Board Vice President Larry Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Member Shouse was absent.

Member Kiah arrived at 7:03.

The Board recognized the MSHS Cheerleaders and their coaches for a successful season and finishing 16th at the IHSA State Cheerleading Competition. The Board also recognized Tristan Willey, MSHS Senior, for qualifying for Team Illinois to compete at the High School Academic Pyramid Questions National All-Star Academic Tournament.

Member Kiah gave an update on the superintendent search. He thanked all who attended the faculty/staff and community forums and provided feedback. The search process is at the stage of narrowing from three candidates to one and Mr. Kiah stated the Board is hopeful final disposition in the process will be reached in 7-10 days.

Superintendent Reuschel shared the following information:

- MJHS received the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. There will be a ceremony and presentation in Quincy on February 25.
- Franczek, Radelet, et al. has filed claims for recalculation of General State Aid on behalf of the District.
- Eight MSHS students received Spoon River College Foundation scholarships for dual credit courses.
- Jack Cavett, MSHS Senior, was chosen for the IHSA All-State Academic Team.
- Recognitions next month will include several student athletes who competed at the State level in wrestling, swimming, and the three-point shootout.

Christina Smith - Food Service Director, and Jordan Sheradan – ARAMARK, addressed the Board regarding menus at Edison and the USDA guidelines. Ms. Smith advised that the USDA has eased the restrictions on grains and proteins somewhat, allowing for more variety in the coming months. She stressed that there will be more focus on varying the menus, limiting pizza from three to two to one day per week and alternating chicken nuggets and pizza on Fridays at Lincoln. A side salad bar will also be offered at Edison. Ms. Smith noted, though, that District kitchen facilities are not conducive to a menu that requires fresh fruit and vegetable preparation or more involved cooking processes as there is a lack of prep, storage, cooking and serving space. Ms. Smith and Mr. Sheradan also emphasized the 6 cent reimbursement that is available if guidelines are followed; however, Board members noted the importance of weighing the 6 cent reimbursement against serving foods the students will eat and paying attention to how much is being thrown out and how many students are going hungry because they don’t care for the foods being offered. It was suggested that taking advantage of local agriculture and moving to a hybrid program might result in broader appeal. Ms. Smith noted that participation is down about 4% from last year and advised that ARAMARK is working on a parent/student survey that will be administered in April. The Board expressed appreciation for the job ARAMARK does, especially with the institution of the government mandate,
but also noted that students have to eat and should be able to enjoy the food they are offered and not be hungry. Superintendent Reuschel shared that ARAMARK has offered a kitchen planning team to come in and look at the facilities and make recommendations for improvements. She also advised that the Pre-K Fruit and Vegie Grant may be in jeopardy as the program is split into two sessions and the primary use of the fruits and vegies purchased with the grant money is for snacks instead of as part of a meal.

Member Kiah moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar, which included the following: Minutes from the January 21, 2013, regular Board meeting; minutes from the January 24, 28, 30 and February 4 and 11, 2013, special Board meetings; Treasurer’s Report; Investment Report; Monthly Board Report; Bills and Payroll; Financial Update on Life Safety Projects (.05 levy); Financial Update on Life Safety Projects; Monthly Activity Account Reports; Food Service Report; and, the State Funding Update. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Sutton seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meetings held during the January 21, 2013, regular Board meeting and the January 24, 28, 30 and the February 4 and 11, 2013, special Board meetings. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Bierman seconded, to renew employment of the following persons in administrative positions, effective July 1, 2013: Kelly Carpenter, Dana Isackson, John Rumley, Edward Fulkerson, David Bartlett, and Katie Hoge. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Bierman moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the following actions regarding certificated staff: Retirement – Susan Docherty; Resignation – Lindsay Franks. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve the Request for Leave for Lindsay Franks. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve the employment of Randall Smith effective July 1, 2013 (educational support), and the employment of Aaron Appel (co-curricular). Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Sutton seconded, to approve the MSHS Scholastic Bowl Team trip to Nationals in May 2013. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Bierman reported on the January 21 and 22, 2013 Board Finance Committee meetings. He advised that the committee discussed financial projections for the next 4-5 years and began to frame the conversation regarding funding and budget that needs to be had by the Board and with the public. The committee also heard a proposal from the Agriculture Committee for the establishment of an ag
program at MSHS. Member Kiah expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Agriculture Committee.

Members Adams and Sutton reported on the January 22, 2013, meeting of the Board Curriculum Committee. Member Adams advised that the committee also heard the proposal for the ag program at MSHS and expressed appreciation for the work of the committee. Member Sutton noted the committee also continued discussion regarding curriculum and finance and heard information regarding the Total Fitness class.

Member Thompson reported on the topics covered at the February 14 Work Session. The Board reviewed safety procedures in the schools and received information on renovating the entryway at Lincoln to make it more secure. Superintendent Reuschel added that the Board also discussed District finance.

The Board did not review the District fee schedule. Changes for the 2013-2014 school year will be proposed after long term plans are determined and staffing for that school year has been reviewed.

Member Thompson moved, and member Sutton seconded, to approve a three-year agreement with ECRIS for maintenance of the MJS HS geothermal system. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the proposed prerequisite that students take two Physical Education classes before enrolling in Total Fitness. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Member Bierman abstained. Motion carried.

At 7:45 p.m., member Colvin moved, and member Bierman seconded, to hold a closed meeting for the purpose of conducting the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes and audio recordings, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) and 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d). Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 8:09 p.m.

Member Colvin moved, and member Kiah seconded, to cease discussion regarding District finance. Members voting “yes”: none. Members voting “no”: Kiah, Bierman, Sutton, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Motion failed.

Member Bierman stressed the importance of the following:

- Depth of the cuts
- Communication with the public

With 80% proration of funding putting the District at about the same level of funding as received in 2007, along with increased enrollment and PTELL, the District is heading for a perfect storm. The Board needs to determine how best to convey this information to the public and seriously consider the outlook, keeping in mind upcoming negotiations and the contract with the next superintendent. The Board discussed staff negotiations and Dr. Reuschel addressed credibility issues of certified and non-certified staff. Potential cuts and the depth of those cuts were discussed. The Board also looked at paraprofessionals and class size at the high school. Discussion ensued regarding possible cuts and
how to achieve the goal of a $350,000 decrease in expenditures. It was the consensus of the Board that the cuts must be finalized so that information can be provided to the community.

Member Sutton moved, and member Colvin seconded, to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

_______________________________________
President

_______________________________________
Date

_______________________________________
Secretary