

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 13, 2021
7 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session January 13, 2021 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, Brian Werries, Madeline Buhlig, and Alan Taylor. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, Jr./Sr. High Principal Jeff Abell, Carolyn Browning, district bookkeeper, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu.

No member was not permitted to attend the meeting by video or audio conference.

The following members were absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever: Members Jeff Browning, Kevin Duesterhaus and Scott Gregory.

At 7:00 o'clock P.M., the President announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing (the "*Hearing*") to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District (the "*Working Cash Fund Bonds*") and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

The President opened the discussion and explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds was in view of the current financial condition of the District.

Whereupon the President asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education – "none".

Written testimony concerning the proposal issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds was read into the record by the Secretary and is attached hereto as *Exhibit I*. "none"

Whereupon the President asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds. Statements were made by the following: "none"

The President then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds.

Member Brian Werries moved and Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion that the Hearing be finally adjourned.

After a full discussion thereof, the President directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion. Upon the roll being called, the following members voted AYE: Jason Morton, Brian Werries, Madeline Buhlig and Alan Taylor. No members voted NAY.

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned.

Other business not pertinent to the conduct of the Hearing was duly transacted at said meeting. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Regular meeting:

Member Brian Werries made a motion to approve the consent agendas. Member Madeline Buhlig seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 4 yeas – 0 nays.

There were no public comments.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

- A summary about MidState Financial was put in the board members packet that confirms our choice to change vendors.
- With our extended day starting January 11th from 2:00-2:38 we have added a RTI component to the students day. They will be receiving Art, IXL/Freckle math RTI, Orton-Gillingham Training phonetic awareness, Character Education, Science, Fire Your Neurons PE geared toward fine and gross motor skills. This will be ever evolving as the year progresses. The 5th and 6th grade will be working on writing and research and then works itself into a Jr. High Academy for the 6th grade. Once again this is a work in progress, but it will greatly help make up for the time we have not been in session.
- If you have been around the side of the building you may have noticed the ice pulled down our canopy and bent the basketball pole. We will be replacing the pole when the weather gets better.
- Covid update we have only one person in quarantine until they get their tests results back. If negative they should return on Monday.
- We are looking into buying a new smaller floor scrubber to use in the rooms. The one we have is larger and getting some age on it.
- We will have a Pre-K student attending Early Years program in Jacksonville starting Jan. 11th. We had to add a midday bus route to Jacksonville. We will be able to pick her up when we pick up ISVI.
- We will discuss retention and non graduating seniors in the executive session.
- I will be meeting with IDEAL Environmental next week to get asbestos abatement in progress. I have contacted Green Edison for the lighting, we will get a reimbursement from them for updating the lighting system, plus the lights will be free.
- We will be receiving another Stimulus from the Federal Government. We are not sure of the amount yet that will depend on how much the state keeps. The amount we are allocated is \$210,500.00 We will wait and see. They have up to a year to dispense the funds.
- We had a lighting issue in the weight room (old stage in the old gym). 1936 wiring adhered to conduit so they put in new switches and now the lights work.
- We are looking into a new auditing firm since our present one costs has raised so much. I am recommending the audit firm Pehlman & Dold P.C. out of Springfield. They do several other surrounding schools and good recommendations. They presented us a 3 year contract and will cost approximately \$9000 per year only raising \$275 each year.

JH/HS Principal's Report:

- Report cards were sent home on January 7th for face to face students and January 8th for remote students. We are continuing to look for ways to improve remote learning.
- We welcomed students back on January 6th and all has gone well. It is great to have students back in the building. We had a few more students return to face to face learning this semester.
- The staff spent January 4th and 5th meeting and preparing for the start of the new semester. I want to thank all of the staff for their cooperation and effort in helping us continue to move in a positive direction.
- The end of the first semester was December 18th.
- Our custodians have continued doing a great job keeping the building clean and safe.
- Our IL-Empower Team continues to meet weekly.
- We are up to 248 followers on Instagram.

Member Alan Taylor made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:30 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 Brian Werries seconded the motion. Unanimous vote 4-0.

Member Brian Werries made the motion to return from closed session and Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 7:55 p.m.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to approve 2nd reading of the IASB School District policy updates 106. Member Brian Werries seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 4 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to approve going with the audit firm Pehlman & Dold P.C. Member Madeline Buhlig seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; and Brian Werries, yea. Motion carried 4 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Madeline Buhlig made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Brian Werries seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

President, Jason Morton

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig