MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MACOMB C.U.S.D. #185
NOVEMBER 16, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Board President Robert Shouse called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Library at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken with the following members answering “present”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson.

Board President Shouse announced and opened the public hearing to receive testimony on the proposed waiver of School Code Section 17-1.5 at 7:07 p.m. Those present at the time of the hearing were as follows: Board members Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson, and Superintendent Reuschel. Additionally, there were 17 persons in attendance. Superintendent Reuschel advised that the waiver is necessary to accommodate what appears to be an increase in administrative costs in excess of the limit stated in School Code. She explained that the “increase” in administrative costs is attributable to a recent revision in the District’s Tort Levy/Risk Management Plan and the resulting reallocation of administrative salaries from the tort fund to the education fund. Mr. Shouse called three times for testimony from those in attendance at the meeting. With no one coming forward and hearing no comment from the Board, following the third call, he declared the hearing closed at 7:09 p.m. There were no written comments received.

Member Thompson moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the proposed waiver of School Code Section 17-1.5 for submission to the Illinois State Board of Education. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Board President Shouse announced and opened the public hearing to receive testimony regarding the District’s proposed 2009 levy at 7:11 p.m. Superintendent Reuschel reviewed the levy, providing information on the tax cap and noting that the District’s levy for debt service would decrease by approximately $400,000 through FY ’11. Mr. Shouse called three times for testimony from those in attendance at the meeting, and hearing none, declared the hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve the proposed 2009 District levy as presented. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board recognized the following:

- Ellie Zoerink, District Social Worker, for receiving the Illinois School Social Worker of the Year Award for 2009.
- The MSHS Marching Band for its performance at the University of Illinois Parade and Field Show Competition.
Mr. Terry Krehbiel, addressed the Board regarding a proposed trip for theatre students to TheaterFest in January 2010. He advised that the trip will take place January 7-9, 2010, estimated that accommodations would run about $100/student, and noted that students would be responsible for the cost of their meals. Member Klems moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the trip. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Mr. David Wetmore, MSHS Band Director, addressed the Board regarding the annual spring band trip. He advised that the trip will take place in May 2010, and will begin at the University of Illinois with the Superstate competition. From there, the band will travel to St. Louis to hear the St. Louis symphony perform. Mr. Wetmore advised that the annual fruit sale, currently underway, and the truffle sale, scheduled near Valentine’s Day, would afford students a chance to raise funds for the trip. Member Adams moved, and member Klems seconded, to approve the trip. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Paula Blythe and Carol Lock, District Librarians, presented their annual report on the Linking for Learning Library Grant.

Member Colvin advised that he had met with all of the building principals and expressed his gratitude for the time they’d spent with him. He noted that good things are going on at the schools. Mr. Shouse announced that Chelsea Hadsall, senior at MSHS, is one of 50 students worldwide selected to participate in the Toro “Future Leaders Program” at Walt Disney World Resort.

Superintendent Reuschel provided information as follows:

- American Education Week – November 16-20. Board of Education sent fruit baskets to each school to honor teachers.
- Max Kreps and Briana Rexroat, PE Teachers at Edison, organized donation of 1500 food items to the Salvation Army food pantry for Red Ribbon Week.
- District received taxes from Hy-Vee.
- Thanks from TRS for hosting individual conferences and group meeting.
- First MidState received monies for bond issue on November 3.
- Update on E2T2 grant-related activities in the District

Member Kiah requested that item 14.10, the Monthly Food Service Report, be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Member Thompson moved, and member Klems seconded, to approve the items on the Consent Calendar, excepting the Monthly Food Service, which included the following: Minutes from the October 19, 2009, regular 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 (BI 07); Financial Update on Life Safety Projects (BI 09); Activity Account Reports; and, Financial Authorizations. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.
Member Kiah expressed concern over the drop in participation indicated on the Aramark Monthly Joint Review and the reasons given to account for the drop. Superintendent Reuschel advised that she would meet with the Food Service Director and get clarification on the figures and the explanation for the decrease in participation.

Member Kiah moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the Monthly Food Service Report. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: Shouse. Motion carried.

Member Klems moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the October 19, 2009, regular Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Member Colvin abstained. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the following recommendations regarding personnel:

Certificated Employment:

Educational Support Personnel
Change in Assignment:
Sue Ferguson, from Secretary to the Principal, Lincoln Elementary School, to Office Secretary (Records), Macomb Junior Senior High School/School District, 7 hours per day, 10 months per year, effective November 16, 2009. (replacement)

Employment:
Chris Smith, Wrestling Coach (Head), Macomb Junior High School, effective 2009-2010 season.

Resignation:
Gary Saunders, Head Boys Golf Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective November 6, 2009.

Volunteer:
Beth Shryock, WYSE Sponsor (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering), Macomb Senior High School, 2009-2010 school year.

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

Member Klems, co-chair of the Board Finance Committee, reported to the Board on that committee’s November 5 meeting. Ms. Klems advised that the committee met to review bids for District property and casualty and general liability insurance package, School Board legal, and workmen’s compensation insurance. She acknowledged the work put in by District Treasurer Charlotte Morrow, Liz Provine, and Superintendent Reuschel throughout the bid process. The recommendation of the committee is that the Board accept the bid from Unland Insurance.

Member Colvin, co-chair of the Board Curriculum Committee, gave a brief overview of that committee’s November 12 meeting. He advised that the committee is undertaking a review of
the EAST program and gifted services, beginning with the compilation of a number of questions that need to be answered. Those questions were shared with the administrative team. The review of the programs is scheduled to be completed by the end of this academic year. The committee also heard a proposal for the addition of a higher level math course to the high school math curriculum. The committee anticipates further conversation on the proposal before a decision is made.

Member Adams reviewed Section 8 of the Board Policy Manual, “School-Community Relations”. He advised that he found no need of major corrections, but stressed the importance of keeping policies updated and in sync with the current School Code.

Member Adams moved, and member Colvin seconded, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and accept the bid from Unland Insurance for District property and casualty and general liability insurance package, School Board legal, and workmen’s compensation insurance in the amount of $152,075. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, and Clark. Members voting “no”: none. Member Thompson abstained. Motion carried.

At 8:10 p.m., member Thompson moved, and member Klems 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). Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Kiah, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 8:52 p.m. Member Adams moved, and member Klems seconded, to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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President

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Date

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Secretary