

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION OF MILFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #124  
IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 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, October 16th, 2024. President Mary Ronna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Darren Bakken, Donna Hiltz, Josh Harris, Justin Lavicka, Jeff Mabbitt, Mary Ronna  
Absent: Jodie Havens (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)  
Personnel: Supt. John Klaber, Principal Colin Flaherty, Principal Ashley Clemmons,  
and Rec. Secretary Jennifer VanHovel  
Guests: Kristi Van Hovel, Alex Van Hovel, Clara Runner, Aubrey Daily, Michael Silver

**TEACHER SHOWCASE**

Kristi Van Hovel, MGS junior high science teacher, was present along with two of her junior high students to talk about their progress on their Nature Journals. She talked about her travels to Maine and the idea of the Nature Journals. She presented a video featuring her students recording tools and gathering data of the sun and cloud formations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Bakken, to approve the consent agenda; minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting of September 18th, 2024 and Regular Board Meeting of September 18th, 2024, financial report for September 2024, payroll and October vendor bills in the amount of \$740,590.90 and correspondences from Jayde Craighead and Joyce Fertig. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE**

Michael Silver represented Russell Leigh and Associates and gave a summary on the FY25 District Audit. He informed the Board of the District's 3.7 score out of 4 and said it was a very good score. He said that the District had strong fund balances, positive operating funds and clean expenditures. It was a very clean audit with no issues or adjustments.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS**

Grade School ~ Mrs. Clemmons shared that "Bolt", the new mascot, has brought great school spirit. She also said that the first quarter behavior incentive event for Kindergarten through eighth grade was a great success. The students enjoyed a BMX assembly in the north parking lot of the school. It turned out to be a great location and it was a great show enjoyed by all age groups.  
Mrs. Clemmons informed the Board that Sarah Teig-Verswijver was offered a full time long term substitute teacher position for the second quarter and a long term substitute Art teaching position for the second semester. More information will be presented next month regarding possible co-op with the MHS art program.

Mrs. Clemmons provided the updated numbers of the special education students at the grade school. She explained that there have been several new students enrolled who either have an IEP or a 504 plan. Currently, there are almost twenty K-5 students in the special ed program. She said she would possibly like to look in the direction of having a K-2 special ed teacher as well as a 3rd-5th special ed teacher. She also highlighted that Mr. Harms from the high school has been very beneficial to the MGS Junior High special education program.

Mrs. Clemmons touched on the topic of adding a junior high aide position. MGS had a previous employee who was a vital part of the junior high and special education program. Mrs. Lauterbach retired but that position was never filled after she left. Mr. Klaber requested that Mrs. Clemmons revisit the topic in December.

Mrs. Clemmons approached the Board about the lack of supervision for students waiting for after school practices. Many students walk to and from Casey's after school to purchase food and drink before games and practices. Students are unsupervised during their wait times before practices and games as well as when they are waiting for the practice bus. Mr. Schwartz has a detailed plan but it's very official and may be too much for the grade school students. Mrs. Clemmons will contact all of the grade school coaches, gather their feedback and revisit the topic at a later date.

High School ~ Mr. Flaherty informed the Board that enrollment was up with seven new students at the high school. He reported that the current number of special education students was approximately sixteen students. The math department is working hard and going towards the direction of traditional math and away from integrated math. There is a possibility of looking into Ureka Math at the highschool level. Mr. Flaherty shared that Mrs. Lehmann delivered two baby boys on Tuesday, October 15th, 2024 and everyone was doing well. The Board expressed to Mr. Flaherty to ask for help if need be while Mrs. Lehmann is out on maternity leave.

The recent Attaboy assembly was a very high energy and very successful event at MHS.

Mr. Flaherty invited the Board members to the next assembly on Friday, October 25th, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. This assembly is for both MGS junior high students as well as MHS students. "Why Character Matters" by Mark Leinweaver is the title of the assembly.

Mr. Flaherty reported that he has five MHS seniors who are requesting to graduate early at semester to transition into the workforce.

The Board received a two page handout with information regarding a possible coop for MHS girls basketball. The handout listed information such as: transportation, projected numbers for host schools, projected numbers for Milford, VVC information and a full game schedule for all four host schools. Two of the four host schools instantly responded that they were interested in the coop agreement. Those two schools were Watseka Unit #9 and Hoopeston District #11. Mr. Flaherty presented the pros and cons for each location including building facilities, location, tournaments, coaching stipends and transportation. After discussion, the Board was in agreement to participate in the HS girls basketball coop, to choose Watseka Unit #9 as the coop school, to pay our coaches a stipend and to absorb our coaches at our cost. Mr. Flaherty explained that this decision would entail a special board meeting very soon with at least four board members to get the letter of approval for a two year contract. He agreed to contact Watseka and have them draw up a contract for the one-item special board meeting.

MAPS #124 - Mr. Klaber -

- 1) The Board appointed Mary Ronna as the District Delegate for voting purposes at the Triple I Conference.
- 2) The Triple I Conference will be held on November 22nd through November 24th, 2024. The MAPS Board members who will be attending include: Mary Ronna, Donna Hiltz, Josh Harris, Darren Bakken and Jodie Havens. Members will stay at the Hyatt Regency with the group dinner on Friday night at 6:45 p.m. at Prime & Provisions Steakhouse. Mr. Klaber asked that the members rsvp if they are interested in the other invitations such

- as Steifel and Veregy with Vic White.
- 3) October is National Principals Month and Mr. Klaber gave thanks and praise to the team of four new MAPS administrators for their leadership during the learning curve of this school year.
  - 4) Mr. Klabler shared that Russell Leigh presented the ISEA FY24 audit at the previous meeting. The ISEA Board is starting to get ready for negotiations for the next year. He shared that MAPS #124 received their "Meets Requirements" determination based on the annual LEA determination review.
  - 5) Mr. Klaber shared a few building and grounds updates ~ the first one included the carpet project at the Sheldon location. The consensus after inspection is to carpet over the existing carpet due to probable asbestos. Mr. Clemmons is waiting on a quote and the cost of the project will be funded by the Wheeler Grant. The original timeline was for installation during December but now is expected in the June or July months. Mr. Klaber also shared a quote of \$3800.00 for the softball shed.
  - 6) Mr. Klaber shared that the state report cards will be made public on October 30th, 2024 and will be posted on our website.
  - 7) Mr. Klaber updated the Board on the current FY25 budget and shared that as of October 1st, 2024, the District is at 25% of the FY passed. 19.0% of the budget has been spent from all nine funds. The District was under budget at the end of September in four operating accounts. 29.6% of revenue from all nine accounts was collected at the end of September.
  - 8) General Information ~
    - a) Mr. Klaber shared that October 9th, 2024 marked his 100th day as Superintendent of Milford Area Public Schools District #124.
    - b) Mr. Klaber informed the Board that the hearing for the McCabe Family Annexation Request will be held on Thursday January 23rd, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Iroquois County Administration Building. He provided the Annexation Detachment Petition in his board packet and will plan on attending and speaking on behalf of MAPS #124 District.
    - c) Mr. Klaber revisited the discussion on possibly creating ad hoc committees and getting committees such as extra curricular and building and grounds put into place. Mrs. Ronna was the first board member to volunteer for a committee.
    - d) Mr. Klaber announced that the next Business Owner's meeting is set for Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. and will be catered by 112 Wine from Hoopston.
    - e) Mr. Klaber touched on the District One Calendar and presented three different options for the Board to consider regarding start dates, moving inline with DACC and possible teacher institute at the end of the school year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **FY25 FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Hiltz, to approve the FY25 Annual Financial Report as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**SNOW REMOVAL SECURE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Harris, to authorize the Superintendent to secure snow removal proposals. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**FY25 ROUND 1 PROJECT GRANT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Ronna, to approve the submittal of the FY25 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**STATEMENT OF COMPLETION APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Bakken, to approve the statement of completion for the Health/Life Safety Survey for Milford High School. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Lavicka, to approve the District DOT/CDL Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and Policy. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**DRUG TESTING COMPANY APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Lavicka, to approve Midwest Truckers to provide all MAPS Bus Driver Drug Testing Screenings. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Lavicka, seconded by Hiltz, 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 9:39 p.m. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Aye: Bakken, Hiltz, Harris, Lavicka, Mabbitt, Ronna, Havens  
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.

**FULL-TIME SUB HIRE**

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve Sarah Teig-Verswijver as a full-time sub for the second quarter of the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**LONG-TERM ART SUB HIRE**

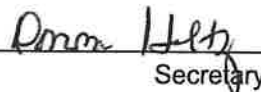
A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Havens, to approve Sarah Teig-Verswijver as a long-term sub for Milford Grade School Art for the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Ronna, seconded by Mabbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. per voice vote.

  
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President

  
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Secretary

