

## **Macon County R-I Board of Education Meeting Minutes Regular Session - August 30, 2010**

The Macon County R-I Board of education met in regular session on Monday, August 30, 2010, at 6:40 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room. Board members present were: Tammy Gibson, Byron Freeman, Toni Riekeberg, Allison Rowland, Jim Rehard, Brent Bernhardt, and Danny Orbin. No one was absent. Administrators present were Superintendent Debbie Livingston, Assistant Superintendent Terry Russell, Principal Dwight Tietsort, Principal Ernest Motley, Principal Dustin Fanning, and CTE Director Pam Wilgus.

President Rowland welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to stand and join her in the pledge to the flag. Rowland reported that no one had signed up for public comment but did recognize Clarke Blodgett who was in attendance as part of a requirement for a Scout badge on which he is working. She then asked if anyone had any items to pull or add to the consent agenda. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Tammy Gibson, seconded by Jim Rehard and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda, which consisted of:

- A. Approval of agenda.
- B. Minutes of previous meetings.
- C. Monthly bills.
- D. Student activities expenditures report.
- E. Utilities comparison report.
- F. 2009-2010 Annual Secretary of the Board Report.
- G. Year-end attendance percentage for 2009-2010.
- H. Set non-resident tuition for 2010-2011.
- I. Approve contract with Advantage Nursing Services, Inc.
- J. Approve revisions to Policies BDDL, IGBA, IKFB, JFCL and Procedures IGBA-API, IGBA-AP3, as recommended by MSBA.
- K. Adopt Procedures IGBA-AP5, IGBA-AP6, as recommended by MSBA.
- L. Readopt Policy BBFA as required by Missouri Ethics Commission.

### **New Business:**

There was a deviation from the normal procedure of the agenda so that a secretary could be appointed for the Board of Education. President Rowland appointed Kristin Myers to that position, and Mrs. Myers assumed her duties immediately.

### **Superintendent's/Administrators' Report to the Board:**

Superintendent Livingston stated that the annual MSBA Region 3 Fall meeting will be held in Novinger on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Board members planning to attend should notify Mrs. Livingston, so she can register them.

September 3 is an in-service staff development day. During the day from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., 75 staff members will be taking part in active shooter training. The morning will consist of presentations.

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A simulation of an active shooter, with staff participation, will take place in the afternoon. Strategos of Jefferson City and local law enforcement will be providing the training. Other staff members not receiving the active shooter training will be focusing on ways to improve test scores.

Mrs. Livingston reported that the career center received three enhancement grants this year-- business education, child development and health occupations. These grants, along with other grants--Missouri preschool, 50/50, child development associate, adult education and literacy, health care careers awareness, and special education improvement—total \$201,345, a far lesser amount than received from grant funding in previous years.

Mrs. Livingston made the Board aware that the MAP results had been released and that each building principal would be presenting additional information related to their respective buildings. She also stated that ACT scores showed that Macon students have an average composite of 21.3; the state average is 21.6 and the national composite, 21.0. She felt confident that gains were being made because of the emphasis being given at the high school level for improving ACT scores.

Mr. Motley shared that the elementary is at the state average on the MAP test in Math but below the conference average. He indicated that during the PD in-service on September 3 his teachers will be forming a plan to raise MAP scores.

Mr. Fanning reported that middle school is below state and conference averages on MAP scores but has a plan with emphasis given to raising scores. Steady progress has been shown in math, and science scores are improving.

Mr. Tietsort said that the high school gave eight end of course (EOC) exams last year with five being given for the first time. Therefore, it is difficult to make a comparison to previous years, as last year's scores are the base for several scores. The high school is above state average in five of the eight areas. He stated that this is one of the things to be addressed at the PD day on Friday. He also reported that the average ACT score went up .7 of a percent from last year. A larger number of students took the test last year than in the previous seven years. The students were at or above the state average in every area except reading, and he attributes this success to a rigorous course of study. The high school has implemented a program giving students an opportunity for an ACT review and allowing them to take practice tests. This year juniors will take the practice test in the fall.

Jim Rehard asked if a program could be put in place for the middle school to interact with other local schools and obtain information on how they raise their scores. Mr. Fanning said that there had been little or no interest for this from other schools at the middle school level.

Mrs. Livingston noted that attendance was down by 20 students for the first day of school this year when compared to the first day last year. Total district enrollment is presently 1,309. In addition, 103 area students are attending the Career and Technical Education Center.

Mrs. Wilgus stated that the career center was off to a smooth start. During their PD time on Friday, they have planned that the first half of the day will focus on technical skills assessments, and the afternoon will be spent working on curriculum. In the near future, she and her staff are hoping to tour other career centers to gather ideas of possible ways for marketing their programs to area students and increasing student enrollment in the career ed classes.

Mr. Fanning reported that the middle school open house had gone well and the first week of school had a smooth beginning.

Mr. Motley is pleased with the beginning of school. The Nuts and Bolts Preschool has a full enrollment of 20 students; the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program has been increased from four days to five days this year; and Tiger Zone had 125 in attendance the first day.

A video was viewed for the MSBA Board Report. It addressed suicide as a main concern in teens and young adults, ages 15-24.

Mrs. Livingston reported that the MASA/MSBA Conference will be held October 21-24 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Board members are registered and lodging reservations completed.

### **Old Business**

Jarod Womack gave an update of the international ag trip to Nova Scotia, taken this past summer. He said that all went well and the students attending had a wonderful educational trip. He stated that they are hoping to have a reception to thank all supporters of the trip and program. He also asked permission to continue with plans for a trip next June to Sydney, Australia for this year's class. The trip will be coordinated with the University of Queensland. Financing for next summer's trip will come from fundraisers and private donations, with parents paying for any remaining expenses. There are between five and eight students interested in the trip. Sydney was chosen because there would be no language barriers. Mr. Womack also shared that he has been communicating with Truman State University about the international ag class being approved for dual-credit.

Jim Rehard made a motion to allow Mr. Womack to continue with planning the international ag trip to Sydney, Australia in association with Queensland University. Brent Bernhardt seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

### **New Business**

Danny Orbin made a motion to set the adjusted tax rate at \$3.3367. Byron Freeman seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Brent Bernhardt made a motion, seconded by Tammy Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the Building and Grounds evaluation report, as prepared and presented by Assistant Superintendent Russell.

The Safety (asbestos) evaluation report was presented by Superintendent Livingston. Byron Freeman made a motion, seconded by Jim Rehard and passed unanimously to approve the Safety evaluation report.

A motion to approve the Professional Development report was made by Tammy Gibson, seconded by Danny Orbin and passed by a unanimous vote.

Building administrators recommended a revision to the student and faculty handbooks, outlining guidelines for outside food being brought in to serve students. Their recommendation is as follows:

*SNACKS/PARTY TREATS (Student Handbook)*

*“The Macon R-I District will follow “packaged food only” guidelines for birthday parties, holiday parties, and other special occasions. All food items brought to school need to be either pre-packaged or prepared professionally by a grocery store or other business that is licensed to prepare food. Homemade items will not be served. Items such as this will need to have a nutrition facts label. This will allow for a higher level of screening regarding food distribution to a growing number of students with food allergies and/or other conditions such as diabetes, etc. In coordination with the Macon R-I Health and Wellness Policy, parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks and beverages for party treats.”*

*SNACKS/PARTY TREATS (Staff Handbook)*

*“In accordance with our snack/party treat guidelines, Macon R-I Staff should refrain from bringing home-baked items to school for students. However, food ingredients that are brought to school and/or purchased by the school and prepared/baked at school under teacher supervision are permissible.”*

Brent Bernhardt made a motion, seconded by Danny Orbin and passed unanimously to approve a revision to the student and faculty handbooks, as recommended by building administrators, outlining guidelines for outside food being brought in to serve students.

Jim Rehard made a motion to table the Student Enrichment Plan proposal. Toni Riekeberg seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

### **Recognition of Students and Staff**

Mrs. Livingston shared that Mac the Tiger will receive a new uniform, made possible with a Good Neighbor grant, compliments of Agent Keith Morrissey with State Farm Insurance.

### **Correspondence**

President Rowland read correspondence from various persons and organizations.

### **September Meeting Date**

President Rowland reminded Board members of a work session scheduled for September 16 from 6-8 p.m. The next monthly meeting was set for Thursday, September 30, at 7 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Central Office Conference Room.

### **Executive Session**

Toni Riekeberg moved that the Macon R-1 Board of Education enter into executive session as provided by Missouri Law, Section 610.021 (3), for the purpose of discussing personnel, specifically employment of certificated and non-certificated personnel. Macon R-1 Board Policy BDC, 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. Tammy Gibson seconded the motion. Those voting yea – Jim Rehard, Byron Freeman, Brent Bernhardt, Tammy Gibson, Danny Orbin, Toni Riekeberg and Allison Rowland. Those voting nay - none. Motion passed.

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Allison Rowland, President

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Kristin Myers, Acting Secretary