes all Board members empathize with each situation facing students, parents, and teachers.

**Lori Larson** shared how awesome it was to see some students who recently returned to school today and the joy they had in returning. The Board’s mission is to work together to support the highest level of learning. She shared that she takes her job as a Board member seriously, and spends a lot of time listening and responding to people. She knows not that the Board won’t be able to make a decision that is best for everyone, she won’t please everyone, and believes it is her job to make the best decision with the information she has, but we have to work together.

**President McComb** thanked everyone who spoke and emailed the Board. He said that he heard someone tonight say that it is ok to not agree, and he generally agrees with this. However, the tone of some of the emails suggest that it is ok to not agree. He said that it seems that parents seem to be split on what they thing would be best for students. He hopes that parents are listening to teachers. There is only one plan that the Board can choose. He reminded everyone that the Board is listening even if the path chosen isn’t the one someone wanted.

**Financial Update**

Heather Smith, Chief School Business Official, gave a financial report to the Board. September revenue is significantly down because of delayed property tax payments from Champaign County. Expenses are up because several debt payments were due, and the Field House was finished. The District received a check for \$8,000,000 from the county on October 5, so next month will look better. She is working with the Finance Committee to find a date for a meeting to discuss the levy. Sales tax revenues are down 6.7%. Corporate replacement taxes are beginning to come in as well.

**Director of Special Education’s Report**

Christine Northrup this month’s report was a wide and deep look at support services provided through the District. Mrs. Northrup was asked how many children have IEPs in the District. She indicated there are usually between 320-340 students who have an IEP.

### **Director of Instruction's Report**

Dr. Nicole Rummel's report was included in the Board packet. It included some test scores from the spring as well as enrollment data. The Board asked several follow questions related to the MAP testing data included in the report.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Lindsey Hall's report was included in the Board packet. She acknowledged District principals and assistant principals in recognition of Principal's Week. She congratulated students named National Merit Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program: Alexander Headley, Tony Huang, Amber Marshall, and Daniel Renshaw. Congratulations to Principal Megan Hunter who was named one of Champaign County's 40 under 40. It's a great honor and well deserved.

## **10. Regular Business**

### **9. A. Unfinished Business**

### **9. B. New Business**

#### **9.B.1. New High School Math Classes: Dan Ryan**

Dan Ryan and Dr. Nicole Rummel presented two new high school math classes. Quantitative Literacy & Statistics is needed in response to a new state law. The premise behind the class is to insure that MSHS graduates enter college in credit-bearing courses instead of remedial courses and the target audience will be juniors taking Geometry. AP Computer Science A class will be a second AP computer science offering. This new class will focus on Java language. It would likely be offered every other year course offering. If students take both AP courses, they can earn 7 hours of college credit. Dr. Rummel thanked volunteer Bob Knight noting that the class would not be possible without his help. He is the only certified volunteer in the state of Illinois.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve the new High School courses as presented. Motion was approved by "yes" vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

#### **9.B.2. Resolution for Sale of 13 Acres**

Dr. Lindsey Hall explained that this is the final step in selling the parcel to the Village. The intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mahomet was passed last month. The resolution for sale requires a 2/3 majority vote. The Board discussed the resolution for sale. Some members expressed their support of selling the land because of the continued ability by the District to share recreational use of the land, the release of responsibility to improve and maintain the land, and belief that the land would not be suitable for the District for long range building plans. Others expressed that they were not supportive of selling the land because of the lack of a strategic long term plan for the District, uncertainty about whether the District would need the land in the future, and because the resolution for sale says that the land is no longer needed by the District for District purposes when the land is currently being used by the District for District purposes.

Mayor Sean Widener was in attendance at the meeting remotely. He said that the Village has been looking at recreation expansion for a long time. The costs of the improvements needed far exceed the purchase price and the Village will not make investments on a property they don't own. The Village put a timeline on the sale because the sale has been discussed for a long time and a decision needs to be made. He was asked when the village might be able to begin making the improvements on the property to which he stated that it is not in the plans nor in the budget because the Village does not own the property, but he thought it could be in the next 5-10 years. Dr. Lindsey Hall stated that if the board votes to not sell 13 Acres to the Village, the District is also foregoing the opportunity for the Village to develop the property into a much nicer park, and the drainage issue will need to be addressed at District expense. Mayor Widener said that it

seems to him that the public emails on the subject indicate that the community and private neighbors of 13 Acres want to see it continue on as a park. The Village would like to keep it a park as it is centrally located and benefits the community.

Motion was made by **Giles**, seconded by **Henrichs**, to approve the Resolution for the Sale of 13 Acres to the Village of Mahomet, with the \$225,000 received from the VOM to go toward the purchase of additional land. Motion did not pass by at least a 2/3 “yes” vote of the majority. The vote was 4-3. Members Larson, Henrichs, Giles, and McComb voted yes. Members Keefe, Hennesy, and Schultz voted no. Motion defeated.

### **9.B.3. COVID-19 Update – Vote on 5 Days Per Week**

Dr. Lindsey Hall thanked those who came to speak to the Board and who took the time to email the board. She reviewed the pros and cons of the 4 day per week plan, and pros and cons of 5 days per week with remote learning outsourced. The Board discussed the different plans. Discussion centered on student needs, parent needs, safety of in-person learning, teacher workload, student grades, District legal liability, and whether surveys sent to District parents have been sufficient. Megan Jones and James Heinold, Co-Presidents of the MSEA shared that while they haven’t discussed specifics with union membership, they believe there are opportunities to fix what isn’t working with the current hybrid plan, but they couldn’t comment on a 4 or 5 day plan. The Board has been presented with a demand to bargain for January so that the MSEA can work together with the Board on these things in a manner that provides a safe environment for staff and students.

District Nurse, Nita Bachman, was asked by Dr. Schultz to share her thoughts about the current hybrid plan, vs the 4 day plan, vs the 5 day plan. Mrs. Bachman indicated that this was difficult for her to comment on. She knows how hard everyone is working and no matter what is decided by the Board, they will figure out how to make it work for everyone. She is concerned about rising numbers, public health, and distancing, but said she understands that there are educational concerns to balance. Dr. Hall and Dr. Rummel were asked how students who are quarantined would be handled if remote learning is outsourced. Dr. Hall said that they would be managed by District teachers, and teachers would not have Mondays to plan which is part of why she doesn’t recommend the 5 day plan. Mrs. Bachman explained the different quarantine scenarios that are possible.

After considerable discussion by the Board of the different plans, with Board members voicing their thoughts and concerns, motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Larson**, to move to a 5 day school week and outsource remote learning for 6-12, keep K-5 with the current model for the second semester. Motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Members Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted yes. Members Giles, Keefe, Schultz, and Hennesy voted no. Motion defeated.

Motion was made by **Hennesy**, seconded by **Keefe**, to reconsider the current hybrid plan’s face-to-face schedule and direct the Superintendent to come up with a plan that improves the model with defined policies and procedures developed with staff, parent, and student input, starting in January for the remainder of the school year. After a time of discussion and clarification about the motion, President McComb called for a vote. Motion was not approved by a vote of 3-4. Members Hennesy, Keefe, and Schultz voted yes. Members Larson, Henrichs, Giles, and McComb voted no. Motion defeated.

Dr. Hall was asked to comment on District preparedness to go fully remote in the event of a ramp up of a pandemic. She said the District is prepared. For 6-12, the transition would be fairly seamless. For K-5, remote only teachers have been working with the other teachers to help when in-person students need to go remote. The District is still waiting on devices that have been ordered for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, but will

work around this issue by providing paper packets in the event the District must move to fully remote instruction. She was also asked when teachers will know about the details of 4 day plan that has been approved for January. Dr. Hall explained that planning is currently underway for second semester changes.

#### **9.B.4. Replat of Conway Farms**

Dr. Lindsey Hall explained that the Board previously voted to approve a new intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mahomet regarding the placement of South Mahomet Road through school district property. The next step in the process is to approve the replatting of the Conway Farms Subdivision. Mayor Sean Widener was in attendance remotely and shared that approval of the replat will switch the public right of way as it was originally intended in the original IGA to what is envisioned now with the extension South Mahomet Road which is a public right of way. He explained that a public right of way is the means by which people, goods, and services are transported and roads are an example of a public right of way. The next step after the right of way is secured is for the Village to pursue the railroad permitting process. Finally, he shared that future decisions regarding some of the discussion items that were brought up in public comment earlier in the meeting will be made with regard to typical subdivision ordinance processes as well as with regard to sight plan reviews.

The Board asked several follow up questions related to the zoning map and the extension of South Mahomet Road. Mayor Widener shared that the default zoning on the map is residential, and because it is within a TIF district, he anticipates zoning changes in the future and hopes that there will be commercial development along with residential. Private access along South Mahomet Road extension will be limited, and the Village is not supportive of residential driveways fronting the street. Village street lighting ordinances will be followed. Sidewalks will be located on north side of the street and extend to Prairieview Road, but not on the south side because it's an expense that is not needed at this time and future development will likely damage it. A roundabout is being explored in the current design process for the intersection of South Mahomet Road and Churchill Road. Mayor Widener was asked about whether this is a transfer of land, and he explained that it is a dedication of public right of way and not a transfer of land. There was some discussion about whether this type of transaction requires a 2/3 majority vote. Attorneys for the District and the Village have independently indicated that this does not require a 2/3 majority vote. Member Hennesy stated that she does not believe that is correct and she has contacted several municipal lawyers who suggest that it is not correct. Mayor Widener explained that everything within the public right away is coordinated, initiated, constructed, and maintained by the Village of Mahomet in perpetuity as it will be a public road.

The Board discussed how the placement of the road may restrict the District with regard to future building needs of the District. Mayor Widener explained that the original plat and IGA was for the extension of Country Ridge Drive to Prairieview Road. When the Village realized that the extension of Country Ridge Drive was not feasible in the near future and possibly in 20-30 years, and when the school district bought property and chose to develop facilities, it was clear that a secondary egress to the District facilities would be needed. South Mahomet road became the most feasible option to address the school district's needs. Dr. Schultz suggested that the road could be moved to the south so that there is more space and safety. Mayor Widener stated that the Village has been moving this direction for over a year, and while some things can be moved around, the public right of way corridor west of Churchill Road is fairly set based on previous meetings and discussions with the District. The placement of the Road east of Churchill Road remains somewhat flexible

The Board discussed whether an east/west road through District property should be a road that just serves the school or serves as an east/west artery to move across town. President McComb and Mr. Giles shared that the proposed road is conceptually what was agreed to by the Board in years past. Mayor Widener indicated that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended by the Village based on past discussions

with District architect, District leadership and the Board of Education, and solidified during past TIF extension discussions.

Motion was made by **Giles**, seconded by **McComb**, to approve the Replat of Part of Conway Farm Subdivision Phase 4 in substantially the form presented to the Board and direct the Board President and Secretary to execute the Plat and further authorize the Board President, Secretary, Superintendent, and Board attorney to take such further actions as may be necessary or desirable to carry out and comply with the intent of this motion.

Mrs. Hennesy stated that she is vehemently opposed to the authorization of the Board President, Secretary, and Superintendent to move with the authority of the Board. She said she doesn't believe it is in the best interest of the District, or in line with the transparency required of the Board to fulfill obligation to the community to do things in public, and she believes it transfers the Board's authority for decisions that deal with transferring land and require a 2/3 majority to pass. President McComb shared that Franzek crafted the motion. Mrs. Hennesy said she doesn't agree that the language belongs in the motion, and President McComb indicated that he understood she has a dissenting opinion.

The Board discussed whether or not the road placement should be decided before the community weighs in on it during the community engagement process, and also discussed the Board's duty to be fiduciaries of the District. Some expressed interest in waiting until the community engagement process was underway, and some said that the Board owes it to the community to be good citizens and honor what the Board and the Village have been working on for the past 8 years. Mayor Widener said that the Village has put a lot of work into this project. He said that not every discussion has happened in a public meeting, and the timeline and all the cards were laid out on the table in the joint meeting with the Board and the Village in September of 2019. The Village needs to make a plan to move forward, and he indicated they are unable to wait until the Board has all of the answers to all of its questions, and also cannot wait for the community engagement process to unfold before proceeding.

President McComb called for a vote on the motion on the table. The motion was approved by "yes" vote, 4-3. Members Giles, Henrichs, Larson, and McComb voted yes. Members Hennesy, Schultz, and Keefe voted no. Motion carried.

Due to the lateness of the hour, Dr. Lindsey Hall asked the Board to allow Dr. Rummel to present item 9.B.6, and to table items 9.B.5, and 9.B.7, until the November 2, 2020, Study Session.

#### **9.B.6. MAYC Service Agreements**

Dr. Nicole Rummel asked the Board to approve the yearly agreements the District has with the Mahomet Area Youth Club. She shared that the biggest change to the agreement this year is the dollar amount.

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

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Giles**, to table items 9.B.5 and 9.B.7 until the November 2 Study Session. Motion was approved by "yes" vote 7-0. Motion carried.

#### **9.B.5. Community Engagement Charge**

Tabled until November 2 Study Session.

#### **9.B.7. Resolutions for Delegate Assembly Meeting**

Tabled until November 2 Study Session.

**11. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by **Larson**, seconded by **Henrichs** to adjourn. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20,2020.

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Max McComb, President

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Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder