

**MACON COUNTY R-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION – THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003**

The Macon County R-I Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, August 28, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were David Hamilton, Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, Scott Blodgett, Eugene Stueve, Danny Orbin, and Toni Riekeberg.

President Riekeberg called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She thanked everyone for their hard work in getting the needed improvements made to the campus. Many favorable comments have been heard regarding the air conditioning, new windows, and updated lighting and electrical to the buildings. She reported that a dedication of the new all-weather track is being planned for September 12. She then noted that one patron had signed up for public comments, and called Kelly Lewis to address the board.

Kelly Lewis commended the board on the visible improvements to the school track, the repainted lockers, air conditioning, new windows, and overall improvement of the quality of life for the students and faculty. With the new track, Macon might see faster athletes. Lewis also thanked President Riekeberg for her quick response to his concerns about some artwork that had been removed in the remodeling and of the relocation of the same. He thanked the board for being good stewards and to keep up with the progressive thinking.

President Riekeberg thanked Kelly for his input. Riekeberg then asked everyone to stand and join her in the pledge to the flag.

President Riekeberg reported that she wanted two items pulled out of the consent agenda for discussion, items G and I, and asked if anyone wanted any other items pulled. There being none she then asked for a motion to approve the amended consent agenda.

A motion was made by Jim Cerva, seconded by David Hamilton and passed unanimously to approve the amended consent agenda, with items G and I removed, which consisted of the remaining items of:

- A. Approval of agenda.
- B. Minutes of previous meeting.
- C. Monthly bills.
- D. 2002-2003 Annual Secretary of the Board Report.
- E. Set non-resident tuition for 2003-2004.
- F. Review Comprehensive School Improvement annual assessment report.
- H. Approve application of 4th year pre-school continuation grant.
- J. Consider request by Macon Youth Football Association for use of Hugh Dunn Stadium.
- K. Accept resignation of non-certified staff.
- L. Approve employment of non-certified staff.

Dr. Long reported that there was a change in the A+ Advisory Board. Toni Riekeberg would serve in the place of David Hamilton and asked for a motion to approve the amended board. A motion was made by David Hamilton, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed unanimously to approve the appointment of Toni Riekeberg to the A+ Advisory Board, approve the remaining members as presented, and approve the A+ Program standards as presented..

President Riekeberg asked for clarification on some of the MSBA board policy recommendations on the consent agenda, item I. David Hamilton then asked if the approval could be delayed until next month to give the board more time to review the recommended changes. Danny Orbin also asked about the policy changes that were mentioned at last month's board meeting that was not voted upon. It was the consensus of the board to delay Item I – board policy changes as recommended by MSBA until next month.

Dr. Long reported on the first-day enrollment count at Macon. This year's total first day count was 1,285. This is down 24 students from last year. However, today's count was down to 1,278, which is an overall drop of 30 students. Part of this drop is attributable to the senior class going out had approximately 100 students, and the incoming kindergarten class only has 83 students. Dr. Long reported that the district is down from a high of 1,590 students to the present 1,278, which is a drop of almost 300 students over the past 20-years.

Dr. Long reported that the Missouri School Board's Association (MSBA) Region 3-fall meeting is scheduled for September 18 at Highland Elementary School. Dr. Long asked board members to let him know if they could attend and he would arrange transportation.

Dr. Long reported that the MSBA/MASA 2003 Missouri Conference on Public Education is scheduled for October 24-26 at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. Board members are to check personal calendars and let Dr. Long know if they plan to attend.

Dr. Long then invited the STARR (Select Teachers as Regional Resources) teachers from the district to give board members a presentation about the program. Lois Stueve has begun her training for the program, and will be out of the district in Kirksville next year, if funding is available. She stated she attended several workshops this summer and received fantastic professional development. She stated that she would never look at her students the same. Kathy Nelson addressed the board next; she was a charter STARR teacher. She said the program pumps them up about education and she gained some valuable instructional methods and experiences. Kim Winkler stated that as a STARR member you had to be flexible and ready to go anywhere in the 72 school districts that they serve. She also realized from the program that you can never be a master teacher, there is always more to learn. Teresa Lloyd stated that teachers are never done with what they are doing. She felt that STARR teachers benefit the district when they return. They can see in other districts what works and what hasn't, and be able to change instruction to meet the students needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Long reported that with the resignation of the kindergarten aide, a decision must be made about whether or not to fill this position. By downsizing the kindergarten one classroom, it was felt in the elementary school that this aide position was critical. A cut in federal dollars has made it impossible to fully fund the position. Dr. Long does not recommend filling this position for financial reasons at this time. He stated that if it becomes apparent that the kindergarten does not function properly without the aide, that he would approach the board with a request to add an aide at that time.

A motion was made by Eugene Stueve and seconded by Scott Blodgett to fill the position. No vote was taken. Dave Hamilton stated that he would like a motion to not hire additional aide staff, if this position was important to move another aide in this position. He also stated that the present budget has a deficit of approximately \$500,000 and that he thought they had decided in their June meeting to not rehire when staff either quit or retired and to shuffle people to cover all positions.

Eugene Stueve amended his prior motion to now read to hire someone to fill the aide position, Scott Blodgett again seconded the amended motion. Those voting yea – Allison Rowland, Eugene Stueve, Jim Cerva, and Scott Blodgett. Those voting nay – David Hamilton, Danny Orbin, and Toni Riekeberg. Motion passed 4-3.

Dr. Long requested approval of the final operating budget for the 2003-2004 school year. Dr. Long reported that although the projected deficit is sizeable, in the amount of \$1,287,030.37, it is important to note that decreased state revenues of \$437,690.44, plus the one-time non-recurring expenditures of the Edison Schools, middle school renovation, track project, and the elementary project that total \$777,383.19, accounts for all but \$71,956.74 of the deficit.

A motion was made by Scott Blodgett and seconded by Danny Orbin to approve the final operating budget for the 2003-2004 school year as presented. Those voting yea – Danny Orbin, Eugene Stueve, Allison Rowland, Jim Cerva, Scott Blodgett and Toni Riekeberg. Those voting nay – David Hamilton. Motion passed 6-1.

Dr. Long asked board members their thoughts and concerns regarding the Class Rank choices as presented. Dr. Long recommended choice No.3, beginning with this year's freshman class. He also stated that there are strengths and weaknesses to each of the choices, and there are numerous individual circumstances that lead you to think of a particular choice is fair or unfair. The board asked Principal Tietsort to look into what kind of scheduling conflict might happen if choice No. 3 was approved. They also asked him how many students did not take the vigorous academic class schedule that was vocational students.

A motion was made by Eugene Stueve, seconded by Scott Blodgett and passed unanimously to table the class rank proposals until next months meeting.

Toni Riekeberg read thank you's the board had received.

Dr. Long recognized the following students and staff:

Varsity Cheerleaders for their 1st place in regional MSHSAA Regional Competition at the AAA Large Varsity Division meet.
\$1,000 Wal-Mart grant received by Macon High School.

Set the next regular scheduled board meeting for Tuesday, September 30, 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." David Hamilton seconded the motion. Those voting yea – Danny Orbin, Jim Cerva, David Hamilton, Allison Rowland, Scott Blodgett, Eugene Stueve, and Toni Riekeberg. Those voting nay- none. Motion passed.

Toni Riekeberg, President

Deborah Baker, Secretary