MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MACOMB C.U.S.D. #185
MARCH 18, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Board President Robert Shouse 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: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Member Sutton was absent.

Mr. Shouse announced that agenda item 12.2a would be considered after the closed meeting and that the Board would take action following the closed meeting.

The Board recognized the following MSHS students:
- Morgan Buwick – January Senior of the Month
- Ben Brown – February Senior of the Month
- Anthony Blome – 11th place finish at IHSA State Swim Meet
- Matt Surpremant – 3rd place finish at IHSA State Wrestling Meet
- Jack Cavett – IHSA All-Academic Team
- Sydni Hare – IHSA 3-point Shootout

Member Kiah commented on the Scholastic Bowl tradition of success over the past 4 years and complimented the current and past teams for their amazing accomplishment. Member Thompson advised that Macomb Senior High athletes were recognized once again in the IHSA Basketball Tournament program for being one of 30 schools in the state to have athletes with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater.

Superintendent Reuschel shared the following information:
- Thanks to parents for their contribution to their children’s, and, therefore, the District’s, successes.
- MSHS Math Team won the ICTM regional math competition at WIU and will advance to state competition.
- Jenna Dean has been selected as a member of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Class of 2013.
- Thanks to the Macomb Education Foundation for grants awarded to District teachers.
- Thanks from the Elks Club for District cooperation and use of Washington Street Gym for Elks Hoop Shoot.
- Thanks to ARAMARK for National School Breakfast Week promotion.
- State of Illinois is changing cut scores on the ISAT test to adjust for increased rigor. Parents may see some change, with more students falling in the meets category and less in the exceeds category. Our students and staff will meet the challenge.

Member Adams moved, and member Bierman seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, which included the following items: Minutes from the February 14, 2013, special Board meeting; minutes from the February 18, 2013, regular Board meeting; minutes from the February 27, 2013, special Board meeting; 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 (combined); Monthly Activity Account Reports; Food Service Report; and, State Funding
Minutes – Board of Education Meeting
March 18, 2013
Page 2

Update. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Bierman seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the February 14, 2013, special Board meeting (5:38 p.m.). Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Bierman moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the February 14, 2013, special Board meeting (6:17 p.m.). Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Bierman seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during February 18, 2013, regular Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Member Shouse abstained. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the retirement of the following certificated staff members: Damaris Blansfield, Dawn Stiles, and Maureen Wallen. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve the resignation of Max Kreps as Assistant Football Coach. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Bierman seconded, to approve James Clark as a volunteer Baseball Coach. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to continue to hold indefinitely minutes from closed meetings held on June 18, July 16, August 20, October 15, December 6 and December 11, 2012. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to destroy audio recordings of closed meetings held on January 18, February 10, February 23, March 21, April 18, May 16 (8:00 p.m.), June 2, and June 20, 2011. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to continue to hold audio recordings of closed meetings held on January 31, May 16 (9:23 p.m.), and May 18, 2011. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Bierman, co-chair of the Board Finance Committee initiated discussion regarding the District’s financial status and plans for cost containment. He emphasized that deficit spending must be brought under control, necessitating difficult decisions over the next weeks, months, and years.
Member Adams noted that one of the points of the District Strategic Plan is that the Board be prudent stewards of resources through intentional budgeting and planning. He stated that the Board’s plan for cost containment is not a kneejerk reaction, but a proactive plan. President Shouse noted that the financial issues the District faces are no different than what many other districts in the state have been dealing with for some years now. He commended the current administration and past administrations for their fiscal management, emphasizing that the State’s failure to provide promised and adequate financial support to school districts has precipitated the current financial problems. Superintendent Reuschel advised that although the District’s fund balances are higher than they were five to ten years ago, the combination of lack of funding from the State, increasing enrollment and the need for more staff, and the limiting nature of PTELL on the District’s ability to capture the maximum dollars from the EAV is draining those balances. The Board, as stated in the District Strategic Plan, is committed to communicating about this issue to all stakeholders and using the collective wisdom of the community to bring ideas and plan for the future.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2013-2014 fee schedule. Superintendent Reuschel advised that the proposed amounts reflect a 5% across the board increase.

Superintendent Reuschel presented the proposed 2013-2014 District calendar for review. The Board will consider approval of the calendar at its April meeting.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to award the bid for Fire & Life Safety work – a partial re-roof at Lincoln Elementary - to Brockway Co. Inc., in the amount of $258,370.00. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Kiah moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve membership in the IHSA for the 2013-2014 school year. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent Reuschel advised that it was not necessary to take action on the Summer Food Service Program contract until it is determined if the District will offer a Summer School program this year.

At 7:39 p.m., member Bierman moved, and member Adams seconded, to hold a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), student discipline, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), and pending or imminent litigation, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:17 p.m.

Member Bierman moved, and member Kiah seconded, to approve a four year cost containment plan totaling $1.5 million in expenditure reduction over the four years beginning with a $330,000 reduction in expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The $330,000 reduction will be achieved by reducing staff by 3 FTE’s and through attrition for an approximate savings of $250,000, reduction of the athletic budget by $28,000, decreasing the Board of Education travel and conference budget by $5,000, elimination of $88,000 in Title I support, and removal of the appraisal line item at $13,000.
Part time hires will result in additional expenditure of approximately $54,000. The Board will begin discussions regarding cost containment measures for FY '15 assuming the State maintains its current practice of funding General State Aid payments at 80-85% of the total the District should receive. Vote was taken on the motion with the following members voting “yes”: Kiah, Bierman, Adams, Shouse, Thompson, and Colvin. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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President

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Date

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Secretary