

**MACON COUNTY R-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003**

The Macon County R-I Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 27, 2003. Board members present were Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, Toni Riekeberg, Scott Blodgett, David Hamilton, and John Walker. Vern Kincheloe was absent.

President John Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone and noted that no one had signed up for public comment. President Walker then introduced Macon FFA Chapter President Kathryn Theerman, who led the group in the pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by David Hamilton and passed unanimously to amend the consent agenda by adding the following:

Item (G) Variance Report in Budget of Revenues/Expenditures under Consent Agenda.  
Item (F) Approve A+ Program Assurances under New Business.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by Jim Cerva and passed unanimously to approve the amended consent agenda, which consisted of, minutes of previous meeting, attendance report, revenue/expenditure comparison, treasurer's report, monthly bills, and variance report in budget of revenues/expenditures.

Dr. Long reported on the core data report that was submitted to DESE which included two counts, one in September the other in January of this school year. The count showed a September enrollment of 1,274.81 and a January enrollment of 1,263.64, which is a decline of 11.17 students during the school year. Dr. Long commented that the September membership was lower than last year, however the January membership was eighteen students higher. Also, the decline of 11.17 students is the lowest decline during any school year since 1998-1999. Dr. Long feels that in the absence of new economic development, which results in new families moving to Macon, that they will undoubtedly continue to slowly decline in enrollment compared to five or six years ago.

Dr. Long reported that the MSBA Spring Region 3 meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 27, at Mark Twain High School. The program will include a legislative update and awarding of an attendance scholarship. Board members were to let Dr. Long know if they want to be registered.

Dr. Long reported that he had been attending multiple meetings since the past Board meeting. Dr. Long estimates the loss of funding to Macon will be approximately \$86,500 according to the latest numbers released. He said next year's budget is still under debate and encouraged board members to contact their representatives as how these budget cuts on K-12 districts impact our school. Current estimates vary about how funding will be affected, an estimate for next year is a cut of between \$240,000 and \$500,000. Bob Phillips, who is usually very accurate in his predictions thinks the cut will be between \$300,000 to \$320,000. Also factored into both of these figures is the elimination of the summer school count doubling. Dr. Long spoke with Tom Mickes regarding this issue and in his opinion legally he didn't see how the State could undouble this count, but the State is in favor of it because it would eliminate an estimated \$100,000 from their budget.

Dr. Long reported on two pieces of good news. The first of these is that the elimination of the summer school double count will reduce the districts obligation to Edison for next fiscal year, due to a provision in the districts contract with them that allows re-calculation of the districts bill in the event that this occurs. The second piece of good news out of Washington is confirmation of something that Dr. Long has long suspected, and that is that the No Child Left Behind is likely to implode following the 2004 elections. The way the legislation was drafted, there is the likelihood that every school in America would be designated as "failing". In effect, this means that while the district will have to continue the efforts to prepare for implementation, it is not actually likely to occur.

Dr. Long has spoken with two attorneys concerning the Mayer Family Trust. Tom Hutcheson, as associate of Tom Mickes reviewed the paperwork and feels that 1) it was Mr. Mayers' wish to have the scholarship go forward, 2) Mr. Mayers wanted the district, through the scholarship, to be his "fall-back" beneficiary in the even of the death of one of the children, and 3) the current value of the estate is 3.3 million. If the widow spends 5% annually, as she is entitled, and passes away ten years from now, the district would be given over \$400,000. 4) The current buyout of \$12,000 is laughable. Any buyout less than \$100,000 should not be considered. Dr. Long will inform the California attorney accordingly, and will not present any counter offer. Dr. Long feels like the best course of action in the absence of a six-figure offer is to wait until the final settlement of the estate following the passing of Mrs. Mayer, and the attorney agrees.

Dr. Long asked to deviate from the agenda by recognizing students and staff at this time. Ann Wildenhain and Jamie Sandner for receiving Area FFA Degree.

Jon Cook and Richard DeWitt (Macon High School graduates, Class of 2002), have applied for and should be approved for the State FFA Degree.

Richard DeWitt is one of thirteen students in the state competing for State Star in placement.

The Macon FFA Chapter has been awarded a Community Service Grant (\$500) for a second consecutive year to continue work on a permanent pipe fence at the Macon County Park. Kathryn Theerman, president, wrote the grant.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

John Walker, member of the committee assigned to select a commencement speaker for the Class of 2003 reported that Macon graduate Larry Lunsford has accepted the invitation to speak at the graduation ceremony. Dr. Long reported that at this year's ceremonies there would be a deaf interpreter who will sign the ceremony.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Long reported that only two bids for the elementary project were received, one from CTS (\$738,333) and the other from Excellon (\$800,000). Dr. Long recommends accepting the CTS low bid specified at \$738,333 +/-5%. The estimated yearly payment will be \$90,439 for ten years. Upon issuing the signed letter of intent, CTS will arrive on sight and complete the engineering studies, which will result in the final plan. The overall price could be reduced because several of the HVAC units are very much oversized compared to what the district needs. President Walker asked for a motion to

issue a letter of intent to CTS. A motion was made by Allison Rowland and seconded by Scott Blodgett to issue a letter of intent to CTS for the elementary project. President Walker asked for a roll call vote. Those voting yea - Scott Blodgett, Allison Rowland, and John Walker. Those voting nay – Toni Riekeberg, David Hamilton, and Jim Cerva. A phone call was placed due to the tie vote to get Vern Kincheloe's vote. Since he couldn't be reached at the moment, the issue was tabled until later in the meeting.

Dr. Long reported that three bids were received on the Middle School HVAC project. Bids were received as follows: Sparks Construction for \$435,900, Martin Mechanical Corp. for \$535,900, and Maloney Heating and Air for \$595,900. Dr. Long recommends accepting the low bid from Sparks Construction. Dr. Long reported that he and Rob Rollings would be meeting with Sparks on Tuesday to consider any alternatives that might lower the overall price. One method of savings, estimated at \$28,000 would be to have our maintenance staff do some of the painting. The district has already been approved for a \$100,000 grant to be used on this project, however the work must be completed by the next school year. President Walker asked for a motion to move ahead with the project. A motion was made by Scott Blodgett and seconded by Jim Cerva to award the bid on the Middle School HVAC project to Sparks Construction of \$435,900; with immediate change orders for savings to be determined that might lower the overall price. Again President Walker asked for a roll call vote. Those voting yea – Toni Riekeberg, Scott Blodgett, David Hamilton, Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, and John Walker. Those voting nay – none. Motion passed.

Vocational Director Larry Theerman requested the Board's permission to bid the building trade's project for the next school year. This is done to explain the procedure to the public; bidding of the project has gone very well for the last several years. This is an annual process that allows the class to construct a project, usually a single family home, for the bidder who bids the percentage price of the cost of materials. A motion was made by David Hamilton, seconded by Toni Riekeberg and passed unanimously to grant permission to Larry Theerman to bid the building trades project for the 2003-2004 school year.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by Allison Rowland and passed unanimously to regretfully accept the resignation of Larry Theerman, vocational director, effective at the end of this school year.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed unanimously to regretfully accept the resignation of Lois McQuitty, adult/community education coordinator, effective at the end of this school year.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by David Hamilton and passed unanimously to regretfully accept the resignation of Marilyn Hartung, elementary media center, effective at the end of this school year.

President Walker appointed Toni Riekeberg as a delegate and Allison Rowland as alternate for the MSBA Spring meeting.

Dr. Long asked for the board's continued support of the A+ program. A motion was made by Jim Cerva, seconded by Toni Riekeberg and passed unanimously to sustain the A+ schools concept through planning, implementation, and evaluation efforts, including the community partnership and the required assurances.

Toni Riekeberg read thank you notes and cards received since the last meeting.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

President Walker then brought forward the one item that had been tabled earlier in the meeting regarding the tie-vote on the elementary project. Vern Kincheloe still could not be reached by phone. David Hamilton stated that he wished to change his earlier vote of no to yes to allow the project to continue, as he knew that Vern would have voted for the project. Motion passed.

Toni Riekeberg moved that the Macon R-1 Board of Education enter into executive session as provided by Missouri Law, Section 610.021, for the purpose of discussing personnel, specifically employment of certificated and non-certificated personnel. Macon R-1 Board Policy BC, Section 3, states that "The Board reserves the right, as provided by law, to conduct closed meetings, including any records or votes, to the extent that they relate to: actions relating to the hiring, firing, disciplining or promotion of particular district employees." Jim Cerva seconded the motion. Those voting yea – Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, Toni Riekeberg, David Hamilton, Scott Blodgett, and John Walker. Those voting nay- none. Motion passed.

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John Walker, President

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Deborah Baker, Secretary