

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 15, 2020
7 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session January 15, 2020 in the boardroom of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School. President Jason Morton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Jason Morton, Kevin Duesterhaus, Madeline Buhlig, Jeff Browning, and Alan Taylor. Members Brian Werries and Scott Werries were absent. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, JH Principal Jeff Abell, Carolyn Browning, district bookkeeper, Christine Brant, Shirley Bilyeu.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to approve the consent agenda after a question was answered about a bill. Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 5 yeas – 0 nays.

There were no public Comments.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

- A student has been placed at HOPE School in Springfield. We are transporting her to Jacksonville where she will get on a bus to take her to HOPE School. I have worked out an agreement with Steve Ptacek to transport her. She will get on the bus at Aldi's at 7:40 a.m. and return at 3:15 p.m. This works with our Jacksonville bus schedule.
- We will be starting a learning partnership with ROE#1 to work on our school improvement plan through IL Empower. We will receive \$60,000 this year and \$200,000 next year. The third year \$165,000 and final payment will be \$65,000. At the moment we have not spent any of the money until we get our team together and do needs assessment. We can purchase or hire extra staff, furniture, textbooks and curriculum items, computers. I will have more information as the process continues.
- The new intercom system was installed over Christmas break and the new dishwasher as well. We have to purchase a water softener for the dishwasher because of the lime build up. They installed a 2 inch gas line so we would have enough volume to run any other gas appliances we might purchase down the road. The price for the extra ½ inch was around \$900.
- We have a new Pre-K student that requires a one-to-one aide. Deanna Morath transitioned into that position. She was no longer needed for Gracie Surratt.
- We need to set a date to meet to discuss teacher contract negotiations and set a date to meet with the union.
- Tuesday at John Wood 17 superintendents met with 5 legislator and discussed initiatives – GATA reporting along with other issues.

JH/HS Principal's Report:

- Finals week, December 16-20 went well. We ran a block schedule with four class periods a day Monday – Thursday. Friday the 20th was used as a makeup day for any finals missed due to student absences and a fun day for students.
- Our Student Council hosted a Christmas party for the elementary students on December 20th. The party was held in the small gym. Students and staff did a fantastic job of offering a wide variety of games, activities, treats and gifts.
- We had a staff institute day on January 6th that involved two separate staff meetings and collaboration time. I'm grateful for positive staff and figuring things out.
- Students returned to school on January 7th. We ran a normal bell schedule and held a welcome back assembly for the Jr-Sr. High Students during Advisory.

JH/HS Principal's Report continued:

- Jr/Sr high reports were handed out January 10th. We had an assembly and thanked the kids for doing well.
- We are up to 205 followers on Instagram.
- Went to the Two Rivers Round Table – felt that legislators were truly listening to the concerns presented.
- Upcoming dates: February 4th – Mid Term for the 3rd Quarter

Member Jeff Browning made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss litigation, land acquisition, negotiations, student disciplinary cases, and to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, or dismissal of an employee or officer. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 5 yeas – 0 nays. Member Kevin Duesterhaus made the motion to return from closed session and Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 7:29 p.m.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve 2nd reading of IASB School District policy update. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; and Kevin Duesterhaus, yea. Motion carried 5 yeas – 0 nays.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

President, Jason Morton

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig