

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR JULY MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION OF MILFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #124  
IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 17th, 2024**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Milford Area Public Schools District #124, Iroquois County, Illinois were held at the District Office on Wednesday, July 17th, 2024. President Mary Ronna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Darren Bakken, Donna Hiltz, Josh Harris, Jeff Mabbitt, Mary Ronna,  
Jodie Havens  
Absent: Justin Lavicka  
Personnel: Supt. John Klaber, Principal Colin Flaherty, Principal Ashley Clemmons,  
and Rec. Secretary Jennifer VanHoveln  
Guests: Christina Duncan, Steven Frerichs, Jessica Frerichs, Greg DeWerff, Adam Clutteur,  
Jen Clutteur, Kylie Wright, Caleb Clutteur, Chase Clutteur, Aiden Bell, Aiden Frerichs,  
Beau Wright, Gage Vogel, Preston Janssen, Wade Clemmons

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Bakken, to approve the consent agenda; minutes of the Special Budget Meeting and the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 19th, 2024, financial report for June 2024, payroll and July vendor bills in the amount of \$787,557.74 and correspondence from Tami Harwood. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE**

Steven Frerichs addressed the Board regarding the boys baseball field and drainage issues. He presented dates of previous home game cancellations due to the water making the field unplayable. Mr. Frerichs presented information and a quote from a company that could eventually prepare the field for more playtime after rain.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS**

High School - Mr. Flaherty said that the summer camps were well attended. He informed the Board that a Coaches Handbook has been implemented but is still in the finalization process. He shared that there is interest in the MHS aide positions that are open. Lastly, he complimented the custodial crew on their work cleaning the school over summer break.

Grade School - Mrs. Clemmons informed the Board that Lisa Homerding is moving from Kindergarten to Jr. High Special Education. She will complete her continued education in or around November of 2024. She explained that there is a lot of movement amongst the grade school this year. Several teachers are moving to different grade levels and there are several new staff members. Mrs. Clemmons has been meeting with the staff individually at the grade school and is appreciative of the feedback from them. Mrs. Clemmons discussed the possibility of a long term sub that could float for the first semester as needed and then pose as the art teacher for the remainder of the school year after Mrs. Fox retires. All agreed to speak more on this subject in closed session.

- 1) Mr. Klaber took a moment to thank all of the board members and the administration for welcoming him aboard Milford Area Public Schools.
- 2) The building and grounds update included a quote for a new water heater that is needed. The quote is for a residential rather than commercial water heater and the quote does not include labor to install. A gravity flush tank has worn out in the grade school, as well. Mr. Klaber explained that the grant that was thought to be complete needs revisited. Mr. Klaber and Mr. Flaherty will gain the necessary information and re-submit the grant for approval.
- 3) Mr. Klaber recently met with the other Superintendents and Nicole Bales from Iroquois Special Education and informed the Board that the budget for this year was approved. Mrs. Homerding hasn't completed her special education schooling yet so Mr. Harms from MHS has agreed to absorb the new students and write the necessary IEP's.
- 4) Mr. Klaber gave a MENTA update which included the specifics of an upcoming open house on August 6th, 2024 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to meet the staff and tour the facility. Some of our students who have attended the Bourbonnais and Circle serving schools could possibly enroll in the MENTA program.
- 5) The topic of the parking lot light shining into a community member's home was briefly discussed. Mr. Clemmons redirected the light so the topic was officially closed.
- 6) Mr. Klaber introduced and demonstrated a new Google Shared Drive that will be used for future BOE packet information. He agreed to also provide physical copies of information for the next few meetings so the Board can adjust to the new drive.
- 7) The District Audit has been completed and Russell Leigh gave lots of praise for our District. Mr. Klaber shared that he would like to invite him to a fall board meeting so he can present his updates in person to the Board.
- 8) The transportation update included the arrival of the two new lease buses as well as a quote for the suburban. Hines Bros. provided a quote of \$3000.00 to fix the rust on the back of the suburban and the Board agreed to proceed with the quote.
- 9) Mr. Klaber informed the Board that Dorothy Hamrick will be taking over the PreK Grant. Mrs. Hamrick requested \$12,000 for the stipend and will lead and teach Mrs. Clemmons and Mrs. Duncan this school year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PRESS POLICY APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Havens, to approve the second reading of PRESS Policy Update Memo Issue 115 as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken, Hiltz  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**PRESS POLICY ADOPTION APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Ronna, to approve the adoption of PRESS Policy Update Memo Issue 115 as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Havens, Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**BOARD INSURANCE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve the FY25 Board Insurance as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VERBATIM RECORDS DISPOSAL APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Bakken, to approve the Disposal of Verbatim records of closed session minutes made prior to January 2023. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**BULLYING POLICY UPDATE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Havens, to approve updates to the District Bullying Policy for the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

Mr. Clemmons went back to the issue that Mr. Frerichs touched on regarding the drainage of the baseball field. He suggested the idea of using a tarp to cover the field when not in use. He agreed to get more information on them as well as a quote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Bakken, to enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the school district pursuant to 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act at 9:09 p.m. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken, Hiltz  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RECONVENE**

A consensus of the Board was reached to leave the Executive Session at 9:48 p.m. per voice vote.

### **MGS TEACHER HIRE**

A motion was made by Ronna, seconded by Harris, to approve the hire of Lyndsey Powers as a certified MGS teacher for the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

### **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CONTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve the contract of Christina Duncan as MGS Assistant Principal for the 2024-2027 school years. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

### **LONG-TERM SUB HIRE**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Bakken, to approve the hire of Kathie Muehling as a long-term sub for the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

### **LONG-TERM SUB HIRE**

A motion was made by Ronna, seconded by Havens, to approve the hire of Jake Harms as a long-term sub for the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Hiltz, Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

### **MGS TEACHER RESIGNATION**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Harris, to accept the resignation of Tami Harwood. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Harris, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens, Bakken, Hiltz  
Absent: Lavicka  
Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

