Board Vice President Scott Torrance called the meeting to order in the C.T. Vivian Library. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Member Myers was absent.

Several in attendance came forward to address the Board about students being required to wear masks, use of lockers, and COVID testing.

- Candace Bainter, nurse, and mother of four children, thanked the Board for working so hard to get the children back in school full time. She noted she represented over 100 other parents and shared information on the negative physical and emotional effects of mask wearing on children, questions about whether the COVID vaccine is effective and safe, and the hardship imposed when students don’t have use of their lockers.

- Rebecca Olsen, nurse at a residential facility and mother of two district students, expressed concerns about negative effects of masking and her experience at work with masking and other preventive measures being ineffective at stopping the spread of the virus. She also stated her belief it is inappropriate for children to take a vaccine that is not approved and asked the administration not to segregate children because of vaccine status. Ms. Olsen noted whether to vaccinate children or not is a decision parents and children should make.

- Lisa Scalf, parent of a son in the district and a Macomb graduate, expressed her approval of the Board adopting a resolution for local board control of decisions regarding how to handle the return to school. She expressed objection to the resolution granting authority to the superintendent to make decisions the Board would normally make. She noted Board members are elected and should be making policy determinations. Ms. Scalf also expressed reservations about the ShieldIL testing program and stated vaccines should not be given in school.

Dr. Twomey thanked all for coming to the meeting to share their concerns, noting he would be giving a report later in the meeting and would try to address their concerns.

Agriculture Program teachers and FFA sponsors Kaitlyn Spangler and Wyatt McGrew provided an overview of both programs for the 2020-2021 school year. The ag program was expanded last year, and an exploratory program was added for 7th and 8th grade. Students are doing well in the ag classes and FFA members are doing very well at state and district competitions. The FFA Alumni Association funds a scholarship program for graduating seniors. Emphasis on community service and volunteerism is strong and the idea that it’s an FFA/Ag Ed family is promoted. Goals include a long-term facilities plan for the ag program with a place for science and research. The program would also like to do more in the area of offering vocational experience. The program is funded through a CTE grant and a line item in the District budget, and there is $20,000 in memorial funds for scholarships. These programs are not limited to students with ag backgrounds. There are many students in the program who have no ag experience.

Member Adams expressed appreciation for the comments of those who addressed the Board earlier.
Kathy Yaste, grandmother with two grandsons in the District, and former director of St. George Clothing Closet for McDonough County, addressed the Board regarding her concerns about masks being ineffective. She noted that students have lived a nightmare and some now face the possibility of differentiation based on vaccination status. She noted the vaccine was develop quickly and is not yet approved, asking the Board and administration to refrain from making any immediate decisions.

Dr. Twomey reported to the Board on the following issues:

- Construction Report – footings are in place for the new middle school. Concrete panels may go up soon. Progress is just slightly behind where it should be.
- Return to school – Dr. Twomey addressed parts of an overall back-to-school plan. He advised the community is roughly divided into thirds on the issue of COVID: one-third wants no masks, one third wants universal masking, and one-third would like hybrid/remote options available. The commonality is that all want students back in school and that frequent quarantining was difficult for everybody. He emphasized social distancing and masking at school make a difference in infection rates and current recommendations indicate masks are still necessary when indoors or in close contact situations. Dr. Twomey stated his responsibility is to get 2200 students through school safely and to do what’s best for the community as a whole and for the students. The number one goal is to have face-to-face instruction without having to quarantine. One plan to avoid quarantining is requiring masks, 3 feet + distancing and testing all unvaccinated individuals weekly. There is no plan that will satisfy everyone. Another component of the back-to-school plan could be testing through the UofI Shield IL program. The test would be administered at school and gives almost immediate, accurate results.

Dr. Twomey went on to address concerns expressed by those who addressed the Board earlier. He advised the testing would not be mandatory; there will be a form to opt out. Students will not be segregated based on vaccination status. Unvaccinated individuals and vaccinated individuals exhibiting symptoms would be tested. Any bullying would be addressed the same as any other behavioral issue. He explained the need to gradually phase out mitigations and noted the burden on teachers having to keep track of who is masked and unmasked and when if they needed to work with IDPH on contact tracing.

- ESSR III Grant – the District could receive as much as $4.9 million. 20% must be used to address learning loss. Grant funds could also be used to improve HVAC systems. Building administrators are working on plans for after school environment. Member La Prad suggested reaching out to WIU for support services such as America Reads. Dr. Twomey noted the YMCA is also anxious to lend support.
- FOIA Request: SmartProcure for vendor list and purchase order information.
- ISBE will hold their October Board meeting in our District. This is a great opportunity for the District to highlight what we do well. Attendees will tour buildings and see highlights of our programs.

Member Kapale moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve item 8.1 on the Consent Calendar, Minutes from the June 21, 2021, public hearing on the amended budget, as presented. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.
Member Gray moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve item 8.2 on the Consent Calendar, minutes from the June 21, 2021, regular Board meeting, as presented. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Kapale moved, and member Gray seconded, to approve items 8.3 through 8.9 on the Consent Calendar, which included: Treasurer’s Report, Monthly Board Report, Bills and Payroll, Financial Update on Life Safety Projects (.05 levy), Monthly Activity Account Reports, State Funding Update, and WCISEC Financials. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve and hold indefinitely the minutes from the closed meeting held during the June 21, 2021, regular Board meeting. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Thompson moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve the following recommendations regarding personnel:

**CERTIFICATED STAFF:**

- **Resignation:**
  - Jennifer Houch, Special Education Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective June 24, 2021.

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF:**

- **Termination:**

- **Resignation:**
  - Mindy Featherlin, Program Assistant, MacArthur Early Childhood Center, effective June 25, 2021.
  - Molly Smith, Custodian, Macomb Junior Senior High School, effective July 11, 2021.

- **Change in Assignment:**
  - Alex Roberts, Grounds Supervisor, Macomb Community Unit School District, 8 hours per day, 12 months per year, effective July 1, 2021.

**Employment:**

- Brian Lyles, Program Assistant, Edison Elementary School, up to 29 hours per week, student attendance days, effective August 18, 2021 (replaces Litchfield/transfer).

**CO-CURRICULAR:**

- **Termination:**
  - Don Luper, Girls Basketball Coach (8), Macomb Junior High School, Girls Assistant Basketball Coach, Macomb Senior High School, effective July 7, 2021.

- **Employment:**
  - Cory Belles, Assistant Football Coach (7), Macomb Junior High School, Level 8, effective 2021-2022 school year.
  - Jennifer Clark, New Teacher Mentor, Lincoln Elementary School, effective 2021-2022 school year. (Baxter)
Dalton Deener, Football Coach (8), Macomb Junior High School, Level 7, effective 2021-2022 school year.

Joel Hildenbrand, Division Chair, Macomb Senior High School, Level 1, effective 2021-2022 school year.

John Jarvis, Football Coach (7), Macomb Junior High School, Level 7, effective 2021-2022 school year.

Jackson Kane, Head Girls Basketball Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 1, Girls Basketball Coach (8), Macomb Junior High School, Level 4, effective 2021-2022 school year.

Adele Langworthy, New Teacher Mentor, Lincoln Elementary School, effective 2021-2022 school year. (Baxter)

John Michael Nixa, Boys Golf Coach, Macomb Senior High School, Level 5, 40% stipend, effective 2021-2022 school year.

Cheryn Ramos, New Teacher Mentor, Edison Elementary School, effective 2021-2022 school year. (Litchfield)

Molly Selders, Division Chair, Macomb Senior High School, Level 1, effective 2021-2022 school year.

Susan Sellars, New Teacher Mentor, Edison Elementary School, effective 2021-2022 school year. (Lambert)

Ginger Shryack, Division Chair, Macomb Senior High School, Level 1, effective 2021-2022 school year.

SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT:

- Edison Elementary School Summer School Substitutes:
  - Abby Ruebush
  - Cassie Ward

- Macomb Senior High School Teachers:
  - Logan Brown
  - Emily Young

- Program Assistants:
  - Tammy Schweitzer

SUMMER SCHOOL RESIGNATIONS:

Anthony Westen, Macomb Senior High School, effective June 27, 2021.

Vote was taken on the motion with the following members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member La Prad moved, and member Adams seconded, to approve the Superintendent’s contract. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the updated Tort Levy Risk Management plan. Member Thompson moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve the plan as presented. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member Adams moved, and member Gray seconded, to approve a resolution authorizing the administration to place the tentative 2021-2022 District Budget on file for public inspection beginning August 19, 2021, and establishing Monday, September 20, 2021, as the date for the official public

Member Gray moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve the District Consolidated Plan. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

Member La Prad moved, and member Thompson seconded, to approve a Resolution to Affirm Local Board Control of COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for the 2021-2022 school year. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: Adams. Motion carried.

Member Kapale moved, and member La Prad seconded, to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement with ShieldIL to provide COVID testing services. Dr. Twomey explained it was important to make the decision to allow time to get forms out to families so they would have the chance to opt out. He emphasized authorization to enter into a contract would not force implementation of testing. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

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

Member Adams moved, and member La Prad seconded, to approve recommended rates for certified and non-certified substitutes effective beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

At 9:25 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), 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), pending or imminent litigation, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), and for the biannual review of minutes and audio recordings from closed meetings, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) and 5 ILCS 120/2.06. Members voting “yes”: Kapale, Gray, Adams, Torrance, Thompson, and La Prad. Members voting “no”: none. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 10:35 p.m. At 10:36 p.m., Member Adams moved, and member Kapale seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.