

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 11, 2020
7 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session November 11, 2020 in the cafeteria 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, Brian Werries, Madeline Buhlig, Jeff Browning, Scott Gregory and Alan Taylor. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, Jr./Sr. High Principal Jeff Abell (via Zoom), Carolyn Browning, district bookkeeper, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu.

Member Brian Werries made a motion to approve the consent agendas. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 7 yeas – 0 nays.

There were no public comments.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

- Jerry Phillips started back to work November 2nd. It's great to have him back.
- We have 2 elementary teachers out with Covid relates issues. Will explain in the executive session.
- We plan on the elementary school returning to school on November 30th as long as we can return with enough staff.
- The library vent work is still on hold waiting on Second Generation. Jerry and Rob finished putting the ceiling tile back in.
- The tax levy is complete and we do not need to have a hearing. We did not raise our aggregate level above 5%.
- I am suggesting to bond \$1.5 million. This would help build our reserve and use \$200,000 to work on getting asbestos ceiling tile out of the elementary wing and install new lights which we can get an Ameren grant through Green Edison that would actually pass us back a few thousand dollars and keep \$1.3 million in the Education fund for the next two years to cover lack of funding.
- We will be using remote learning days for snow days this year. We will have folders for the students to keep at home when we do have snow days. I look for this to only be done during the pandemic.
- We were able to purchase 15 new Promethean board through Title I 1003A Grant and 3 more through the CARES Act Grant. This should be enough to outfit all the classrooms.
- I plan on meeting with the Grade School teachers and Mr. Abell met with the JH/HS teachers discussing the possibility of going remote after Thanksgiving through the end of the year if cases continue to rise.
- State funding we are looking at a 15% decrease in EBF funding over the next 2 years and a 17% decrease in our CPPRT money next year, a 5% decrease in grants and 2 less payments in transportation. We aren't sure what we will receive for this year.

JH/HS Principal's Report:

- Mr. Abell gave his report via Zoom
- He thanked all of the staff for their willingness to help with whatever was needed. We have had several staff members out for a variety of reasons and with the current sub shortage we have had to cover classes in house.
- Our staff has stepped up big time to enable us to continue face to face instruction.
- On October 29th students dressed up for Halloween, although we did not have our traditional assembly and other activities we did our best to make it a fun day.
- The 1st Quarter grading period ended on October 16th.
- Our IL Empower Team continues to meet weekly
- Mid Term for our 2nd quarter will be November 13th.

JH/HS Principal's Report continued:

- Starting on October 23rd we changed our remote learning pickup/drop off procedures.
- Our new procedure:
 1. Students will show up with their binder and get scanned in.
 2. Students will visit each of their teachers; they will turn in their folder to the teacher. The teacher will check for completion and give the student the folder for the next week.
 3. Once the student has visited all of their teachers; their binder will be full of the following week's work and the feedback from the previous week.
 4. Students will pick up their lunches on their way out.
- Our custodians have continued doing a great job keeping the building clean and safe for our students and staff. We welcomed back Jerry on November 2nd.
- We are up to 245 followers on Instagram.
- We bought new t-shirts for students and staff with grant money to help positive branding of our school.

Member Alan Taylor made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:22 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. Unanimous vote 7-0. Member Kevin Duesterhaus made the motion to return from closed session and Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 8:00 p.m.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to adopt a resolution to certify and file the 2021 Tax Levy. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 7 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Madeline Buhlig made a motion to approve final Press Plus 5 updates. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; and Kevin Duesterhaus, yea. Motion carried 7 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

President, Jason Morton

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig