

**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 21, 2019

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

5. Consent Agenda Items

President McComb asked the Board if they would like to see any changes to the consent agenda. Dr. Schultz asked to table Minutes for the September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting – Open Session, and Minutes for the October 7, 2019 Study Session – Closed Session to the October Regular Meeting. Items remaining on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes for the September 4, 2019 Joint Meeting – Open Session
- Minutes for the September 16, 2019 Budget Hearing – Open Session
- Minutes for the September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting – Closed Session
- Minutes for the October 7, 2019 Study Session – Open Session
- Bills
- Treasurer’s Report
- Personnel Changes
- New High School Activity Fund Acct
- Surplus Items: High School Library Books

The Board asked for clarification about books being weeded from the High School library, and about expenses on the bills list related to the Board of Education General Supplies line item. Shortly before the meeting, Dr. Schultz suggested a change to the September 4, 2019 Joint Meeting Minutes. Those changes were provided to the Board in hard copy form at the meeting. President McComb asked the Board to review the changes.

Motion was made by Hennesy, seconded by Giles, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion was approved by “yes” vote, 5-2. Motion carried.

6. Donations

Dr. Lindsey Hall read the donation list:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Amelia Phillips, Lincoln Trail, BrainPop subscription for a 5th grade classroom | \$115.00 |
| • Shell Oil, Lincoln Trail, Cash for materials for Mrs. Graham's 5th grade classroom | \$500.00 |
| • John Theis, Lincoln Trail, Cash for materials for Mrs. Graham's 5th grade classroom | \$500.00 |
| • Lutheran Church of Mahomet, Lincoln Trail, Cash for Give Me 5 Backpack program | \$172.00 |
| • Lisa Powell, Lincoln Trail, Cash for Give Me 5 Backpack program | \$75.00 |

Motion was made by Hennesy, 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 20-26, 2019 as Principals Week, and Friday, October 25, 2019 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: Ashley Webber and Leslie Stucker shared that \$94,644.22 was raised during this year’s Dawgwalk. They also shared that book fairs at Middletown and Lincoln Trail are set up. Students have been previewing the books and the fair will be open during Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 24. Staff appreciation dinners will again be provided by the PTO and volunteers on Parent Teacher Conference night. Box Tops competition is set to begin soon, and Clear The Lists for K-5 teachers are available on the PTO website and on Facebook. Encouraged people to take a look and help clear the lists. Next PTO meeting will be held on January 9, 2020, at 6pm in the Board Conference Room at Middletown Prairie. They encouraged all to attend.

MSEA Foundation: Lori Larson reported that the Foundation had a very successful Hall of Fame Induction this year with 4 honorees. She mentioned that one of this year’s inductees, Dani Bunch Hill, is trying to make the Olympic team for shotput. Finally, on November 14, the Foundation will fund academic letters for qualifying MSHS students.

Visitors: Kim Woolridge shared her concern that her son, who is in the District’s Life Skills program has had 5 different teachers in six years. She is concerned about turnover.

Dani Tietz asked for clarification about two expenditures made to Ameresco in the 2018-2019 school year; one for 154,000 and one for 17,000. She also stated that she was curious as to how the District ensures that they are getting the best prices and best work when they aren’t required to put something out to bid under Illinois Procurement Law. She asked whether there would be additional equipment upgrades that might be needed after the proposed Ameresco project is completed at the High School and what the cost might be. She also asked if the old equipment will fit in with the new system as proposed by Ameresco. She also asked why the District doesn’t bid out services like BLDD. Dr. Hall explained that professional services fall outside of the law that requires bids.

Maggie Kinnamon urged the Board to vote no on the Student Safety Resolution, at the Delegate Assembly at the Annual Convention in November. She shared her concerns about arming teachers.

Mary Fortune urged the Board to vote no on the Student Safety Resolution at the upcoming Delegate Assembly. She encouraged the Board to discuss the resolutions with those in attendance at the meeting and also how they intend to vote.

Jennifer Livingston asked, on behalf of her family, that the Board vote against the resolution to allow teachers to carry a gun. She stated that she believes that more guns in school increases the chances that students will access them, and that school districts should focus on prevention of violence. She shared her thoughts about steps to take to report safety concerns and threats, and training for students. Finally, she asked the Board to reconsider having a law enforcement agent to portray an active shooter during state required drills.

Sunny McMurry shared some thoughts about the last Policy Committee meeting and asked why the Policy Committee would propose a policy that impacts teachers and hold a meeting to discuss the proposed policy changes during a time when teachers are not contractually available to attend. She shared that all of the teachers in the District are highly trained in what they do, and all are licensed. She encouraged the Board to trust teachers to make decisions for the children they teach. She stated that the District’s teachers are professionals and should be treated as such.

Erik Nurmi thanked the board for considering allowing homeschool students to join extra-curricular activities. He mentioned that there are many reasons why families choose an alternative method of education for their children, and that most have high expectations for their children. He shared that he has fond memories of participating in Mahomet –Seymour sports, and his children are excited about the possibility of playing for Mahomet-Seymour.

David Porter introduced himself to the Board and shared his thoughts about homeschooled children participating in District extracurricular activities. He shared his thoughts about the way community can be built through extracurricular activities. He stated that he believes the ability to assess curriculum and performance can be overcome at a very low cost. He also shared that

about 4% of students are homeschooled nationally which he believes translates to about 36 additional students wanting to participate in extracurricular activities in the District.

Katy McCue introduced herself and her family to the Board. She shared her youngest daughter Julia's journey as a homeschooled student and a Mahomet-Seymour Bulldog. She shared her thoughts about allowing homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities. She stated that she believes allowing this would enrich everyone and bring diversity. She stated that the Board has the power and authority to re-write the policy that she feels is exclusive and unfair. She asked the Board to warmly embrace all students.

9. **Reports, Updates & Informational Items**

Board Communication: President McComb shared that he had reached out to Maryam Brotine, Assistant General Counsel for the Illinois Association of School Boards for some expert guidance after the Board had some questions about Special Meeting agendas including the statement and notification of a meeting's purpose. He stated that Ms. Brotine indicated that providing an agenda more than satisfies the need to state a purpose. He shared that he also asked about the Board's ability to go into closed session and that Ms. Brotine indicated that the Board has the latitude to go into closed session for a valid closed session reason at any time the Board is together in a public meeting even if it is not on the agenda. President McComb also explained the Board's desire to experiment with a new policy on public participation during Board meetings. Beginning next month, there will be a public participation session at the start just as there has been in the past with 5 minutes allowed per participant. Public participation will also be allowed after the Board concludes discussion on each new business agenda item for a total of 5 minutes, with each individual person being limited to 1 minute. At the end of new business, and before closed session, another public participation portion will be offered just like the first public participation portion at the beginning of the meeting. Each public participant will be limited to 5 minutes. The Board plans to try this new arrangement for 2-3 months and will re-evaluate at that time.

Mrs. Larson shared her excitement about the District being recognized as number one out of 26 districts in the county. She shared some comments she recently received. One was regarding the climate and culture at Middletown being amazing and thanked the Board for their service.. Another comment came from a staff member at Lincoln Trail who said that the year is off to a very positive start and they support their administration. She expressed her pride in the District and thanked the community.

Dr. Henrichs shared a reminder for coaches and teachers and everyone in charge of extra-curricular activities to consider that there needs to be a balance at times. He explained that there are multiple things that demand our students time that are important to the development of their character. He asked that activities be carefully considered to determine if they are really necessary, and if they might be taking away from other important things students need to be doing.

Mr. Keefe thanked Trent, Dawn, and Dr. Hall for handling several last minute inquiries regarding materials in the Board packet. He encouraged the Board to look at how the Board packets are constructed and think about what can be done to make it easier on staff and Board members to allow more time for the Board to review all materials.

Mrs. Hennesy thanked everyone who reached out to her over email and who spoke tonight. She shared that she appreciates all of the questions, welcomes different perspectives, and is grateful for all of the thoughtful comments.

Financial Update: Trent Nuxoll

Chief School Business Official, Trent Nuxoll, provided a financial update to the Board. His financial report was included in the board packet. Mr. Nuxoll explained how the property tax issue persists and that the District is currently behind close to \$2.9 million in what should have been received. He stated that he is hoping for on-time payments in the next year, and indicated that he will keep the Board posted about any information he receives on the issue. Mr. Nuxoll circled back to a topic from last month's meeting regarding the budget. He stated that there was a claim that the tentative budget was not available for review as is required by state law. In the interest of preserving the integrity of the business office and preserving the integrity of his role as the CFO, he felt obligated to address the issue. Mr. Nuxoll consulted with the Division Administrator for School Business Services at the State Board of Education as well as the Regional Financial Consultant. He stated that the state required budget form is not required for the tentative budget for 30 days as long as the tentative budget provided contains anticipated revenues, expenditures, and estimated beginning and ending fund balances. This can be provided in any format including spreadsheet, or accounting software report. The final budget is required to be on the 50-36 form, but not the tentative budget.

The board asked some follow up questions about the timing of property tax payments received and still to be received, about overall fund balances, and days of cash on hand. Dr. Hall indicated that this is a conversation being had in many districts and there are no assurances that it won't happen again. The Board acknowledged that the District has absorbed the impact of this issue

and this is good. The Board discussed what they might be able to do to speak into the situation at the county level. Dr. Hall encouraged the Board to contact county board members. She will keep the board updated on efforts on behalf of area superintendents and the regional superintendent to go to Aaron Ammons office for a meeting with him. Mrs. Hennesy state that she would like the board to have a conversation at the Board level about what to do if this happens again. Encouraged the Board to add an agenda item at a future meeting to talk through the issue.

Mr. Nuxoll addressed some of Mrs. Tietz's questions from earlier in the meeting. He reviewed the pertinent state statutes that addresses energy savings and energy savings contracts. Ameresco is an energy savings contractor. He explained that in December 2012, the District facilitated the requests for proposals process and received two. Ameresco came out on top during that process and was approved by the Board. Ameresco then facilitated the bid process on behalf of the District for identified projects as allowed for within the law. Project management services are built in to this process. He stated that the District has received the value of performance contracting through the not-to-exceed method of quoting.

Mrs. Tietz asked about specific expenses during public comment. Mr. Nuxoll explained that the \$154,000 and \$17,000 expenses were both bills for the new High School chiller.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lindsey Hall:

Thanks to all of our principals and assistant principals.
Bulldog LeadHership - all students are invited to participate.
Garret and Grant Risley built a bus shelter out in Candlewood Estates.
John Koller has started regular meetings with other taxing bodies.
Meeting of the M-S communications team – goal is to listen to employees
Couple of FOIA requests after this document was received.

Mr. Keefe thanked Dr. Hall for participating in the recent taxing body discussion. He asked her to send an update to the board after these meetings to let them know what was discussed. Dr. Hall agreed to do this.

10. Regular Business

10. A. Unfinished Business

10. B. New Business

10. B.1 Approval to Proceed to Bid:

Trent Nuxoll & Damien Schlitt provided the Board with an overview of the projects being considered at the High School and Field House. Mr. Schlitt reviewed the scope of work, and what work has been approved for Health/Life Safety funds. The Project Budget Summary was included in the Board Packet. He discussed the timing of sending projects out to bid. The Board asked several follow up questions related to timing of sending projects out to bid, and Dr. Schultz asked about the possibility of adding individual changing rooms in the locker room design. Mr. Schlitt explained that just asking for permission to go out to bid with the intention of early December. So we would have between now and when we go out to bid to add anything into the scope and get a cost and then determine if it's something to add. There would be some hourly costs for work by BLDD to get some individual dressing spaces added into the design.

Mr. Schlitt gave an overview of the project to create a secure entry at Lincoln Trail. He explained that the plan is to add a new set of doors that would create a vestibule area and add a new door into the main office from within the vestibule. He also gave an overview of proposed changes at the High school to create a new attendance office with a check in/check out space, relocate a few offices within the main office, create a new conference room, and replacement of the office carpet. The board asked some follow up questions including whether thought had been given to creating a secure entry at the Junior High. Mr. Schlitt indicated that it hasn't been considered in depth because the building doesn't seem to be in the long term plan of the District, and the work that would be required would be significant. The Board agreed that they would like to see some scope and cost options for creating a secure entry at the Junior High. Finally, Mr. Schlitt reviewed changes proposed for the Industrial Arts area at the High School and indicated that Health/Life Safety funds can be used for the project.

Mr. Nuxoll gave an overview of District roofing projects. He indicated that Health/Life Safety funds can be used for these projects, but there is a limited amount of these funds. He stated that there would be a need to redirect some of the Health/Life funds for other projects and he recommended redirecting the funds for purchasing the Industrial Arts equipment as proposed. Roof projects are a five year plan and the District has completed three years. Two years left to get all roofs to a place where they are in good shape and can be maintained at a cost of about \$200K. May have to split use of Health/Life Safety funds between roofing projects and purchase of other eligible items such as Industrial Arts equipment.

The Board asked some follow up questions including if any funds have been budgets for these projects, if a proposal can be put together for a secure entry at the Junior High by the time the other projects are put out to bid in mid-December, and what does it cost the District to put things out for bid. Mr. Nuxoll indicated that there are funds budgeted. Mr. Schlitt indicated that it would be possible to pull something together for the Junior High by the time everything else is sent out for bid and send it out if it meets the criteria for going out to bid. He further explained that there is some effort that he will need to expend to get everything ready. There is a set fee from BLDD for the entire project and some of these fees are already paid already.

Mr. Keefe asked if there were any Title IX concerns about the locker room sizes. He observed that the locker room for males is much larger than the locker rooms for females. Dr. Hall explained that her understanding is that the size of the facility needs to support the number of participants, and where Title IX concerns might arise would be if there were no facilities for females. If there are additional concerns, Dr. Hall would like to seek a more expert opinion. Mr. Keefe indicated he would like that as well.

Steve Curtis joined Mr. Nuxoll to provide an overview of the needed repairs to the kitchen at the High School. The list of needed repairs was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Curtis indicated that he would like to see these items completed over the upcoming Winter Break. After asking several follow up questions, the Board indicated that they

Dr. Hall mentioned that at the November 18 meeting the Board will need to discuss priorities and consider financing options.

Motion was made by Henrichs, and seconded by Larson, to approve *proceeding to bid for all bid-required projects* as presented. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hennesy, seconded by Henrichs to move forward with the high school kitchen as proposed in its entirety not to exceed \$52,146. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

10.B.2 Resolutions for Conference Delegate Assembly:

Dr. Lindsey Hall introduced the 2019 Resolutions Committee Report from the IASB. A copy of the report was included in the Board Packet. Dr. Hall explained that there are two things for the Board to decide with regard to the resolutions being put forth by the IASB. First, the Board needs to decide which Board Member will represent the Board at the Delegate Assembly being held on November 23, 2019 at the Annual Conference. Then, the Board will need to decide how the Board wants to vote on the resolutions. She stated that the Board will make these decisions at the November Regular Board Meeting. Dr. Hall thanked the visitors for speaking tonight on resolution number one regarding Student Safety. She explained that the philosophy of the delegate assembly is for school boards to bring suggestions for adding a law or getting rid of a law. Past resolutions have covered many topics, but often represent a need, or perceived need, for the District who wrote the resolution. She clarified that the student safety resolution proposes local control about the student safety issue. There would be no obligation for a school district to follow the IASB recommendations. Delegate responsibilities include attending the delegate assembly and casting the Board’s vote for each resolution.

10.B.3. Proposed Board Policy – 6:310:

Dr. Lindsey Hall reviewed the proposed policy. She explained that the policy was revised by the High School Counseling Department and Mr. Benedict. The Board asked several follow up questions about the proposed policy focused on credit recovery and supplemental courses. The consensus of the Board was to table the discussion until Mr. Benedict is available to attend to provide additional information and answer questions from the Board.

10.B.4. Proposed Board Policy – 7:40:

Dr. Colleen Schultz reviewed proposed revisions to 7:40. She indicated that the policy committee asked her to collect some data. She reported that she found that her research found that there are 17 homeschooling families in the District and this represents 38 students. She acknowledged that there could be families she is not aware of. She stated that a survey she did found 8 students wanting to participate in extracurricular activities, with 3 others who said they would participate if they were old enough. Based on her research, she does not feel there would be additional staff required to accommodate the additional administrative tasks needed to accommodate homeschool students and that she believes the need to evaluate curriculum could be handled the same way transfer curriculum is handled now. She explained that she believes that homeschool participation in extra-curricular activities is valuable to our community, that our society values it, and that extra-curricular activities provide another piece of learning that is important to our children, schools, and community.

Dr. Schultz reviewed the data she collected about area school districts, including those in the Apollo Conference, and whether they allow or don’t allow homeschool students to participate in extracurricular activities. The board asked several follow up questions including questions about what administrative tasks are required to meet IHSA or IESA requirements, what kinds of standards are used to evaluate homeschool curriculum, and what activities would require vetting of curriculum. Suggestions were made to ask administrators to provide input on administrative tasks that would be need to allow this, and anything else they might

foresee that the Board could benefit from knowing. Dr. Schultz will plan to talk to other schools in a similar situation as Mahomet-Seymour to see what their experiences have been with allowing this. This topic will come back to the Board for a vote after hearing input from staff. The Board thanked Dr. Schultz for her work.

10.B.5. Proposed Board Policy – 6:210:

Dr. Lindsey Hall recommended not approving the proposed policy and indicated that she favors incorporating proposed language about notification to parents into administrative procedures and not in Board policy. Mrs. Hennesy indicated that Dr. Rummel initially brought the policy to the committee for review because it was in need of language that would reflect more accurately what is done in the schools. The committee added additional language about notifications and a timeframe for notification. The Board discussed some questions and confusion among teachers that seems to be surrounding the proposed changes. The Board expressed a desire to send the policy back to Dr. Rummel for some additional work and then send a draft back through the Policy Committee. Board consensus was that this acceptable.

10.B.6. Proposed Board Policy – 8:95

Dr. Lindsey Hall reviewed the proposed policy. Dr. Schultz stated that she would like to remove, “shall monitor and review building procedures that,” from the end of the first paragraph. The Board discussed the change, and also suggested removing “and Building Principals” from the last sentence of the proposed policy.

Motion was made by Hennesy, and seconded by Schultz, to *approve revised Board Policy 8:95 as discussed*. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 7-0. Motion carried.

10.B.7. Proposed Board Policy – 2:240:

Mr. Keefe reviewed his proposed changes to the policy. He indicated that after being reviewed at the last Policy Committee meeting, it was recommended for approval by the Policy Committee. Mrs. Larson clarified that she believes the Policy Committee recommended it come back to the full Board. Mr. Keefe stated that at the end of the Policy Committee meeting, the Policy Committee recommended the policy for approval. The Board spent time discussing the recommendation that Dr. Hall forwarded from the attorney.

Motion was made by Hennesy, and seconded by Schultz, to *approve Policy 2:240 as presented*. The motion was not approved by “yes” vote, 3-4. Motion defeated.

10.B.8 Proposed Board Policy 2:20:

Mr. Keefe reviewed the proposed changes to 2:20 which seeks to add a 20th power to the school board.

Motion was made by Keefe, and seconded by Hennesy, to *approve the policy as presented in the Board Packet*. The motion was approved by “yes” vote, 4-3. Motion carried.

10.B.9 Technology Acceptable Use Policy:

Mrs. Hennesy moved that the discussion be tabled. She indicated that this policy needs to go through the Parent Advisory Committee. She shared her concerns about student privacy, the District’s lack of policy regarding the destruction of student data once the student is no longer part of the District, and lack of request for permission from parents for students under the age of thirteen when students are signed up for a Google account/email. She would like her concerns to be looked into, but was willing to table the discussion for another night. Board consensus was to table the discussion.

11. Closed Session

McComb stated it was necessary to go into Closed Session for the purpose of: 1) *The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.* 2) *Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff or public property.* 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.* Dr. Schultz asked to add, 4) *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.*

Motion was made by Larson, seconded by Schultz, at 11:16 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 Larson, at 12:39 a.m. on October 22, 2019, to return to open session. The motion carried.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:39 a.m. on October 22, 2019.

Max McComb, President

Merle Giles, Secretary

Submitted by Dawn Quinley, Board Recorder