

**MACON COUNTY R-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION – THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2003**

The Macon County R-I Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, March 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Vern Kincheloe, Toni Riekeberg, Jim Cerva, Allison Rowland, David Hamilton, Scott Blodgett, and John Walker.

President John Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Walker noted no one had signed up for public comment. Walker then asked Toni Riekeberg to lead the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Dr. Long gave an update on recent legislative action regarding school funding and budget cuts. Dr. Long reported that the projection for budget cuts for Macon is between \$200,000 to \$350,000 for next year. However there is a fight going on between the house and senate of how the budget cuts should be handled. Dr. Long will be attending a meeting at the capital on April 9th to meet with legislators. The final numbers are supposed to be to the district by May 9th. Dr. Long reported that there are currently six or seven schools on the financially stressed list. If these budget cuts go through that list might grow to 160 schools, or roughly one-third of the districts in Missouri. If these cuts remain in place Macon could be put on this list.

Dr. Long reported that Commissioner King reported they finalized the rule on the priority school legislation. They will use this April's scores, compared to last April. This is good news for Macon.

Dr. Long reported that the summer school double count is still undecided. The Senate is opposed of having it taken away, so they might block it for another year.

Dr. Long gave an update on the track construction progress. APAC was scheduled to begin work at any time. The electrical work is in place and the drainage system is complete. The trees that needed to be removed have been, and the planting of the replacement trees is complete. The vocational agriculture class will be responsible for the maintenance of the trees. Dr. Long reported that also as of Monday the Macon Booster Club had raised \$59,400 to be donated to the project, which is \$9,400 over what they had committed to give.

Dr. Long reported that Sparks Construction, the contractor for the middle school project, is planning on the vast majority of their construction occurring after the school year ends, with the exception of some electrical work.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Long reported that he had met with the representatives of CTS on the 20th and discussed the final scope of the elementary project and received numbers on the final cost. The project will include the HVAC, electrical upgrades, new windows, drop ceilings and insulation. In addition to those items, they agreed to several changes from the original proposal to lower costs in some areas to allow the district to include items not in the original plans. They have downsized some of the HVAC units that, in the opinion of CTS and the district architect, were oversized. They also changed the manufacturer of the windows. Finally, they adjusted down the lighting requirements to match the DESE guidelines instead of exceeding them. The total cost of the project is \$734,803.

Dr. Long reported that he had met with John Harris of Central Bank about completing the financial package. His bank will be working with Macon-Atlanta State Bank to finance the deal. Dr. Long reported that depending on which way the district chooses to have them split the deal the interest rate and administrative fee will vary. One method has a lower interest rate but a higher fee. The other is a higher interest rate and lower fee. Over the ten-year term the difference is \$2,000 a year for using the simplest method. The exact interest rate will be determined on the day the contract is signed, but is essentially 4-5 percent depending on the financing method. The annual payment will be between \$91,000 and \$95,000 per year approximately.

Dr. Long reported that he had the district's attorney Tom Mickes look over the contract with CTS. Dr. Long stated that Mr. Mickes had worked with CTS and corrected some of the language in the contract to protect the district. Also, Dr. Long reported that the district had the option to add a performance bond to the project at an additional cost of \$11,300. This would protect the district if CTS doesn't fulfill their obligations on the contract. Dr. Long also reported that the district had some other alternatives to the project. One is to add cabling to each room, but he had spoke to Terry Russell and didn't feel like it was needed, because there was already one drop in each classroom. Another option was to add fire alarms for the elementary and middle school project. An estimate for the elementary alarms was \$57,000 to be ADA compliant and \$45,000 for the middle school.

Dr. Long recommended going with schedule #2 of the financing package, which was the 10-year debt service, with a total interest cost projected at \$173,060 and total fees of \$30,000. Dr. Long stated that two motions needed to be made, one for John Walker to sign the CTS contract and another authorizing Dr. Long to deal with the banks on the financing of the project.

A motion was made by Allison Rowland and seconded by Vern Kincheloe to authorize John Walker to sign the contract with CTS to complete the elementary project at a base price of \$734,803, plus the performance bond of \$11,300, for a total cost of \$746,103. Those voting yea – Scott Blodgett, Vern Kincheloe, Allison Rowland, and John Walker. Those voting nay – Toni Riekeberg, David Hamilton, and Jim Cerva. Motion passed.

Toni Riekeberg asked if a grant could be written to try and install the fire alarm system. Dr. Long stated that could be possible.

A motion was made by Vern Kincheloe and seconded by Scott Blodgett to authorize Dr. Long to act as agent on the district's behalf and execute the documents, certificates and instruments as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the intent of the resolution of lessee's governing body to complete the financing package. Those voting yea – Scott Blodgett, Toni Riekeberg, Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, and Vern Kincheloe. Those voting nay – David Hamilton. John Walker abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Principal Motley presented a report and his assessment of the elementary school. Motley reviewed curriculum and instruction, extended learning opportunities, technology, the guided reading program, elementary guidance, services for students at-risk of school failure, school climate, community partnerships, and getting teachers involved in MAP teams.

Principal Nuhn presented his assessment report on the middle school. He reviewed curriculum, staffing, extra-curricular activities, communication, instruction, school climate, programs, counseling, and student achievements.

Julie Bruner presented an overview of the Bridges Program. Bruner said she currently offers twenty classes and talked about what a day at Bridges was like. There are currently eight students in the program. She stated that six students have earned their diploma since the program started, and four are on target to receive their diploma this year. Ms. Bruner reported that she felt that the program was serving a need in the district and that she and her students hoped the board would continue with the program.

A motion was made by David Hamilton, seconded by Toni Riekeberg and passed unanimously to grant permission to the district to apply for the Missouri School-Age Children's Health Services eighth-year continuation grant. The legislature has continued this funding because it is a fact that the only professional health care received by many of the children is the services they receive from the registered nurses at the school.

A motion was made by David Hamilton, seconded by Toni Riekeberg and passed to lease to the Macon Baseball Association the fields known as Tiger Field, Tigerette Field, Elementary Field, and Elementary Playground Field for use in the community-sponsored summer baseball/softball program. The total term rental for all fields is \$1.00 and the lease agreement specifies that school activities take priority regarding the use of the fields until all school-sponsored seasons are ended. The lease will end when fall sports begin. John Walker abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed unanimously to accept the resignation of John Wiggans, high school music teacher, effective at the end of this school year.

A motion was made by Toni Riekeberg, seconded by Jim Cerva and passed unanimously to accept the resignation of Dustin Fanning, current assistant elementary principal and at-risk coordinator, effective at the end of this school year.

Dr. Long recognized the following students and staff:
District FBLA contest participants, winners, and sponsors.
Student Council recipient of Gold Honor Council award.
Macon Area High Schools Ethical Decision-Making Workshop.
Dennis Wright named Northeast Missouri High School Counselor of the Year.
Jan Vansickle named Advocate Counselor of the Year.
Dena Arnold presenter of Show Me Curriculum.

Toni Riekeberg read thank you notes and cards received. Toni also read a letter to Vern Kincheloe thanking him for his service to the board.

Set the next regular scheduled board meeting for Tuesday, April 22, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

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." David Hamilton seconded the motion. Those voting yea – Scott Blodgett, Jim Cerva, David Hamilton, Toni Riekeberg, Allison Rowland, Vern Kinchloe, and John Walker. Those voting nay- none. Motion passed.

John Walker, President

Deborah Baker, Secretary