

**Minutes**  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**January 11, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session on January 11, 2023 in the Board Room of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School. President Brian Werries called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Brian Werries, Alan Taylor, Madeline Buhlig, Erica DeWitt, Jeff Browning, Jason Morton and Seth Schmitz. Also present were Principal Kirk Graham, Superintendent Thad Walker, District bookkeeper Shari Kleinlein, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu, HS Ag Teacher Mazi Walker and Elementary Special Ed. Teacher Lilly Schwiderski.

Member Jason Morton made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. By unanimous vote motion carried 7 yeas – 0 nays.

**Reports:**

**Superintendent/Grade School Superintendent's Report given by Mr. Walker:**

Ameren came to the school on January 5<sup>th</sup> to do a look and see what we would need for a power upgrade to add more air conditioning to the building. They will be sending me a report soon.

We have started working on next year's school calendar, we may have something for you by February.

Ms. Walker would like to take a few students to the Women's in Agriculture Conference at Carl Sandburg Junior College in Galesburg, they would need to spend the night, so I have asked her to come and give the board an update on the Ag Program and explain the Women in Agriculture event to you.

We are starting a Math intervention this semester with K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, it is called Rocket Math. This is part of our School Improvement Plan Process and we are going to develop a proficiency test for students in each grade level for things they should know from each grade level. It will cover daily living skills to math facts. This is not state mandated, but we feel that this is something that our students are not getting.

We hosted a Varsity Basketball game Thursday night us against Pleasant Hill, we had a porkchop dinner, 50/50 drawling and half-court shot all in total the Junior and Senior class made around \$1,000.00 for Prom. Prom will be held at K's Creek with the Brass Door catering. If you would like to attend the dinner you are welcome to come. It would be nice to have some of the board attend. The date of the Prom is April 29<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank Jack Lawson and Rob Windell for helping me cook the pork chops. It was nice to see a lot of the staff and students involved in the school activity. Very nice evening.

We are getting everything put together for the E-Sports League. We will be finalizing the equipment needed and get that ordered if you approve to move forward.

The last item I have. I am running for school board for the Winchester School District. I have had several complaints this year from the softball coach to staff speeding through the school zone, cleanliness of the weight-room and the gyms, so I decided instead of being a part of the problem I should be a part of the solution. I see how our board works and how well our staff does on all of these items and there is no comparison to the two schools. We are far above what I see when I use the weight room and attend my kids sporting events. I want to applaud the board for their dedication to the school and having an open mind to listen and understand what we are trying to do here. This is the best place ever to work, it is not a job it's a family.

Our last CPPR check received was \$451,000.00 so that's good.

**JH/HS Principal's Report given by Mr. Graham:**

End of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester and Exams concluded very well. Glad to be back the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Continued focus on School improvement 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Attendance/Absenteeism issues and Student Academic Performance.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip on Friday Jan. 6 to the Lincoln Library in Springfield – also visited the Old State Capitol. Very good day for the students without any issues.

Mr. Walker – mentioned hosting HS boys' basketball on 1/5/23. JH/HS band played at the game – only 7 members there, but did a good job.

There is no school Monday January 16 in observance of MLK day.

January 28 – Tri-County youth basketball @ Meredosia @ 9:00am – 4:00pm.

We will be completing STAR testing the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February.

Future newly planned activities: NHS Induction will be Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> (more information to come) NHS Blood Drive will be March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 6:30pm. JH/HS Students of the month for December – Responsibility trait – JH – Maci Schmitz HS – Emma Sessions. January trait is kindness. STAR testing will be 1/30 – 2/3.

DLT: Continuing to work on School Improvement Plan and Curriculum reviews. Met on 1/9/23 Topics for School Improvement Plan and improving ratings. 5 Essentials Survey – will begin completing with staff this month. Setting up for students (teachers to complete in classrooms) Ways to get more parental involvement in the survey. IAR testing in March. Planning activities for Testing awareness and getting parents to the school for Testing information and to also have another opportunity for parents to complete 5 Essentials survey at the school who may not have access at home. Ways to improve student absences – which really hurts us on our rating.

Ms. Kilver and I are working on a plan to develop an afterschool program at least one day a week for JH/HS students who are not completing homework or failing. Optional homework help: Wednesday's from 3:15 – 4:35. Provide support help and students who have late or missing work from absences. Assistance for understanding content or assignments. Need help with time management or a study place to complete homework. Contact parents on Monday of students who have missing work or demonstrate a lack of understanding for help. Students will be provided a bottle of water and snack. Transportation will be available for students who require a ride home after receiving help.

Begin Summer school and activities planning soon. Elementary program – led by Ms. Howard and credit recovery for Juniors and Seniors.

Member Jason Morton made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:25 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 Seth Schmitz seconded the motion. Member Alan Taylor made the motion to return from closed session and Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 7:38 p.m.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to approve the add-on verbiage regarding the Covid – 19 Paid Administrative Leave Policy Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Alan Taylor, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 7 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Madeline Buhlig made a motion to approve the Overnight Women in Agriculture trip at Carl Sandburg College March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Galesburg, IL. Member Seth Schmitz seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 7 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Jess Browning made a motion to approve the addition of an E-Sports league to IHSA for the 2023-2024 School Year. Member Erica DeWitt seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Brian Werries, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Motion carried 7 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to accept the resignation of Teacher Andy Strelau at the end of the 2022-2023 School year. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 7 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Seth Schmitz made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Member Madeline Buhlig seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Next meeting to be held February 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7pm.

---

President, Brian Werries

---

Secretary, Jason Morton