MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MACOMB C.U.S.D.#185
MARCH 22, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Board President Jill Myers called the meeting to order in the C.T. Vivian Library at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Myers, Thompson (via MS Teams), and La Prad. Member Torrance was absent.

Max and Shelley Kreps presented Ms. Myers with a $75,406 check on behalf of the Rouse family. The money was raised for a new press box and in memory of Dan Rouse. Dr. Twomey stated the District is committed to getting the press box done as soon as possible and it is hoped the project will be finished by the start of the next school year. He thanked the Kreps for all of their hard work on the fundraising for the project.

The Board recognized Ben La Prad – March 2021 Senior of the Month.

There were no Board comments or correspondence.

Dr. Twomey reported on the following topics:

- Middle School Groundbreaking: the ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 @ 11:00 a.m.
- District Update: IDPH guidelines for social distancing in schools have changed. The new distance is 3 feet instead of 6 feet. This change allows the District to have the A and B hybrid group students in the buildings together; however, it does not allow for all students to be in attendance at once, so those who chose 100% remote instruction will remain online. Administrators will assess every room for space and remote students may return as space allows. Transportation has had to make some adjustment to routes, but tried to keep them as close to the current configuration as possible. They are running a test route Wednesday and will send a letter to parents. Athletics are up and running. High school girls and boys basketball, boys swimming, junior high boys basketball and volleyball have completed their seasons. The high school boys went 15-0 for the first undefeated season ever. 8th grade volleyball repeated as sectional champions and would have qualified for state. Soccer, football and track and field are up next. Guidance on capacity limits has changed from 50 individuals to 25% of what the space will hold. All events require masks to be worn. Dr. Twomey advised Mr. Sullivan is working with student leaders on plans for graduation and prom. In response to questions about state testing, Dr. Twomey advised the administrators had chosen to participate in testing this spring. Mr. Sullivan, MHS Principal, advised the high school has chosen to forgo the PSAT 9 and 10, and will administer the SAT. Lower grades will administer the IAR. Dr. Twomey advised the State will apply for a federal waiver if one is offered.
- MEF Grants – the MEF awarded grants in the amount of $1329.83 in January and February.
- FOIA Requests:
  o Chicago Tribune and ProPublica requested data on school discipline.
  o SmartProcure – requested quarterly purchase and vendor data.
Member Adams moved, and member Kapale seconded, to approve the items on the Consent Calendar as presented, which included: Minutes from the February 22, 2021 regular Board meeting, Treasurer’s Report, Monthly Board Report, Bills and Payroll, Financial Update on Life Safety Projects (.05 levy), Monthly Activity Account Reports, Monthly Food Service Report, State Funding Update, and WCISEC Personnel and Financials. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Myers, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Gray moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the February 22, 2021 regular Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Myers, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

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

**Certificated Staff:**

- **Request for Leave:**

- **Resignation:**
  - Kassidy Blokel, Special Education Teacher, Macomb Senior High School, effective end of the 2020-2021 school term.
  - Kendra Brough, PreSchool Teacher, MacArthur Early Childhood Center, effective end of the 2020-2021 school term.
  - Curtis Cross, Special Education Teacher, Macomb Senior High School, effective end of the 2020-2021 school term.
  - Karissa Ham, Science Teacher, Macomb Senior High School, effective end of the 2020-2021 school term.

- **Employment:**
  - Elizabeth Coplan, Special Education Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, to be placed at Step 9, Master’s Degree, on the salary schedule, effective August 16, 2021 (replaces Coupland/transfer).
  - Hailea Hadsall, Special Education Teacher, Macomb School District, building to be determined, Agreement in cooperation with Western Illinois University’s Alternative Licensure/MAT Program requirements, to be placed at Step 3, Bachelor’s Degree, on the salary schedule, effective August 16, 2021 (new).
  - Blaire Litchfield, Special Education Teacher, Macomb School District, building to be determined, Agreement in cooperation with Western Illinois University’s Alternative Licensure/MAT Program requirements, to be placed at Step 3, Bachelor’s Degree, on the salary schedule, effective August 16, 2021 (new).
  - Theresa Twaddle, Business Education Teacher, Macomb Senior High School, to be placed at Step 21, Masters with 32 additional hours, on the salary schedule, effective August 16, 2021 (replaces Potter/retirement).

- **Reduction in Force, Part time Certificated Staff due to Economic Necessity (effective end of 2020-2021 school term):**
  - Meredith Hancks
  - Kristina Thrapp

**Educational Support Staff:**

- **Retirement:**
  - Stacy Wilson, Program Assistant, MacArthur Early Childhood Center, effective February 25, 2021.
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Resignation:
Mariah Huston, Program Assistant, Edison Elementary School, effective April 2, 2021.
Carrie Kessler, Program Assistant, Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 12, 2021.
Muruvvet Tasden, Program Assistant, Lincoln Elementary School, effective March 12, 2021.

Employment:
Murphy Horrell, Custodian, Lincoln Elementary School, 40 hours per week, 12 month calendar, effective March 16, 2021.
Carlyann Pyles, Program Assistant, Macomb Junior Senior High School, up to 29 hours per week, effective February 19, 2021 (Wesley).

Co-Curricular:

Employment:
Jacob Bryan, Assistant Boys Track Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 6, effective 2020-2021 season.
Blake Driskell, Assistant Football Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 3, effective 2020-2021 season.
Korby Foxall, Assistant Baseball Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 6, effective 2020-2021 season.

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

Member Gray reported on the February 23, 2021 District Insurance Committee meeting. He advised the committee reviewed the Spec/Agg report and that the District health insurance plan continues to show much progress over a year ago with 9 months in reserve as compared to 5 months last year. The plan improved from a loss ratio of 96% to 73%. The committee also discussed savings due to cost saving measures implemented on the pharmacy side of the plan, noting it is difficult to get an accurate picture as utilization has decreased due to COVID. The use of telehealth has risen over the past year and use of mental health services is at or near 2019 levels. The committee will meet three more times to continue review and to discuss reinsurance renewal for the upcoming plan year.

Member Adams moved, and member Gray seconded, to accept the bid in the amount of $3,310.00 from Um Autos for purchase of the 2001 Chevrolet Blazer with Meyer snowplow attached. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Adams, Gray, Myers, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member La Prad moved, and member Myers seconded, to approve a resolution temporarily transferring the powers of the Board to the Superintendent. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Thompson, Myers, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Gray moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve membership in the IHSA for the 2021-2022 school year. Member Thompson expressed displeasure with how the IHSA treated athletes unequally across sports, noting particularly that golf could have had a State competition series. She stated that in future the District should expect more from the organization than what was provided in the last year. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Myers, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Member Thompson abstained. Motion carried.
At 7:46 p.m., member La Prad moved, and member Kapale 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), the purchase or lease of real property, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), 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”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Myers, Thompson, and La Prad Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 8:56 p.m.

Member Adams moved, and member Myers seconded, to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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President

_______________________________________
Date

_______________________________________
Secretary