

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAROA-FORSYTH BOARD
OF EDUCATION, MAROA, ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF MACON

December 15, 2014

Vice President Rob Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Jill Applebee arrived at 6:10 pm, Rhonda Braden, Russ Corey, Rob Jacobsen, and Kristin Sowa. Cyndi Harris was absent.

Also present was Superintendent Williams, Principals, Scott Adreon, Kris Kahler, Brice Stewart and Athletic Director, Josh Jostes.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Russ Corey to move into closed session at 6:01 p.m. to "conduct a hearing of student disciplinary cases" and to "consider information regarding appointment, employment or dismissal of an employee or officer". All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Jill Applebee to move out of closed session at 7:00 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Vice President Rob Jacobsen reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Jill Applebee, Rhonda Braden, Russ Corey, Rob Jacobsen, and Kristin Sowa. Cyndi Harris was absent.

Also present was Superintendent Williams, Principals, Scott Adreon, Kris Kahler, and Brice Stewart.

Vice President Rob Jacobsen asked if there were any visitors that would like to address the Board.

Public Comments:

- R. Smith stated that everything should be done to protect the teachers. She felt that 80% of the teaching staff was exploring other employment due to the conditions in the District. She stated that we should look at administration cuts including a part-time superintendent, close the middle school all together and eliminate the current high school principal. Also expressed concern with the guidance counselor position and felt it could be eliminated. She felt that all three reductions/eliminations were justified due to the fact those individuals have spouses that are employed in the District.
- K. Lerner presented a statement on behalf of the MFEA. It is included below. We are here today to present a statement from our association regarding the district's financial situation. Each of our members are fully aware both professionally and personally of the dire financial situation that confronts our district. We acknowledge that financial decisions, state funding and drops in property EAV's are the major reasons the district is in its current fiscal state. As teachers, we fully support the education of our students. Nothing has changed. We are still here everyday; staying within our budgets while taking on greater responsibilities with fewer resources. But even more importantly, we are doing what we love and what matters most; giving the students of Maroa-Forsyth a great education. It has been said publicly that the teachers did not technically save the district money by accepting a freeze on salaries and contractual items tied to money, because these items were not budgeted. We find this unfortunate and simply a difference in semantics; not

fact. The fact is, teachers have made significant contributions to alleviate the deficit the district has acquired. Last year during contract negotiations for 2014-2015, our association agreed to assist the school district by accepting a hard freeze on our salaries. This means that no one received any type of raise for this school year; neither a standard of living increase nor recognition for the most recent year of service or recently completed advanced degrees. In addition, we have taken a freeze on all items in our contract that are tied to money including no professional development reimbursement and no continuing education reimbursement; as well as assumed supervision duties without compensation. At the same time, your teachers are spending a greater amount of their own personal monies to purchase curriculum materials and necessities to teach the children of our district. With all of this in mind, we, as the MFEA will continue to work with administration and the community toward a positive future to ensure that our children get the education they deserve.

- S. Letterly read a prepared statement voicing concern over the reduction in nurse employment.
- M. Freytag expressed concern over the loss or reduction of the school nurse at the grade school. Questioned whom those responsibilities would fall to.
- L. Madsen also expressed concern with the loss or reduction of the school nurse at the grade school.
- B. Corley expressed concern over the reduction of extracurricular activities and encouraged the Board to consider fundraising and alternate funding methods to maintain the programs.
- L. Wise questioned the process for filling the Board Vacancy.
- L. Beane encouraged the Board to not enter into any new contracts with the current financial situation the District is in.
- E. Hodel stated that he chose MF for the academic and extracurricular options when his family relocated to the area. Encouraged the District to continue to make it an attractive place to attend through the use of District Vision. Encouraged the Board to look an entire picture and stated that addressing just one aspect of the school process would not be successful in addressing the current situation. Suggested that tweaks be made to the administration, possibly transportation director. Encouraged targeted cuts at the teacher level, possible one at each building, freeze salaries for a couple of years and there would have to be some revenue considerations as well, preferably short term revenue increases.
- R. Corey thanked the visitors for coming and their input.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Jill Applebee to approve the treasurer's report as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Jill Applebee to approve the consent agenda containing Approval of Minutes, Approval of Bills, and Overnight Trip Request as presented. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Kristin Sowa to

conduct the Truth in Taxation Hearing and to approve the attached resolution setting the total levy at \$ 8,267,500.00 as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Russ Corey to approve the tax abatement resolution eliminating the tax burden on local property owners for the new grade school bonds as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Rob Jacobsen to approve the tax abatement resolution eliminating the tax burden on local property owners for a portion of the High School Bonds, abating \$600,000.00 of the \$ 705,800. Collected, as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Superintendent Williams reported on the Finance Advisory Panel. In order to address the situation for the long term, the panel is recommending the Board of Education present an Education Fund Tax Referendum on the April Ballot. The panel is currently identifying and reviewing priorities within the School District. The financial need will determine the rate requested through the referendum process.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Jill Applebee to approve the course handbook as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Superintendent Williams presented possible budget reduction suggestions from the Administration and the Advisory Panel. The Administration and the panel will present recommendations in January.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Jill Applebee to approve the resolution supporting the development of an Enterprise Zone in Macon County as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Jill Applebee to employ Billi Peters as an assistant custodian at the MS as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Jill Applebee to accept the resignation of Jamie McCool as HS VB coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Rob Jacobsen to accept the resignation of Ashlei Amettis as HS & MS cheerleading coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Rob Jacobsen to employ Stephanie Pickett as the HS cheerleading coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Rob Jacobsen to employ Audrey Kupferschmid as the MS cheerleading coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Russ Corey to accept the retirement resignation of Brenda Livingood as a PE teacher as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Kristin Sowa to

approve the maternity leave request of Jamie McCool as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Kristin Sowa to accept the resignation of Jennifer Williams as MS girls' basketball coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kristin Sowa and seconded by Jill Applebee to accept the resignation of John Peters as MS girls' basketball assistant coach as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Jacobsen and seconded by Jill Applebee to accept the resignation of Mike Gentle as School Board Members as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Rob Jacobsen to return to closed session at 8:12 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Jill Applebee to move out of closes session at 8:31 pm. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Russ Corey and seconded by Jill Applebee to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attested

DATED

APPROVED