Board President Matt Bierman called the meeting to order 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.

Jon Curtis, Brian Powell, Chanel Lane – reading a letter written by Marjorie Allison and Dan Barclay - and Holly Stovall, all parents of students in the District, addressed the Board regarding PARCC testing. They spoke to the following issues and concerns: objection to the “sit and stare” policy for students who refused to take the test; the importance of the Board and the administration keeping as their priority the best interests of the students; the negative effect of teachers and students spending instructional time preparing for the test; lack of transparency regarding administration of the test and the “gag” order requiring teachers not to discuss the test; the amount of money spent on the test instead of classroom instruction; validity of a test that purports to be rigorous but really just tests above grade level; the ethical question of whether a company that supplies textbooks to schools should be in the business of formulating assessments; and the idea that administering the test with no sign of protest makes the District a passive bystander.

The Board recognized Ashley Plumb for being selected Senior of the Month for the month of February 2015.

Mr. Bierman gave a brief overview of Legislative Day and the Board’s March 12 work session, noting that PARCC was a topic of conversation at both. Member Thompson advised MSHS teams and student athletes were recognized by IHSA for maintaining a 3.0 or better grade point average throughout the 2013 sports seasons. She stressed their success is due to the dedication of the District’s staff and all who work with them.

Dr. Twomey addressed some of the concerns expressed about the PARCC test. He advised state and federal rules do not allow for “opting out” and that the attorney for the District recommended providing no alternative activities for students who were present but not taking the test in order to avoid the appearance of allowing students to “opt out” and to minimize distraction of those students taking the test. Parents of students who were not taking the test had the option to keep those students at home. Dr. Twomey agreed there was much time spent preparing for the test due to PARCC being a new test and the first one ever to be administered solely on line. Preparation time was also extended because the District participated in field testing. The time devoted to practice paid off with a smooth test administration and will likely result in less preparation time for subsequent administrations of the test. He explained that lack of education funding is a major factor in Illinois school districts’ obligation to administer the test and a contributing factor in districts being “passive bystanders”. Dr. Twomey went on to discuss the Vision 20/20 movement, which is focused on bringing about education funding reform and changing the image of education in Illinois. Discussion continued regarding the PARCC test, if or how standardized testing fits in any way the first goal listed in the strategic plan, and providing an opportunity for teachers to speak about the test. Dr. Twomey advised the National Association of Junior Colleges announced it will use PARCC and Smarter Balanced standardized test scores to determine whether students will have to take remedial English and math.
The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the AASA conference he attended at the end of February and thanked the Board for the opportunity. He attended sessions on supporting principal success, social media for superintendents, digital conversion for school districts, redesigning professional development, and the impact of decision making on an organization. He also shared the impact of Mr. Darrell Scott’s presentation on Rachel’s Challenge, a school assembly program inspired by Rachel Scott’s idea of a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.

Dr. Twomey shared the following information:

- The District received almost exactly what was requested on the current tax levy. Next year will be a challenge as the CPI will be 1.8% and, due to PTELL, the District can only collect 3% or the CPI, whichever is less.
- Several Board members and Dr. Twomey attended the March 11 IASB Western Division Dinner meeting in Cuba.
- Board members are, by virtue of their position, bound by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act and must make a report if they suspect a child is being neglected or abused.
- The Macomb Education Foundation voted to provide 1/3 of the funding needed to redo the MJSHS fitness room in the form of grants to the PE teachers. The proposal seeks the remaining 2/3 of the funding from the District and the Bomber Booster Club in equal shares. The total request is for a little over $10,000.

Member Adams moved, and member Myers seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, which included the following items: Minutes from the February 23, 2015 regular Board meeting, Minutes from the March 12, 2015 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, Monthly Activity Account Reports, Monthly Food Service Report, and State Funding Update. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member Myers seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meetings held during the February 23, 2015 regular board meeting and the March 12, 2015 special meeting/work session. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Sutton seconded, to remove Charlotte Durkin’s name from the personnel report for separate consideration. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the following actions regarding personnel:

**Certificated Staff:**

**Request for Leave:**

- **Jeremy Anderson**, Physical Education Teacher, Macomb Senior High School, request for leave to begin February 20, 2015, with an approximate return date of March 23, 2015.
- **Mindy Frier**, Grade 5 Teacher, Edison Elementary School, request for leave extension, to begin April 2, 2015, and extend through the school year, May 29, 2015.

**Retirement:**

Stephen Larimer, Art & Technology Teacher, Macomb Junior High School, under the 2013-2016 contract, effective end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Jeff Thorman, Driver Education Teacher & Behind the Wheel Instructor, Macomb Senior High School, under the 2013-2016 contract, effective end of the 2018-2019 school year.


Release from Service Part Time Non Tenure Certificated Staff (effective end of the 2014-2015 school year):


Nikki Parker, Interim Grade 1 Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Reduction in Force, Part Time Non Tenure Certificated Staff (effective end of the 2014-2015 school year):

Corey Loos, Part Time Weld Instructor, Macomb Senior High School, effective end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Educational Support Staff:

Employment:

Karen Nudd, Program Assistant, Lincoln Elementary School, 29 hours per week, effective March 9, 2015. (new)

Co-Curricular:

Resignation:

Joanna Anderson, Freshman Class Sponsor, Macomb Senior High School, 1/4 shared stipend, effective February 6, 2015.

Mallorie Buchanan, Cheer Sponsor, Macomb Junior High School, effective March 4, 2015.

Marshal Jordan, Boys Swim Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective February 23, 2015.

Employment:

Angela Hance, Freshman Class Sponsor, Macomb Senior High School, was ½ stipend, now ¾ stipend, effective February 6, 2015.

Tanner Horrell, Assistant Baseball Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 8, effective 2014-2015 season.


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

The Board reviewed the proposed 2015-16 school calendar and the proposed 2015-16 fee schedule.

Dr. Twomey advised the Choir Boosters are hoping to purchase a new piano for the choral music program. The Boosters are asking the District to contribute 25% of the purchase price. Dr. Twomey stated he would gather more information and present for the Board’s consideration and approval at the April regular meeting.

Member Sutton moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve membership in the IHSA for the 2015-16 school year. 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 Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company to perform the GASB 45 valuation for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Sutton moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve a change order in the amount of $17,000 to upgrade specified flooring materials for entryways at MJSHS and Edison to carpet tile and MSHS restrooms and Edison kitchen to quarry tile. Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

At 8:30 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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and collective negotiating matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2). Members voting “yes”: Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Kiah arrived at 8:31 p.m.

Board President Bierman announced the next regular meeting of the Board would take place Monday, April 20 and that the Board would return to open session and take action following the closed meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 10:31 p.m.

Member Kiah moved, and member Sutton seconded, to approve Charlotte Durkin’s retirement under the Illinois Early Retirement Option, effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Members voting “yes”: none. Members voting “no”: Kiah, Myers, Adams, Sutton, Bierman, Thompson, and La Prad. Motion was defeated.

Member La Prad moved, and member Thompson seconded, to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.