

**Minutes**  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 14, 2021**  
**7 p.m.**

The board of education of the Meredosia-Chambersburg School District met in regular session April 14, 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, Kevin Dueterhaus, Madeline Buhlig, Jeff Browning, Scott Gregory and Alan Taylor. Member Brian Werries was absent. Also present were Superintendent Thad Walker, Jr./Sr. High Principal Jeff Abell, Carolyn Browning, district bookkeeper, Kirk Graham, Christine Brant and Shirley Bilyeu.

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

There were no public comments.

**Reports:**

**Superintendent's Report:**

- Kirk Graham, Athletic Director gave an update on the school athletics. IESA & IHSA will be going up in fees the next several years but then will level out. HS Volleyball – a few concerns with our numbers going down. He plans on sending out a survey to get an idea how many we have interested in the different athletic areas.
- Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Graham for coming and updating the board.
- We met on March 18<sup>th</sup> to start our 10 Year Health/Life/Safety worksheet for the next ten years. We completed all but one project on the list from the last time. The only one that was not completed was a door for the old teachers lounge which is now the nurses room and no action is required.
- We are working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of CARES ACT money. I was informed that we will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of money coming in as well. Some items that we are looking at: new white bus, air conditioning kitchen/cafeteria, summer enrichment programs, salaries to be determined.
- I am recommending individuals for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position and JH/HS Science teaching position to be approved tonight.
- We are looking into getting Rob a side by side for working on the grounds. The total price would be under \$11,000 and that would include a snow blade and roof. The make is a Kubota. We will get a nice discount because we are a government agency.
- Rob is working with Marshall Chevrolet on getting a new white bus. We can use the CARES Act money to pay for this. He should have more information by the May board meeting.
- We have several room changes that we are looking into for the next school year.
- Our conversation we had about growth and expanding our opportunities for students: we have added the co-op class in the high school – Mr. Shupe. We have kept our Spanish in person with Mr. Taylor and are adding welding and hopefully a CNC machine for Mr. Mehaffy and art for the elementary students. My plan is to use this extra money to upgrade the shop with better ventilation and portable workbenches and a new dust collection system.
- We received a 20% increase in CPPRT money. This payment was over \$261,000 – a \$39,000 increase from last years payment and the May payment is predicted to be the same 20% increase.
- I have passed out a consolidated progress report of the elementary classes and a new proposed calendar that the staff voted on for next year.

### JH/HS Principal's Report:

- The media center/library is starting to come together. The shelves, laptops and tables are here and we just received over 1000 books from Bound to Stay Bound. They did an awesome job helping us get some set up in the shelves and carry up boxes.
- Tracy and Sandy will be having a 6 hr training on May 7<sup>th</sup> on the new scanner for the library books.
- We had several students return face to face learning on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We had 13 students return and 3 students remote.
- April 12-16 will be Homecoming week with dress up days all week. The football game will be Friday night at 7 p.m. against Brown County.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup> the freshman and sophomores will be taking the PSAT and juniors will be taking the SAT. The senior class was off campus most of the day for some group pictures and lunch that day.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> will mark the mid-term for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- The IL Empower Team continues to work on next year's School Improvement Plan in Mid-March.
- Our custodians have continued doing a great job keeping the building clean and safe.
- We are up to 249 followers on Instagram.

Member Alan Taylor made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:43 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 Alan Taylor made the motion to return from closed session and Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Board returned from closed session at 8:42 p.m.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to accept letter of resignation at the end of the school year from Alexandria Wilson-Kindergarten teacher. Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Madeline Buhlig made a motion to accept letter of resignation at the end of the school year from Deanna Morath – Paraprofessional Aide. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea and Jason Morton, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Alan Taylor made a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading for early graduation guidelines. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea and Kevin Duesterhaus, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to accept proposed calendar for 2021-2022. Member Alan Taylor seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea and Madeline Buhlig, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to approve 2021-2022 health insurance carrier for school district. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Scott Gregory, yea; Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea and Jeff Browning, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Jeff Browning made a motion to approve hiring of Kaitlyn Brockway as 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for 2021-2022 schol year. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Alan Taylor, yea; Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea and Scott Gregory, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Jeff Browning made a motion to approve hiring of Robin Varner as JH/HS science teacher for 2021-2022 schol year. Member Kevin Duesterhaus seconded the motion. Roll call was as follows: Jason Morton, yea; Kevin Duesterhaus, yea; Madeline Buhlig, yea; Jeff Browning, yea; Scott Gregory, yea and Alan Taylor, yea. Motion carried 6 yeas; 0 nays.

Member Kevin Duesterhaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Jeff Browning seconded the motion. By unanimous vote meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

---

President, Jason Morton

---

Secretary, Madeline Buhlig