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 answering “present”: Colvin, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Member Kiah was absent.

President Shouse welcomed guests and visitors and asked if anyone wished to address the Board. With no responses, the Board moved on to the recognition of students, staff, and community members. The Board recognized Bethany Keane, daughter of Greg and Cindy Carey-Butler and Dave Keane, for being selected Senior of the Month for the month of December, 2009.

Mr. Shouse noted that the February regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010, due to observance of President’s Day on Monday, February 15.

Superintendent Reuschel advised the Board of the following:

- Thank you notes received from Russ Middleton, Gary Saunders, and Loaves & Fishes.
- Copy of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in each member’s folder. Superintendent Reuschel will provide summary at February meeting.
- Tax Blast February 13, 2010, at MJSHS.
- MACC/MDDC Economic Outlook Luncheon on February 17, 2010.
- Thanks to Rotary clubs for their help with the annual MSHS Scholastic Bowl Tournament and congratulations to the A&B teams and to Jack Axley and John Johnson for making the All-Tournament Team.
- Congratulations to Lin Stults for being honored at the Holiday Tournament for her years of service.
- Another grant submitted by the District: RT3 “Race to the Top”. If successful, could allow fast forwarding of the E2T2 plan. Thanks to Heather and team from WIU for working to compile the grant.

Mr. Thomas Johnson, Science Teacher at MSHS and Science Club sponsor, addressed the Board regarding the proposed trip to the Illinois Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Carbondale, IL. The Board thanked Mr. Johnson for sponsoring the club and advised they would consider approval at the March meeting.

Ms. Susan Conlon, MSHS Guidance Counselor, presented information on technological advances in the administration of guidance services. She demonstrated for the Board the advantages of scheduling on-line and advised that the time saved allows more direct contact time with students for future planning. She thanked the Board for its support of the implementation of technological advances and for providing such good tech support for those advances.
Mr. David Benson, Science Teacher at MSHS, and Christos Gegas, Technology Integration Specialist, addressed the Board regarding the latest developments made possible by E2T2 grant funds. The update focused on a professional development module (focused on Ruby Payne training) developed by Core 10 teachers using Moodle. Teachers can participate on their own time while retaining the sense of a cohort going through the process and learning the material together. Dr. Reuschel thanked the group for their efforts, noting that this style of delivery allows for cross grade level interaction and gives people a chance to learn in a different way.

Member Adams moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar, which included the following: Minutes from the December 21, 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; Activity Account Reports; Monthly Food Service Report; and Financial Authorizations. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Colvin moved, and member Klems seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the December 21, 2009, regular meeting. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

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

Certificated

Retirement:

Diana Cremer, Special Education PreSchool-PreKindergarten Blended Teacher, MacArthur Early Childhood Center, effective end of 2012-2013 school year, under the 2007-2011 contract.

Request for Leave:


Educational Support Personnel

Resignation:

Mary Beth Miner, Program Assistant, Lincoln Elementary School, effective December 7, 2009.

Employment:

Krystal Ewing, Program Assistant (replacement), Lincoln Elementary School, 6 hours per day, $10.40 per hour, effective January 11, 2010. (replaces B. Miner)

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

There was no old business.

Member Thompson reported on the January 8, 2010, Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting. Issues addressed at that meeting included: installation of a fence in front of Lincoln to prevent students from running across the drive to the front doors (cost, including installation, approximately $10,848); the proposed recreation area for junior high students; installation of heating controls at Washington Street Gym; installation of lock sets at Edison; and, alternatives for providing more classroom space at Lincoln. Member Thompson advised that choices had been narrowed to
options one (purchase a double classroom modular similar to the Edison modulars) and four (offer Music and Art in classrooms). Mr. Shouse asked if there had been any more discussion about the addition of a circle drive at Edison, separate from the drive used by buses. Superintendent Reuschel advised that the issue had come up in discussions with the City Safety Committee and that a second “Safe Routes to School” grant could provide the means for that project. Mr. Shouse opened discussion regarding remedies for the space issue at Lincoln (options one and four). Member Thompson noted that as enrollment projections do not indicate any significant drop in student numbers at Lincoln in the coming years and that Art and Music should have their own classrooms, installation of modulars seems to be the best choice. In response to member Clark’s question about the cost of modulars, Mrs. Thompson advised that a double modular would cost approximately $160,000, including fence, canopy, etc., and Dr. Reuschel recommended that the Board plan on an expenditure of $180,000 in order to cover contingencies. Member Colvin noted that as enrollment figures appear to be stable with some potential for growth, the essential question is the value of Art and Music, which are integral to education. He noted that it is important for Art and Music to have their own classrooms. Therefore, the modulars seem to provide the best solution, as they will provide more room and allow Art and Music to remain in their own classrooms. Member Klems advised that she had heard feedback on building an addition to provide extra space at Lincoln, but building is cost prohibitive and the purchase of modulars seems to be the next best solution. Mr. Shouse noted that the Board would be asked to take the next step in the process (authorizing the superintendent to seek bids) at its February meeting.

Member Colvin reported on the Curriculum Committee’s January 15, 2010, meeting. The committee heard from Mrs. Dana Isackson, Curriculum Director, and an outstanding team of teachers who presented math textbook adoption recommendations. Mr. Colvin advised that the Board would be asked to consider specific recommendations regarding the adoption at its February meeting. Members will receive complete information on the recommendation no later than February 5, 2010.

First reading was conducted on proposed changes to the following Board policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits:

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The Board will hold second reading on and consider approval of the proposed changes at their February meeting.

Member Thompson moved, and member Colvin seconded, to approve a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to prepare a tentative budget for the school district for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011. Members voting “yes”: Colvin, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Klems moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the proposal to purchase ePowered Schools service for integration of District websites at an estimated annual cost to the District of $2,704 (after application of e-rate), and a $3,500 setup cost. Members voting “yes”:
Colvin, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. 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, Klems, Adams, Shouse, Clark, and Thompson. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:26 p.m. Member Klems moved, and member Adams seconded, to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.