

Minutes
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 9, 2020
7 p.m.

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session December 9, 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 and Scott Gregory. Member Alan Taylor was absent. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, Jr./Sr. High Principal Jeff Abell, Carolyn Browning, district bookkeeper, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to approve the consent agendas. Member Brian Werries 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. Motion carried 6 yeas – 0 nays.

There were no public comments.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report:

- The new fiber optic line has been ran into the building. They had to cut a hole in the concrete to bring the line up. E-rate funding will provide us it free for a year.
- We are getting bids for the shingled roof, more shingles have come off so we are looking at a metal roof. This project will not start until the summer. We are just getting prepared.
- I have contacted Ideal Environmental to work with us in getting our asbestos report online. It will be digitalized and put into the Cloud. They will also be doing our inspections so they will automatically be put into the system. \$3200 one time fee.
- Not looking good for the Evidence Based Funding for next year. We are locked in for this year, but they are talking about a 10 to 15% decrease. This would mean a \$34,000 to \$51,000 loss for us. When you add all this together we could be looking at a \$200,00 deficit just next year.
- We have talked to our bond agent and I would like to bond \$1.5 million to cover our loss of tax money and to start the process of removing the asbestos ceiling tile and replacing the white bus. We need to meet the \$40,000 teacher salary increase as well. I will have more information about this topic when it gets closer to negotiations.
- The mascot issue has come up again and could be put into the law this spring.
- At this time we are looking into staff coming back on Monday, January 4th and students January 5th. If things change we will re-evaluate over Christmas break.

JH/HS Principal's Report:

- We started our revamped remote learning requirements and pickup/drop off procedures on November 30th.
- We have a remote learning schedule and guidelines to go by.
- The end of the semester will be December 18th.
- There will not be semester exams for this semester. This decision was made in October. Some teachers are assigning projects instead.
- Our custodians continue to do a great job keeping the building clean and safe.
- Our IL-Empower Team continues to meet weekly.
- We are up to 245 followers on Instagram.
- Carol Howard our special education teacher has been checking kids in and out and is our remote learning liason.
- Parents have been fantastic! We are all doing our best to move forward and keeping the kids engaged.

Member Brian Werries made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:41 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. Unanimous vote 6-0. Member Scott Gregory made the motion to return from closed session and Member Brian Werries seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 7:57 p.m.

Member Madeline Buhlig made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve 1st reading of the IASB School District policy updates 106. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

President Jason Morton announced that in view of the current financial condition of the District, the Board of Education would consider the adoption of a resolution declaring its intention to issue \$1,500,000 working cash fund bonds pursuant to Article 20 of the School Code and directing that notice of such intention be published. Whereupon President Jason Morton presented and read by title the resolution.

Member Brian Werries made a motion to adopt a resolution declaring the intention to issue \$1,500,000 working cash fund bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention to be published in the manner provided by law. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Brian Werries, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Jason Morton, yea; and Kevin Duesterhaus, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Brian Werries seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

President, Jason Morton

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig