

**Mahomet-Seymour
COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 3
Champaign County, Illinois
Meeting of the Board of Education
Study Session**

Held in the Board Conference Room

Date: November 1, 2021

7:00 Study Session

1. Call to order

The Study Session 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, Dr. Jeremy Henrichs, Justin Lamb, Sunny McMurry, Ken Keefe, Meghan Hennesy, and Colleen Schultz. Also physically present were Superintendent, Dr. Lindsey Hall, 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 **Lamb**, seconded by **Schultz**, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

5. Honoring of Mahomet-Seymour Junior High Boys Cross Country State Championship Team

Mahomet-Seymour Junior High Assistant Principal, Doug Fisher, recognized the 2021 3A Boy’s State Championship Cross Country Team and Coaching Staff. The Board congratulated the coaches and team on their outstanding season.

6. Public Comment

Name	Topic
Meredith Barnes	COVID-19 Contact Tracing & Testing

7. New Business

A. School Improvement Plans

Building Principals reviewed their School Improvement Plans and goals for this year. The School Improvement Plans were included in the meeting packet. The Board asked several follow up questions. The Board and Dr. Hall thanked the principals for their work on the plans.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Policy 7:15

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs indicated that he did not have any additional information to add to the proposed policy as shared in the Board Packet.

Motion made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to approve the revisions to Board Policy 7:15 as presented.

Motion was made by **Schultz**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to amend the motion to add, “The Superintendent will seek prior consent from the School Board before approving any internal surveys or research,” as the last sentence of the Internal Surveys section.

After a time of discussion, President McComb called for a vote of the motion to amend. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Members McMurry, Keefe, and McComb voted no. Motion carried.

President McComb called for a vote on the original motion as amended. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Members Keefe, McMurry, and McComb voted no. Motion carried.

B. Policy 6:210 E-1

Dr. Jeremy Henrichs explained that the exhibit he is proposing would be attached to anything that is considered instructional material. He believes instructional materials are anything students are required to use for a grade or assignment. He feels that it would be beneficial for the board and parents to have a better understanding of why the materials are being used for a grade or an assignment, and said the form addresses some of the parent concerns that have been expressed about curriculum and may help prevent issues down the road. He would like a minimum standard that is acceptable for all. The Board discussed the proposed exhibit including expectations about who would fill out the form, a perceived lack of communication between teachers and parents, whether it was possible to develop a minimum standard that is acceptable for all groups of people with diverse values, and what levels of staff review are currently in place for curriculum. Dr. Rummel assured the Board that teachers have heard their concerns, have responded, and are trying to communicate effectively with parents. Dr. Hall stressed the need for parents to reach out to teachers with any concerns and urged the Board to reach out to the teaching staff for input on the form before approving it. She also stressed the need to clearly define what is to be considered instructional materials.

9. Curriculum Discussion

Dr. Lindsey Hall shared that there is a perception and narrative that nothing is going on with regard to curriculum. She reviewed an extensive, but not all inclusive, list of curriculum work, professional development training, new positions and new courses added that have been undertaken over the past 5 years. Much work has been accomplished along with many improvements and enhancements that have benefited students. She also reviewed the components of the District’s curriculum website which is an active work in progress. The Board asked several follow up questions related to curriculum and the website.

10. COVID-19 Contact Tracing & Testing

Dr. Lindsey Hall said there was a request to add this to the agenda. Dr. Henrichs explained that the school district should provide information when requested by the county, but the county would take the lead on contact tracing. The Board discussed the Test to Stay program. Attorney Shelli Anderson was asked to explain whether or not the District was required to contact trace. Ms. Anderson explained that the District’s obligation is to identify students who need to be excluded from school. The Board discussed whether or not the District would have the ability to participate in the Test to Stay program if the District stops testing. People can test elsewhere, but the results will be delayed and some people don’t have the resources to participate in testing elsewhere.

Motion was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to end contact tracing and testing in the District. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Members Lamb, McMurry, and McComb voted no. Motion carried.

11. Closed Session

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: *1) 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 Keefe, seconded by Hennesy, at 10:38 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 Keefe, seconded by Henrichs, at 11:15 p.m., to return to open session. Motion carried.

After the Board returned to open session, **motion** was made by **Henrichs**, seconded by **Hennesy**, to set November 12, 2021, as the official date to transfer contact tracing and testing to the county, and make November 12 the last day of testing in the District. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 6-1. Member McMurry voted no. Motion carried.

Dr. Hall asked for clarification about symptomatic students and calls from parents who tell us that their student is positive. She explained that in the past, we would test symptomatic students. If they were negative, they were allowed to stay at school. Now we will need to send them home and they will miss more school. Dr. Henrichs said that symptomatic students will need to be sent somewhere else to test. Parents who call and report a positive test, should be told to call the Health Department. If the Health Department calls back, then the District may assist with identifying students who were in close contact.

12. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the study session was adjourned at 11:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Max McComb, President

Ken Keefe, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder