Board President Matt Bierman 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: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Member Kiah was absent.

Brian Powell, Holly Stovall, and Heather McIlvaine-Newsad addressed the Board about the PARCC test, expressing their objections to the amount of time devoted to preparing for the test, the difficulty of the test, the loss of opportunity for meaningful learning due to test preparation, and the negative impact on their children.

The Board recognized Jordan Fansler, Senior of the Month for January 2015.

Mr. Bierman reminded Board members of the March 11 IASB Western Division meeting. He commended the choral and instrumental music teachers for their extra efforts in organizing an impromptu recital so music students could perform their solo & ensemble pieces in the wake of cancellation of the IESA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Member La Prad advised the Illinois State Board of Education would hold an open hearing on PARCC at 4:30 Wednesday, February 25. There is an open call for witnesses, either in person or in writing.

Dr. Twomey provided the following information:

- **Update on Joint Informal PERA Committee:** The committee continues to review/discuss how to handle the student growth piece as it relates to teacher evaluation. PARCC scores will not be used initially. Next year will be a test year for the evaluation system, with full implementation September 2016. The committee may choose to use PARCC if it appears to be of value over the next year.

- **Alliance Leadership Conference:** The focus of the conference was Vision 20/20, a movement to change the message about public education in Illinois. The group has a solid plan based on education principals. They will lobby for equitable funding and more local control when it comes to mandates and plan to bring their message to Springfield every six months.

- **PARCC:** The test is mandated by state and federal law and only 40 of 871 districts in Illinois have refused to administer the test. There was a similar reaction when ISAT and PSAE were mandated. Our District is well-prepared to administer the PARCC test. That preparation has taken time away from regular classroom instruction, but this should not be an ongoing problem in years to come. Member La Prad stressed that one of the issues with the test is a philosophical and ethical stance on the meaning and value of the assessments. It’s a question of meaning, intention and purpose. Another issue is that the tests are unethical because they are set two grade levels higher than the grade level of the students taking the test. In light of these concerns, Macomb shouldn’t just follow along. Dr. Twomey explained the purpose of the tests is to provide benchmarks against the new standards. Mr. Bierman noted that funding is not tied to the outcome of the tests, but could be affected by refusal to administer the PARCC exam.

- **Vision 20/20:** Macomb Schools and the Illinois Association of Rural and Small Schools are co-sponsoring a presentation to superintendents and Board members by Senator Andy Manar on equitable funding for education. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 at the Spoon River College Outreach Center.
- FOIA Request: Received from University of Illinois Springfield requesting information on playground equipment at Lincoln School and student and staff injuries.
- Scholastic Bowl: Congratulations to the MSHS Scho-Bowl Team. They are currently ranked 186th in the world.
- Western Area Career System: Cosmetology class will be added to WACS offerings for MSHS students. The class will be offered through Innovations Design Academy.
- E-rate: This program is changing. Our tech staff is working so District infrastructure will be ready if 1-to-1 plan is implemented. We want to be in position to have speed, band width and switches we need to continually bump up our ability to use technology in the District. E-rate will finance $150/student. District will pay $316,000 up front and will be reimbursed 80% through E-rate. The E-rate program is reducing the amount we can claim for cell phones to force an increase in dollars spent on technology. This will result in increased expenses related to cell phones, website, etc.
- Tracy Family Foundation – DOT Foods: Offering an 18-month leadership course. Kelly Carpenter, Kim Gillam and Holly Riggins are interested in participating. The Tracy Family Foundation is paying the cost of the course. The goal is to improve education in West Central Illinois.

Member Adams moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, which included the following: Minutes from the January 26, 2015 regular 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, State Funding Report. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely minutes from the closed meeting held during the January 26, 2015 regular Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

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

Certificated Staff:
- Request for Leave:
  Nicole DeRenzy, Special Education Teacher, request for FMLA leave to begin January 2, 2015 and extend through February 2, 2015.
- Retirement:
  David Bartlett, Director of Activities/Athletics, Macomb Community Unit School District #185, under the 2013-2016 contract, effective June 30, 2019.
  Luanne Sanner, Art Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, under the 2013-2016 contract, effective end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Educational Support Staff:
- Request for Leave:
  Deborah Watson, Secretary to the Principal, Edison Elementary School, request intermittent FMLA leave to begin January 20, 2015.

Resignation:
- Joanna Anderson, Program Assistant, Macomb Senior High School, effective February 6, 2015.
Employment:
Norrita Hammond, Program Assistant, 29 hours per week, Macomb Senior High School, effective February 6, 2015 (replacement).
Karen Moore, Program Assistant, 29 hours per week, Macomb Junior High School, effective February 2, 2015 (replacement).

Co-Curricular:

Resignation:
Eboney Chambers, Assistant Girls Track Coach, Macomb Junior High School, effective February 3, 2015.
Tom Fritz, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective December 22, 2014.

Employment:
Eboney Chambers, Head Boys Track Coach, Macomb Junior High School, effective February 3, 2015.
Tom Cummings, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective December 23, 2014.
Alexandra Lugar, Assistant Girls Track Coach, Macomb Junior High School, effective February 3, 2015.
Andrew McGhghy, Assistant Boys Track Coach, Macomb Junior High School, effective February 3, 2015.
Jerry Platt, Assistant Girls Track Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective February 3, 2015.
Sarah Wright, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective February 10, 2015.

Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

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

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

Member Adams moved, and member Myers seconded, to adopt a resolution in support of the Vision 20/20 education improvement proposal. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Myers moved, and member Thompson seconded, to release for public inspection minutes from closed meetings held October 23, 2014, and to continue to hold minutes from closed meetings held July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15, 2014. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member La Prad moved, and member Sutton seconded, to destroy audio recordings from closed meetings held February 14 (5:38 and 6:17 p.m.), 18, March 18, April 15, and May 6, 2013, and continue
to hold audio recordings from closed meetings held January 2, 21, 24, 28, and 30, February 11, April 25, May 20, and June 17, 2013. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

At 8:08 p.m., member Thompson moved, and member La Prad 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), and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Mr. Bierman announced the Board expected to take no action other than adjournment following the closed meeting and noted the next meeting of the Board would be held Tuesday, March 24.

The Board returned to open session at 9:35 p.m. Member Myers moved, and member Adams seconded, to adjourn at 9:36 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

_______________________________________
President

__________________________________________
Date

__________________________________________
Secretary