MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MACOMB C.U.S.D. #185
DECEMBER 16, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Board President Matthew Bierman called the meeting order in the Library at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad.

Ms. Jessica Orris, 4th Grade teacher at Edison Elementary, addressed the Board regarding how she uses technology in her classroom. Student Zachary Graham demonstrated his use of a tablet for the Board. Ms. Orris explained that her e-Board, Edmodo, and use of “flipped” lessons all make it easier to manage and provide differentiated instruction for her class of 29 students. Ms. Orris thanked District Technology Director Katie Hoge for her support and guidance through the transition to a more tech based teaching style.

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding the ongoing contract negotiations:
- Travis Gage – 821 Bobby Avenue, Macomb
- Craig Burns – 818 Meadow Drive, Macomb
- Barry Witten – 931 Oakview Drive, Macomb
- Theodore Schultz – 222 North Hun Street, Colchester
- Margaret McGowan – 417 South Lafayette, Macomb

The Board recognized Lara Anderson and Andy Woodruff, Seniors of the Month for the months of October and November, respectively.

Mrs. Angela Hance, Business/Consumer Education teacher at MSHS, was recognized for being chosen the Pella/K-100 Teacher of the Month.

Board members reported on the sessions they attended at the Joint Annual Conference in November. Session topics included statutorily required PERA/PDLT training, strategic planning, legislative information, communications, Common Core, rural schools, and a tour of an urban school. Member Adams served as delegate to the resolutions committee.

Member Kiah advised that he attended a poetry reading in Mrs. Judy Witten’s 3rd grade classroom and thanked Mrs. Diana Kurasz, elementary music teacher, and all of the teachers who assisted with Breakfast with Santa.

Dr. Twomey shared the following information with the Board:
- Joint Annual Conference – attended Ron Ellison’s session on school security and safety drills.
- Negotiations Update – informal session seemed to go well and another one is scheduled. Hoping to get to place where negotiations can progress in a positive manner.
- FOIA requests – Al Reusch and Max Kreps requested information on Board expenses and superintendent’s salary.
- Assessment appeal – Western Grain Marketing. District must file a formal appeal in order to attend the hearing on the request to reduce the assessment.
- Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.
• Financing of kitchen equipment – ARAMARK has agreed to finance purchase price of kitchen equipment at zero percent.

Member Thompson moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the items on the Consent Calendar as presented, which included the following: Minutes from the November 18, 2013, regular Board meeting; minutes from the November 25, 2013, special Board meeting; Treasurer’s 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; Monthly Food Service Report; and the State Funding Update. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Myers moved, and member Sutton seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meetings held during the November 18, 2013, regular meeting and the November 25, 2013, special Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member La Prad moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve personnel recommendations as follows:

Educational Support Staff:
Request for Leave:
Patrisha Clark, Program Assistant, Macomb Senior High School, leave to begin December 9, 2013, and extend through January 17, 2014;
Connie Fisher, Secretary to the Principal, MacArthur Early Childhood Center, request for extension of FMLA, half days to begin December 2, 2013, and extend through December 13, 2013.

Resignation:
Margaret West, Program Assistant, Macomb Senior High School, effective December 20, 2013.

Retirement:
Lindell Beck, Lead Custodian, Lincoln Elementary School, effective February 14, 2014.

Employment:
Jennifer Semonis, Program Assistant, Macomb Junior Senior High School, 29 hours per week, effective November 21, 2013.

Member Kiah noted the retirement of Lindell Beck, Custodian at Lincoln Elementary, and expressed appreciation for his many years of service to the District. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson and La Prad. Members voting “no”: Kiah. Motion carried.

The Board conducted second reading on proposed revisions to the following Board policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits:

2:105 7:180 7:180-E4 7:340
2:120 7:180-AP1 7:180-AP1, E5 7:340-AP1
5:20 7:180-AP2 7:180-AP1, E6 7:340-AP1, E1
5:20-AP 7:180-AP1,E3 7:180-AP1, E7

Member Thompson moved, and member Myers seconded, to approve the revisions as presented. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.
Member Thompson moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the proposed 2013 levy. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member Thompson seconded, to adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of a request to intervene in Western Grain Marketing LLC’s pending assessment appeal. Dr. Twomey explained that Western Grain appealed its assessment two years ago and it was reduced by $2 million, which cost the District $100,000. The current appeal is for a reduction of $1.8 million. It is in the District’s best interest to monitor the appeals and verify that any reductions are merited.

Member Thompson moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve the kitchen equipment bid from Central Restaurant Products in the amount of $21,848.74 for the purchase of ovens, a cooler/freezer, and miscellaneous kitchen equipment. Dr. Twomey explained that although the District will enter into the zero percent financing agreement with ARAMARK for purchase of the equipment, should the food service bid process result in a change in food service provider, the District would pay off the remaining balance immediately.

At 8:12 p.m., member Kiah moved, and member Sutton 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), collective negotiating matters, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), 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, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

President Bierman noted the following:

- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2014;
- The Board Strategic Planning Committee will meet Wednesday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Administrative Service Center; and,
- The Board will take no action following the closed meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 11:15 p.m. Member Adams moved and member La Prad seconded, to adjourn at 11:16. Motion carried by voice vote.

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President

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Date

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Secretary