

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 12, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session September 12, 2018 in the boardroom of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School. President Jason Morton called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Jason Morton, Brian Werries, Jeff Browning, Scott Gregory, and Alan Taylor. Members absent - Kevin Duesterhaus and Madeline Buhlig. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, and Carolyn Browning, secretary, Adam Withee, Susan Hamman, Suzy French, Kristie Luckett, Diane DeWitt, Janet McCloskey, Zanna Walker, Sue Walker, Bruce Schwalb, Joyce Schwalb, Vernon Dunaway, Peggy Dunaway, Dayle Dunaway, Cynthia Anderson, Keith Anderson, Danielle Anderson, Kayla Schwalb, Shane Sloan, Mike Gadberry, Jeannie Battefeld, Tracy Lawson, Patti Schwalb, Mike Schwalb, Justin Norman, Shari Parton, Melika Dunmire, Kayle Pane, Cassie Walker, Andrew Walker, Sandy Dunmire, Courtney Dunmire, Tena Battefeld, Jason Parton, Diana Hubbert, Jessica Weber, Mary Lovelady, Evalee Morell, Jackie Haverfield, Ethan Wade, Corey Dixon, Corey Dixon Sr., Jennifer Blake, James Blake, James Lacy, Danielle, Lacy, Jody Parrish, Jodi Parrish, Bridget Evans, Lori Mueller, Hope Heeman, Jennifer Bennett, Christina Brant, Shirley Bilyeu.

Madeline Buhlig made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Brian Werries seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas – 0 nays.

Public Comments:

President Jason Morton said this was the time for public comments and asked if anyone had any.

- Kayla Schwalb wanted to address the issue of life threats towards children.
- Jody Parrish didn't know why the kid that is making threats did not get suspended especially when he has kids that were suspended for heresay of making threats.
- Jennifer Blake stated her son was suspended for making a threat so why isn't this child being suspended.
- Peggy Dunaway said her daughter was threatened and physically hurt and nothing was done. Kids should feel safe at school.
- Bruce Schwalb thinks this girl needs professional help if she is making threats of hurting kids and herself. An order of protection was taken out to keep child away from their kids. People come to the office with complaints and nothing is done. Would like to know how the school is going to handle this.
- Suzie French said she has family in this school. Once her child made comments about cutting his wrist. Why hasn't this child had a psych evaluation? Thinks we are letting things happen and things are being ignored. People are here at this meeting asking what are we gonna do to address this issue. Someone needs to get this child help and everyone is looking for answers.
- Miranda Barney said her child took off and escaped and got outside. Staff should take kids more seriously.
- Amanda Flynn asked what is going on with the sexual harassment case against a teacher. Students are not confident we are handling this.

President Jason Morton said one statement – as a parent and Board of Education member nothing is further from the truth.

- Sue Walker said we shouldn't have to hear about this on Facebook. It's gonna be slammed in news if we don't do anything about it.
- Joyce Schwalb thinks teachers that knew about this should have told the school board members about this. Asked Member Scott Gregory if he was informed about this from school before he heard from someone else.
- Jody Parrish thinks we need to take this serious.
- Suzie French said she was told every student is in one spot in the morning. Isn't this giving someone prime targets having them in one spot?
- Janet McCloskey said she has grandkids here and daughter here and wants to make sure something is done before something happens.
- Suzie French thinks we should give these students families a written answer about what is going to happen. We owe it to the parents and what answers do we get?

Public comment continued:

- Kristie Lockett asked if we are teaching our students evacuation drills and if not we need to.
- Jody Parrish asked is this child getting to come back to school? I've heard on Facebook kids have gotten 5 days out of school with not really doing anything.

President Jason Morton said if there are no further comments we will move on to reports and introduced Adam Withee our District Auditor.

Reports:

Adam Withee with Zumbahlen, Eyth and Surratt gave his Audit findings. Expenditures were higher but because of money coming in we were still in range. Education fund has higher expenditures and last year was a pretty big jump. Sales Tax is still going into the 60 Fund – Construction and is paying off debt so that's going in the right direction. After another year we will have a lack of debt. Reminder at end of school year if budget is not in line to start looking in May and amend the budget to be in compliance.

Superintendent's Report:

- The construction work is finished. We have a year warranty on all construction that has been done.
- We have another drainage issue in the front of the building. The concrete drainage box has some erosion holes. We are going to look at replacing the screen and replacing the oversized rock to help prevent further damage to the hill side.
- I have been in contact with Casey's about maintaining their grass and landscaping. Their reponse is that they have a guy.
- We have been selected for an IL-Empower Grant that could produce up to \$700,000 over the next four years. The grant will work on our needs for the School Improvement Plan. I have been working with Roxanne Filson is our grant coordinator. I will hopefully have some recommendations for you in October to hire additional personnel that can help with Trauma, testing, RTI implementation, and general classroom behavior issues that can be paid for through the grant. Will have already received \$50,000 and have allocated that for 57 chromebooks and 3 charging carts and \$31,000 for an outside company of our choosing to work with the school district wide Pre-K through 12. There will need to be some changes in the school improvement plan, but that will be an ongoing process with Mrs. Filson.
- The playground has been a huge success. We are looking into a gate that will block off the back entrance and some type of barricade to place in the front of the building.
- We have purchased 2 way radios for every room in the building and or area. We are in the process of reviewing our emergency plans. We have also purchased 2 portable AED devices that travel with the staff if they leave the building to go outside (new law).
- Reminder that school board elections are coming up.
- The IASA trip to Chicago, we have made reservations at DITKA'S restaurant this year.

Principal's Report –JH/HS:

- Renaissance assessment testing began
- Enrollment totals – JH – 37 students/HS – 47 students
- MTV homecoming week – September 24-29
- Daily activities – 9/23 – Parade and bonfire 4 p.m. Meredosia
- 9/26 Homecoming game day 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 9/15 Homecoming game 7 p.m. Half time court announced
- 9/29 Homecoming dance 7-9:30 p.m. at Meredosia
- 41st Meredosia-Chambersburg Volleyball tournament was a success!
- Girls basketball players

Member Scott Gregory made the motion to go into Closed Session at 8:17 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. Roll call was as follows: Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas – 0 nays.

Members came out of executive session at 8:49 p.m.

Member Madeline Buhlig made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried via voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

President, Jason Morton

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig