

**MACON COUNTY R-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR SESSION – THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2003**

The Macon County R-I Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, May 29, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Jim Cerva, Allison Rowland, Scott Blodgett, Eugene Stueve, and Toni Riekeberg.

Prior to the meeting a public hearing was held at 5:45 p.m. regarding the lease/purchase of a school bus. During the lease/purchase hearing Dr. Long stated that in recent years purchases of school buses have been financed by lease/purchase agreements with local banks as provided by Missouri Law (Section 177.088). The interest as well as principal is allowable expenditures in the calculation of transportation state aid.

Danny Orbin and David Hamilton entered the meeting.

President Toni Riekeberg called the regular meeting to order and noted that no one had signed up for public comment. She then asked everyone in the room to stand and join her in the pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by David Hamilton, seconded by Allison Rowland and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda, which consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda.
- B. Minutes of previous meeting.
- C. Attendance report.
- D. Revenue/expenditure comparison.
- E. Treasurer's report.
- F. Monthly bills.
- G. Approve applications for state and federal programs, including Title I, Title II, Title IV, Title VI, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities), ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education), and PAT (Parents as Teachers).
- H. Hiring staff.

Dr. Long then gave an update on the various construction projects. In the elementary building the construction crew has begun the process of removing plywood covering the windows. The actual windows will not be taken all the way out until the replacement windows are on campus. In the middle school they have been offloading the air conditioning units. The contractor has asked to place a scuttle hole in one of the closets to make the rooftop an easier access, which will also be beneficial to the district.

Dr. Long then asked for approval of a change order for the track project. The track needed additional truckloads of rock and also the district had asked them to blacktop more than the initial plans (blacktop out to the road and player walkway), and had negotiated a price of \$16,000 for these items. Dr. Long reported that the project had also went past the timeline as stated in the contract, and as of tomorrow the construction company has \$15,000 in penalties. Dr. Long also noted that the Booster Club had raised an additional \$12,000 for the project.

A motion was made by Allison Rowland, seconded by Eugene Stueve and passed unanimously to approve the change order requested by Dr. Long of \$16,000 for the track construction project.

Dr. Long reported that the air conditioning unit in the vocational school had quit and had contacted Maloney Heating and Air about possible replacement. Maloney's had previously bid and won the prior air conditioning units that were replaced last year. Dr. Long had also contacted SBWE architect Rob Rollings regarding bid specifications and the bidding process and the costs involved. Dr. Long reported that the district could direct-order the air conditioning units separately and be able to stay under the necessary bidding process and proceed with the project. Dr. Long also reported that financially the money could come out of Jeff Robert's maintenance fund, and could be split between this fiscal year and next. Eugene Stueve commented that he liked going with Maloney's because the district will get good service and he's local.

A motion was made by Allison Rowland, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed to go ahead with the project of replacing the vocational air conditioning units and to split the order process up to stay under the bid requirements. Also monies to be allocated from the maintenance fund from this fiscal year and next year's budget. David Hamilton cast the only negative vote.

Dr. Long gave a legislative update and commented that the Macon Chronicle Herald had just published an article that covered the recent legislative happenings. The budget is still out of balance and the governor has called for a special session, which will start on Monday, June 2. The latest figures Dr. Long has heard is that the district could possibly lose \$250,000 next year. If in fact that happens Dr. Long would recommend cutting one-half that amount from the budget, and spending down fund balances the remaining half. Dr. Long reported that the district budget has been figured on 1,500 students, when actually the number of students is closer to 1,300. What this means is as people retire and leave they will look really hard at not replacing and possibly eliminating some positions.

Dr. Long informed the board that the firm that the district had contracted with to have a deaf interpreter at the recent graduation ceremony had been contacted due to the fact that the interpreter did not show up. The firm then contacted the individual they had assigned to the job and found out she was at fault and she took full responsibility. This person sent a letter of apology to the parents and the district.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Larry Theerman, Vocational School Director gave his annual assessment of the Macon Area Vocational-Technical School curriculum, instruction, and student progress. Theerman also reported on the alternative education program, employment security, and

articulation agreements the district has with several schools. Theerman commented that two years ago the district had eliminated the heating and air vocational program, and to possibly look at adding it back in the future. Theerman also reported that the district received \$84,752.00 federal monies for the 2002-2003 school year. For the 2003-2004 year, federal vocational funds have not been assigned. Theerman thought the numbers for next year should be close and that if surrounding schools were looking at cutting staff, that the district might be in a good position to go after these students. Theerman thanked the board and stated that it had been a pleasure working for the district the last eighteen years.

Lois McQuitty could not attend the meeting, but had submitted a report for the board, which had been sent in the board packets. The report highlighted the fiscal year 2003 Adult Basic/Continuing Education Programs.

Dr. Long asked for a motion to approve the summer school application. This year's program will be greatly reduced due to the construction. The application estimates 40 students for high school, 20 students in middle school, and approximately 80 in the elementary. A motion was made by Jim Cerva, seconded by Allison Rowland and passed unanimously to approve the summer school application.

A motion was made by Eugene Stueve, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed unanimously to accept the low interest bid from Bank Midwest of 3.95% for five years on a principal amount of \$58,020 for the purchase of one 2003 model, International, 71-passenger school bus, as approved by the board in the November board meeting. Dr. Long reported that the board might want to consider not purchasing a bus next year as a budget-cutting factor.

Dr. Long asked for the support staff salary schedule to be maintained, which means employees would receive an incremental step for their additional year of service.

A motion was made by Allison Rowland, seconded by Jim Cerva and passed unanimously to approve Dr. Long's request to maintain the support staff salary schedule for the 2003 school year. Level I (part-time) employees would receive 5-cents per hour, Level II & III employees would receive 10-cents per hour, Level IV employees would receive 15-cents per hour, and Level V employees would receive 20-cents per hour.

Dr. Long reported that he had surveyed the staff regarding health insurance and the majority responding had chosen choice "B", however they would prefer choice "A". It was also noted that they would be willing to give up the better insurance in order to maintain non-tenured staff. Choice "B" involves raising the yearly deductible from \$500 to \$1,000, as well as increasing office and prescription co-pay amounts. The cost to the district of this program would be approximately \$75,000. Before making a decision regarding insurance Dr. Long asked the salary committee to report on what they were requesting from the board.

Dean Lewis, representing the salary committee addressed the board. He stated that the committee consisted of Debbie Dawdy, Kevin Campbell, Dawn Bright, and Shawn Logan. They had met six times and were requesting to add one service increment of \$475 to each line on the salary schedule. This would benefit the 49 frozen teachers on the salary schedule. Estimated total cost to add this line for next year would be a little over \$26,000.

Danny Orbin made a motion, seconded by David Hamilton and passed unanimously to table the salary committee's request until the next regular meeting. The board wants to know financial dollars to be cut from budget by the legislature before making a decision.

Dr. Long then asked for his recommendation of Choice "B" be approved for the health insurance program for next year.

A motion was made by Eugene Stueve, seconded by David Hamilton and passed unanimously to approve Dr. Long's request to renew the health insurance program with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, administered by Forrest T. Jones, Inc. and changing the plans yearly deductible from \$500 to \$1,000, as well as increasing office and prescription co-pay amounts.

Dr. Long recognized the following students:

Four track athletes competing at state on Friday and Saturday

Haley Morrissey, high jump  
Joey Reynolds, high jump  
Alex Vandelft, shot-put  
Tony Wavering, discus

Toni Riekeberg read thank you cards the board had received.

Set the next regular scheduled board meeting for Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Allison Rowland 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 – Eugene Stueve, Jim Cerva, Danny Orbin, Allison Rowland, Scott Blodgett, David Hamilton, and Toni Riekeberg. Those voting nay- none. Motion passed.

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Toni Riekeberg, President

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Deborah Baker, Secretary