

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF EDUCATION OF MILFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #124
IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 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, September 18th, 2024. President Mary Ronna called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Darren Bakken, Josh Harris, Jeff Mabbitt, Mary Ronna, Jodie Havens
Absent: Donna Hiltz, Justin Lavicka (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)
Personnel: Supt. John Klaber, Principal Colin Flaherty, Principal Ashley Clemmons,
and Rec. Secretary Jennifer VanHoveln
Guests: Lisa Homerding, Brenna Schroeder, Wade Clemmons, Christina Phelan,
Nancy Zeller, TJ Crawford, Jennifer Crawford, Madelyn Crawford,
Abigail Crawford, Dylan Payne (arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

TEACHER SHOWCASE

Mrs. Zeller, who currently teaches third grade and one of her students, Madilyn Crawford, showcased a sample of their US Regions unit. The third graders have been learning math, phonics, social studies and cursive handwriting.

Mrs. Schroeder and Mrs. Homerding gave the Board an update on the mentoring program for the grade school. Mrs. Clemmons put together a much appreciated binder that they said helped greatly with their new positions. They both have been meeting weekly with all of the new teachers in order to answer any and all questions and concerns. They both have observed and also even taught some of the students so it's been a smooth transition so far.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve the consent agenda; minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 14th, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of August 20th, 2024, financial report for August 2024, payroll and September vendor bills in the amount of \$812,435.52 and facility use requests from the Bearcat Boosters and ICE baseball. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

AUDIENCE TO PERSONS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE

None.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Grade School ~ Mrs. Clemmons revisited the subject of hiring a long term floating substitute teacher. She shared that since school has been in session, there has been a need for a substitute teacher almost every day. She also shared that one of our every-day substitute teachers has been offered another long-term sub position elsewhere. The Board agreed to offer her the position of long term substitute starting the second quarter with the stipulation that when she is not substitute teaching, she will shadow Mrs. Fox in art classes. Mrs. Clemmons touched on the topic of art for the following school year. Mrs. Fox has agreed to teach art next school year but only part time. Mrs. Clemmons said she does have candidates who are willing to teach art full time. More conversation on the future for a grade school art position will take place in the second semester of school. Mrs. Clemmons shared that the second grade

STAR results for early literacy were low but she was aware of that prior to the testing. She also shared that RTI groups are up and running and each teacher sees approximately thirty students in a day.

High School ~ Mr. Flaherty discussed summer coaching pay and the money spent on contact and camp days. Head coaches get a certain dollar amount while assistant coaches make considerably less. He found discrepancies amongst coaches and their summer pay, as well. The high school currently has one student wanting to attend KCC for a cosmetology class. DACC does not offer cosmetology or fire fighting. He also informed the board that cosmetology is not a dual credit class. The coaching handbook update was provided in the board packet. Mr. Flaherty said they've added fan behavior expectations along with a code of conduct. Mr. Flaherty discussed the possibility of local advertising sponsorships. The idea is to have local businesses have the opportunity to give back to MAPS athletics and clubs. The businesses would provide advertisements on our televisions and signs and the students could do the work of creating the advertisement. The Board agreed to present this project to Mrs. German's class for further direction. Mr. Flaherty thanked the Board for pushing through the parking lot project. The painted numbers are a huge success. The baseball field tarp was delivered and is high quality merchandise. He expressed that Homecoming and the festivities went very well. There were no complications and the turnout of students was good. Mr. Flaherty got some quotes on shot clocks and he may have Mr. Clemmons and his staff install them to save approximately \$1200.00.

MAPS#124 - Mr. Klaber -

1) The building and grounds update began with Ameren paying for the installation of a new pole to rectify the community member complaint. There will be no additional cost to the District other than electric usage for the light. Mr. Clemmons will look into getting quotes for carpet for MENTA to possibly be installed over Christmas break. Mr. Klaber informed the Board that the School Maintenance Grant opened up on September 16th, 2024 and the grant is due by December. The grant is based on different tier levels. Two possible ideas for the grant money are the grade school roof and goals at the Sheldon facility. If we chose the roofing angle ~ expenses would include \$67,000 for the higher part of the grade school and approximately \$20,000 for the district office which would total approximately \$87,000 for the roofs. The Sheldon facility has accumulated some rotted soffit because of moisture getting under the roof, therefore, rotting the plywood. Ms. Clemmons gave the board a soft quote of \$20,000 but it could be more if other issues arise after opening the roof up. The board agreed to look towards spending the grant money for the grade school and district office roofing. Mr. Clemmons will get a sub quote to fix the parts in Sheldon that need fixed as soon as possible but the other projects will wait for another time. Mr. Klaber shared that to remove the football concession stand would be an expense of \$4,800.00. The Board agreed that this project was not a priority since the building is only used four or five times a year. An idea was brought up to check with the Alumni to help with the funding of upgrading the building.

2) Mr. Klaber gave the Special Ed update and told the Board that they are in a great position compared to several other schools.

3) Mr. Klaber shared that he is still working on getting the old website through SharpSchool taken down. He also shared that he has been uploading new and current photos of both schools and making upgrades to the website. Mr. Klaber informed the Board that the District was awarded the Wheeler Grant worth \$31,000. That grant money has to be spent before August 15th, 2025. The McCabe petition for annexation and detachment to Donovan update included a court date of late January/early February at the Iroquois County Administration building in Watseka. Mr. Klaber shared the tiny house update which included that it has officially been removed from the district's policy and they were given proof of Mr. Schaumburg's coverage. Mr. Klaber discussed the possibility of having student/staff showcases before a few board meetings throughout the school year. He voiced an open invitation to both principals to send names of staff or students for the showcases. Mr. Klaber shared that Russ Leigh will be in attendance at

the October board meeting to present the FY24 audit and that audits are due by the fifteenth of the month. Lastly, Mr. Klaber discovered a contradiction regarding FMLA leave. The Board Policy and the Employee Handbook say two different things ~ one is yearly and one is rolling pertaining to the absences. The Board agreed they should be the same and Mr. Klaber offered to consult with Dr. Lindenmeyer on the topic.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING PRESS POLICY APPROVAL

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Lavicka, to approve the second reading of PRESS Policy Update Memo Issue 116. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

PRESS POLICY ADOPTION APPROVAL

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Lavicka, to approve the adoption of PRESS Policy Update Memo Issue 116. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Harris, to approve the updated Risk Management Plan as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

FY25 BUDGET APPROVAL

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

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

403b PLAN PROVIDER APPROVAL

A motion was made by Ronna, seconded by Bakken, to approve Security Benefit as a 403b Plan Provider. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

UPDATED 403b PLAN DOCUMENT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve the updated 403b Plan Document as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY POLICY APPROVAL

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Bakken, to approve the updated MAPS #124 Attendance and Truancy Policy as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

ACCELERATED PLACEMENT PROGRAM POLICY APPROVAL

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Lavicka, to approve the MAPS #124 Accelerated Placement Program Policy as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

HLSS AMENDMENT 1 APPROVAL

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Ronna, to approve the Amendment 1 Statement of Completion for the Health/Life Safety Survey. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

HLSS AMENDMENT 2 APPROVAL

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Bakken, to approve the Amendment 2 Statement of Completion for Health/Life Safety Survey. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

MEA LETTER OF AGREEMENT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Mabbitt, to approve the Letter of Agreement with MEA to amend the current CBA. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

CONCUSSION POLICY UPDATE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Lavicka, to approve the updated MAPS #124 Concussion Policy as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

CODE OF CONDUCT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Bakken, to approve the Spectator Code of Conduct as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

FCS CLUB/SPONSOR APPROVAL

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Lavicka, to approve an FCS Club with a 2% club sponsor stipend. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

FFA OVERNIGHT TRIP APPROVAL

A motion was made by Harris, seconded by Bakken, to approve the FFA overnight trip as presented. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

MHS HANDBOOK APPROVAL

A motion was made by Havens, seconded by Mabbitt, to waive the first reading and approve the MHS Handbook Updates. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

COMMUNITY FORUM

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Ronna, 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 9:27 p.m. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION RECONVENE

A consensus of the Board was reached to leave the Executive Session at 9:47 p.m. per voice vote.

DISTRICT WEBMASTER HIRE

A motion was made by Mabbitt, seconded by Harris, to approve the hire of Elyse Bulla as District Webmaster. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

FCS CLUB SPONSOR HIRE

A motion was made by Ronna, seconded by Bakken, to approve the hire of Beth Totheroh as FCS Club Sponsor. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Bakken, seconded by Ronna, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. per voice vote.



President



Secretary