

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session on February 8, 2023 in the Board Room of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School. Vice President Alan Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Alan Taylor, Madeline Buhlig, Erica DeWitt, Jeff Browning, Jason Morton and Seth Schmitz. Brian Werries was absent. Also present were Principal Kirk Graham, Superintendent Thad Walker, District bookkeeper Shari Kleinlein, Tracy Lawson, Rhea Drake, Ryan Session, Evan Murphy, Tiffany Hill, Bailey Norman, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu.

Member Jason Morton made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Madeline Buhlig seconded the motion. By unanimous vote motion carried 6 yeas – 0 nays.

Reports:

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

I have enclosed in the board packet the list of items that we had weatherized over Christmas break. They give a list of items and the cost. This was a grant through Ameren that we qualified for.

Our Hope school student has had a successful first semester and is doing well. We had an IEP last week. The IEP team felt that mom was on board for her to continue attending and possibly starting some residential possibly starting this summer, on the weekends. We are currently paying gas for them to take her over every day. Last month we spent \$793.00 in gas. I wanted to try this first to make sure she was going to continue to attend. At this time I believe we should purchase a van for the route so we have more control over the situation. It would be a used van like we currently have. They would continue to drive the route.

We had an interview for a special education teacher on Monday at 9:00, her name is Hailey Schultz. She is currently teaching in Calhoun, but has moved to Chapin. She came to spend the day with us last week to see how we operate. She was very impressed with our school and would like to work for us. She would be taking Carol Howards position. We still have two more positions to fill if Mr. Knox retires and our self contained classroom.

I have 1 applicant for the PE position for next year and working on one from Jacksonville school district but nothing is locked down yet.

We are in the process of getting the transformers replaced for the main power supply. I have been working with Ameren to get this completed. This has also put a halt to the solar project due to our power upgrades. The cost of the transformers is free, we are responsible for the wiring and the panels.

The Esports computers have been delivered and are getting set up, to get that up and going.

We had Isaac Miller, the architect, come down and look at the woodshop and the welding area for the roof replacement. I did not realize that the ventilation for the welding area does not vent outside. It is all self contained, so we are going to move that out to the Ag shop so we don't have any issues with fire from the saw dust. This will also expand the woodshop.

We are starting to prepare for the IAR test in March by having HOUSES for the students to work on test prep. We will be having communications going out to the parents weekly to get them also involved in the prep for the children. Our first assembly will be this Friday where the students will be placed in their teams or HOUSES.

The 5ESSENTIALS survey has also been rolled out and we have until March 31st to finish this. It is a survey put out by the state. It is called CHICAGO IMPACT SURVEY. This data goes on our school report card. Every student, staff, and parent can take the survey. Administrators can not. The more responses we have the better our score will be.

New news.....the FFA are talking about having a "Donkey Basketball" fundraiser and possibly a 3 on 3 basketball tournament with other FFA members. We are going to be getting in the next year an increased interest rate on our deposits at the bank. I am working on an athletic survey in order to see if we can get more interest in sports at our school.

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

Guest speaker-Tracy Lawson (Senior class sponsor) and members of the senior class- request for Senior Class trip.
School activities: We have completed STAR testing – Ms. Howard is working on collecting data for our SIP.
Future newly planned activities: NHS Induction will be changed to Thursday, March 16th (more information to come)
NHS Blood Drive will be March 28 from 1:30-6:30pm.
JH/HS Students of the month for January: Kindness Trait-JH Emmitt Shannon and HS-Jase Morton February trait is COOPERATION.
After school Homework Help/Tutoring started on January 25th. Help is offered on Wednesday's. January 25th there were 2 students who participated. Feb. 1st there were 6 students. We are anticipating the trend of more students taking advantage of the help. NHS members will be assisting in tutoring each week.
Yesterday Feb. 7th – we hosted auditions for the Pike County Conference band festival. Over 50 students from other schools were here, and auditions went very well.
District Leadership Team: Continuing to work on School Improvement Plan and Curriculum reviews. Meet on 2/7/23 Update will be given at the Board of education meeting.
Main topics: Mr. Graham gave update on JH SIP – Action Plan for submission to state. STAR testing – Makeups Five Essentials Survey. IAR testing 1. Promoting importance to parents and students. School activities involving students to enhance effort and performance on the tests. Book Fair (Ms. Kilver) – Dates February 27-March 3. Planning activities – Family night (incorporate IAR testing and 5 essentials survey information for parents), other activities to TBA. Feb. 28th will be a family night. Summer camp planning has begun.
Athletics information: Coach baker – Griggsville volleyball coach visited with girls interested in playing HS VB in the fall on Tuesday, January 24. 8-11 girls attended the meeting. Volleyball Co-op agreement has to be renewed this spring.
High School track practice will begin on Monday, Feb. 13th. Coach Lawson visited Griggsville on Thursday Feb. 2nd to meet with students interested. She had 5-6 students at her meeting. March meeting – I will bring information in regards to co-op renewals for 2023-2024.
First reading of amendment to Handbook Policy in regards to Cell Phone lockers for approval.

Member Seth Schmitz made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:28 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 Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Member Seth Schmitz 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 Erica DeWitt made a motion to approve the Senior Class to take their Senior trip to the Mall of America on May 3-7th. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Alan Taylor, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Erica Dewitt, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 6 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Jason Morton made a motion to approve to hire a special education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Member Erica DeWitt seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 6 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Jason Morton made a motion to approve the first reading for the student handbook change regarding cell phones. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Motion carried 6 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Erica DeWitt made a motion to purchase a used van for the special education route. Member Jason Morton seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Seth Schmitz, yea; Erica DeWitt, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Motion carried 6 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Seth Schmitz made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Member Jason Morton seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Next meeting to be held March 8th 2023 at 7pm.

President, Brian Werries

Secretary, Jason Morton