

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THURSDAY, October 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m., MJHS Library**

The Board of Education met in regular session on **THURSDAY, October 12, 2023**, with the following members present: Mr. Crews, Mr. Gard, Mrs. Hendrix, Mr. Lycan, Mr. Macke, Mr. Maurer, and Mrs. Rayhel were present. Superintendent Ross and administrators Ritchey, Keown, Maxwell, Lake, Sisson, and Bridgewater were also present.

Mr. Macke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

During the public comment, John Cross, of Emmanuel UMC, offered a prayer. Derrick Roberts shared a concern about straw being used at South School on the playground, which he thinks is dangerous in that it can cause illness. He shared that he believes his son became ill due to the straw. Mr. Ross told him to call him on Friday to discuss concerns.

Mr. Lycan offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Crews, to approve the minutes, treasurer's report, and bills from the month of September. On roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; Mr. Lycan, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Administrators, David Xanders, and Mr. Ross shared their board reports. Mr. Keown highlighted that Marshall hosted the LIC Cross Country Meet at the National XC Course at the Gibson Sports Complex in Terre Haute, he also highlighted that the JH Girls Cross Country had qualified for the State XC meet on Saturday. Mr. Ritchey commented on all the positive from Homecoming week. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Ross discussed progress and issues with JH Lunch. The students have more time to eat, but that is leading to discipline issues once they are finished. Mr. Lycan shared that he had a positive experience visiting the South School Library and that Mrs. Scott has shared an invite for all to visit.

The Community Partnership Grant was discussed. Mr. Ross shared ... We are entering year two of this two year competitive grant. The purpose of the Community Partners Grant is to address gaps in opportunity and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on interrupted learning by developing or expanding relationships between schools, community-based organizations, and mental health providers to benefit the well-being of children, parents, and school staff.

In year 1 of the grant, a summer learning program at North and South was started for all interested students, a social emotional curriculum was implemented at North and South, professional development for all staff was provided on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Effectiveness, professional development was provided to Kindergarten and Pre K teachers to improve instruction was provided, the new Title I room at North School was constructed, the walking path at North was installed, swings were installed at South School, and financial assistance was provided to the community Summer Food Program.

In year 2 of the grant, the summer learning program will continue, social emotional learning opportunities will be continued and expanded to include the Junior High and High School, and the shared learning spaces with Lake Land will be improved for both welding and pre-engineering programs available to our high school students and through the Lake Land adult education program.

The Teacher Vacancy and Retention Grant was discussed. Mr. Ross shared ... Marshall Schools is one of two area schools, the other being Villa Grove, that received the 3 year Teacher Vacancy and Retention Grant. These funds will be used to help with a variety of strategies to recruit new staff to Marshall Schools and to retain our current teaching staff. Funds in year 1 will be used to lessen the burden of health insurance premium hikes for teachers, help with tuition costs for teachers working towards certifications in a shortage area or for continued learning, and for increased professional development opportunities for teaching staff. Strategies for years two and three of the grant may vary.

The Board discussed reinstating the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade boys and girls basketball program at North Elementary. The program had been in place consistently up to 2020-21, when it was cancelled due to the CoVid Pandemic. It was restarted in a lesser form in 2021-22, and then was not done in 2022-23 with the start of the community run Marshall Basketball Association league for K-6 boys and girls beginning their first season. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball would now run in January and February after the MBA league that runs October through December with opportunities for continued skill building and intramural play with limited game and tournament play opportunities for those more advanced in their skill development. Mr. Lycan expressed concerns as to whether the program is necessary. Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hendrix, to approve reinstating the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade boys and girls basketball program at North Elementary. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes - Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye. No - Mr. Lycan, aye. The proposal was approved 6-1.

Mr. Ross & Mr. Ritchey discussed a Recommendation to set MHS Graduation Date for Friday, May 24, 7:00 p.m., McNary Gym. Baccalaureate would be Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m., McNary Gym. Last day for seniors would be as follows depending on Emergency Days used: 5/20 – Zero Days Used, 5/21 – 1 Day Used, 5/22 – 2 Day Used, 5/23 – 3 or more Days used. Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Crews to set graduation as recommended. On a voice vote, the date was approved 7-0.

A meeting of the Athletic Committee was set for 4:30, before the November 9 Board Meeting, in the MJHS Library. Committee members are Riley Maurer, Gayle Rayhel, and Jacob Gard.

Mr. Gard offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rayhel, to go into closed session for Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity);

Negotiations 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and Students 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Crews, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; Mr. Lycan, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye. The board went into closed session at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hendrix, to return to open session. All present voted aye. The Board returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Lycan, to approve the FMLA leave request of Lisa Davis for up to 90 additional days. On a voice vote, the date was approved 7-0.

Mrs. Hendrix offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rayhel, to adjourn. All present voted aye. The Board adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education