

Macon County R-I Board of Education Meeting Minutes Regular Session December 29, 2010

The Macon County R-I Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 29, 2010, at 6 p.m. in Conference Room 115. Board members present were: Tammy Gibson, Byron Freeman, Toni Riekeberg, Allison Rowland, Brent Bernhardt, and Danny Orbin. Jim Rehard was absent. Administration present was: Superintendent Debbie Livingston, Principal Dwight Tietsort, and CTE Director Pam Wilgus.

President Rowland welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to stand and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Rowland asked if anyone had any item to pull or add to the agenda. Mrs. Livingston asked that Nominee for the MSBA Board of Directors be added as Item I under New Business.

Public Comment

Marta Gall addressed the approximately 40 people assembled for the meeting with concerns about staff and school community relations. She reported that an unofficial survey had been passed out to some of the staff. Those that responded to the survey felt that school morale was at an all-time low. She also stated that some staff members feel that they are being left out of the decision-making process and are being unfairly reprimanded for opinions expressed.

Jim Rehard entered the meeting.

Pat Clarke, a community member, spoke out regarding community relations also. She expressed a concern that some teachers in the Middle School feel that the lack of discipline in that building is causing some of the low morale. She voiced some community concerns she had heard about the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent.

A presentation was made by Don Salcedo, the MNEA Uni-Serve Director. In his presentation, issues addressed concerns from the community and the right of staff to speak out to improve the atmosphere of Macon R-I. He reminded the Board members that they were elected from community trust and urged the employees of the school to get organized. He stated "when you improve the organization you improve the environment of the student."

Mrs. Livingston addressed the suggestion of unfair reprimands when a staff member had spoken out in opposition. She asked questions of the assembled staff and community members as to where and how the reprimands had come. Mrs. Livingston stated, "I can't address a problem if I do not know about the problem." She then invited everyone present to come to her and talk to her about any concerns that they might have. She also asked for examples of a reprimand. Don Salcedo offered an example from the Moberly School district but indicated he does not know where the fear from Macon R-I is actually originating.

Several other employees also addressed the Board at this time. Mrs. Wilgus spoke about the communication in her building and how she felt that the quality of that communication was good.

President Rowland clarified the issue stemming from the removal of the former Career Ladder program by the state. She explained the Student Enrichment Plan, a new plan adopted by the Board that would allow teachers to complete activities with emphasis on student contact. The district's match previously used to subsidize the state's portion for Career Ladder is being used to fund the Student Enrichment Plan.

Mrs. Livingston described the different duties of the Assistant Superintendent and the dollar amount that had been saved by the school because of the position.

Byron Freeman spoke out about the lack of community members and staff that approach him personally. He stated that he is available for anyone who wishes to talk about their concerns.

Brent Bernhardt stated that School Board members need to remain focused on the children. He hopes to see the school continue to be a good school and was happy to see the amount of public support at the Board meeting.

Toni Riekeberg commented, "You can't fix the problem if you don't know what it is. The community is our life support." She then thanked everyone for coming.

Mrs. Livingston addressed the concern Mr. Salcedo had voiced in his presentation regarding the i-Pads that were purchased for the administrators. She stated that the i-Pads were not given as Christmas gifts, as had been insinuated. Administrators are on a rotation for technology upgrades just as is the rest of the school. This practice has been in place for approximately 12 years. The i-Pads had been ordered in June but just been given to the administrators so they may use the Christmas break to familiarize themselves with the technology before returning to school in January. The plan is to replace administrators current computer tablets with i-Pads and virtual machines, which would be half the cost resulting in a savings of approximately \$1,500 per administrator.

There was a suggestion for possibly re-establishing the "Welfare Committee" the Board had in place about five years ago to provide staff an opportunity for open communication with the Board without administration present.

Mrs. Rowland invited all guests to stay for the remainder of the meeting and encouraged them to seek correct information when they are uncertain of facts. She also suggested they attend future meetings and become aware of many good things taking place at Macon R-I.

A motion was made by Byron Freeman, seconded by Brent Bernhardt and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. Approval of November 29, 2010; December 7, 2010 minutes.
- B. Approval of monthly bills.
- C. December payroll.
- D. Approval of student activities expenditures report.
- E. Utilities comparison report.

Superintendent's/Administrators' Report to the Board:

The MSBA monthly video report was watched with some of the subjects being the changes to the A+ criteria, food allergies, and the State Budget Crisis.

Mrs. Livingston reported that as of today, December 29, there have been three candidates file for the openings on the Board of Education. Candidates filing are John Walker, Joe Claypoole and Toni Riekeberg.

President Rowland gave an update on the Bucklin Board of Education meeting. She stated as of yet a decision has not been made regarding Bucklin students and the Career Center to be designated as their school of attendance. Mrs. Wilgus, Mrs. Vansickle, President Rowland, and Superintendent Livingston attended a Bucklin Board of Education meeting earlier this month to provide information and answer questions about the Macon Area Career Center. Bucklin superintendent had communicated that he expected a decision to be reached in January.

Mr. Tietsort announced that the Macon tournament will begin on Monday, January 17.

Mrs. Wilgus indicated that the upcoming in-service day in her building will be on topics to help teachers deal with day to day issues.

Mrs. Livingston reported that there were improvements made and routine maintenance performed to the buildings over the Christmas break. Some include painting in 4th and 5th grade hallway; waxing of floors in the elementary gym and cafeteria, floor refinishing in the K-1st grade boys' bathroom, waxing of floors in the high school cafeteria and hallways; a wall prepared in the middle school art room for a whiteboard and projector.

Livingston also shared that there have recently been many technology updates such as additional cameras installed; mobile labs updated; Moodle training offered and continuation of training for teachers who request and register for it. BoardDocs and i-Pad training scheduled for the work session on January 12 will need to be re-scheduled, as the trainer is not available on that date. President Rowland clarified that the i-Pads used by the Board members for BoardDocs will be from a district's mobile lab and will be used by the Board only while on campus.

New Business

The annual Middle School/High School Library Media Services report, prepared by Theresa Lloyd, was presented to the Board for their approval. Toni Riekeberg made a motion, seconded by Danny Orbin and passed unanimously to approve the Middle School/High School Library Media Services report.

The evaluation report for Early Childhood Education Services was presented for approval with one major change from last year. The program is now offered Monday-Friday whereas in the past it had been a Monday-Thursday program. Tammy Gibson made a motion, seconded by Toni Riekeberg and passed unanimously to approve the Early Childhood Services report.

Rose Harris presented the evaluation report for the Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.) Program. She mentioned that she and Twyla Via would be viewing a webinar on January 5, hoping to learn more about the future of P.A.T. Byron Freeman made a motion, seconded by Tammy Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the Parents as Teachers Program report.

The Special Education Services annual report, prepared by Joyce Wilson, was presented. Jim Rehard made a motion, seconded by Byron Freeman and passed unanimously to accept the Special Education Services report.

The Career Center Enhancements program was presented by Mrs. Wilgus. She described the strengths of the program and discussed the recommendations. Toni Riekeberg made a motion, seconded by Danny Orbin and passed unanimously to approve the Career Center Enhancements program evaluation report.

Changes in earning embedded credit were presented by Mr. Tietsort. The changes were due to a loophole that students have been using to receive embedded credit. The new change will only allow students to receive one embedded credit each in math, English and science during their high school career. Jim Rehard made a motion, seconded by Tammy Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the change for earning embedded credit as presented by Mr. Tietsort. The change will become effective with the 2011-2012 school year, and the change will be made in the 2011-2012 Student Handbook.

The monthly finance report was given by Superintendent Livingston. She reported that Macon R-I was very much on budget for the year. To date the school has received 40% of budgeted revenue and expended 38% of budgeted expenditures compared to last year's 40% and 39% respectively. A motion was made by Byron Freeman, seconded by Tammy Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the finance report.

Per a request received, Mrs. Livingston asked the board to consider scheduling a specific day of the month for the Board of Education meetings. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Danny Orbin, seconded by Brent Bernhardt and passed unanimously to approve the nomination of Toni Riekeberg to serve on the Board for the Missouri School Boards Association, representing Region 3.

Recognition of Students and Staff

Mrs. Livingston recognized band, football and basketball members for Clarence Cannon Conference, All-District, All-State and the Centralia All-Tournament Team honors.

Correspondence/Announcements

Rose Harris announced the Martin Luther King Breakfast will be held at the United Methodist Church in Macon on Monday, January 17, beginning at 7 a.m. This year's theme is Dream for Equality.

President Rowland read “Thank You” correspondence from Buffy Tipton.

January Meeting Dates

The Regular Session meeting will be held Monday, January 24, at 6 p.m. A Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be held in Conference Room 115.

Executive Session

Danny Orbin moved that the Macon R-I Board of Education enter into executive session as provided by Missouri Law, Section 610.021 (3), (13) for the purpose of discussing personnel, specifically employment of certificated and non-certificated personnel. Macon R-I 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.”; and Section 610.021 (13) “ Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, except that this exemption shall not apply to the names, positions, salaries and lengths of service of officers and employees of public agencies once they are employed as such, and the names of private sources donating or contributing money to the salary of a chancellor or president at all public colleges and universities in the state of Missouri and the amount of money contributed by the source”. Tammy Gibson seconded the motion. Those voting yea—Jim Rehard, Byron Freeman, Brent Bernhardt, Tammy Gibson, Danny Orbin, Allison Rowland and Toni Riekeberg. Those voting nay—none. Motion passed.

Allison Rowland- President

Kristin Myers, Secretary