

BOARD OF EDUCATION, THURSDAY, November 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m., MJHS Library

The Board of Education met in regular session on **THURSDAY, November 9, 2023**, with the following members present: Mr. Crews, Mr. Gard, Mrs. Hendrix, 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, lead by Mrs. Hendrix.

During the public comment, a prayer was offered by Amy Ladd.

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

Administrators, David Xanders, and Mr. Ross shared their board reports. Mr. Keown highlighted Molly Farrell and Maddy Fox both making all-state cross country. Mr. Ritchey highlighted the first of many "signing days" for seniors going into college or the workforce similar to a signing day for an athlete. Mr. Maxwell thanked David Xanders and Dave Maynard for the great work they do. Mrs. Lake highlighted the North School Students of the Month for October. Mr. Ross thanked the JH Staff for their Thanksgiving gift to the Board Members and also highlighted the student artwork displayed in the hallways of MHS.

Illinois School Report Card Data and Summative designations were discussed. Mr. Ross shared ... ISBE has released School Report Card Data and Summative Designations. Each of our 4 designations is Commendable according to the ISBE metrics. Report Card Data, State Testing Data, Summative Designations are all available on illinoisreportcard.com Highlights shared include 3rd Grade and Junior High achievement scores. School Improvement efforts continue with regards to attendance, social emotional learning, and a renewed focus on the core subjects of math and reading.

Athletic Committee meeting items and recommendations were discussed. Mr. Ross shared ... The Athletic Committee, which includes Mrs. Rayhel, Mr. Maurer, and Mr. Gard, met prior to the regular board meeting along with Mr. Ross, Mr. Ritchey, Mr. Keown, Mr. Maxwell, and Mrs. Lake. Also in attendance were coaches, Dolan Whitaker, Ryan Arthur, Mike Farrell, Sarah Morgan, and Heidi Miller. The committee discussed limitations in changing athletic conferences, with the caveat that most conference moves are dictated by football, and the IHSA is working on a proposal for IHSA dictated football divisions that would decrease conference movement. Coach Morgan discussed the possibility of a 5th and 6th Grade Volleyball program. The committee recommends that the practice of 6th grade students participating in MJHS athletics and 7th graders participating on 8th grade teams only when there are low numbers be memorialized in writing as part of the athletic code. This will be brought

to the board to review and approved in December. Low numbers historically have occurred most often in JH Girls Basketball and more recently in XC and track. It is a rare occurrence if ever in JH VB or JH Boys Basketball. Mr. Ross reminded the board that in XC, Baseball, and Softball there is only one team comprised of 7th and 8th graders, and for all other sports the teams are by grade level.

The Tax Levy for the 2024-25 School Year was discussed. Mr. Ross shared... Last year, the EAV rose 11.53%. The prior 5 years, the average increase was 4.95%. I have spoken with the County Assessor, Lisa Richey, and she expects the increase in the EAV of around 8%. We need to ask for more than we think will be allowed, so that we “capture” the maximum allowable amount in our capped funds (Ed, O & M, Transportation, Working Cash, HLS, SpEd, and LeasePurchase.) A Truth in Taxation hearing is required when the Aggregate Levy (all funds except Bonds & Interest) grow more than 5%. We estimated what I thought was high on the EAV last year projecting a 6.5% increase in the levy and held a T in T hearing to be sure that we “captured” the maximum allowable amount from the local tax base. With the 11.53% increase, we did leave money on the table. Money left on the table will eventually effect the Evidence Based Funding formula. Mr. Ross discussed a Tax Levy FAQ, a Recent Revenue Factor Table, the actual Extension Forms from the past year for Clark and Edgar, and a table that shows the estimated extension if the EAV up 8%. Mr. Ross suggested and the board agreed to set the levy based on the EAV being up 9%. A Truth in Taxation Hearing was scheduled for the December Board meeting prior to a vote to approve.

Mr. Ross recommended that the District apply for an ISBE Maintenance Grant in the amount of \$50,000 as the district had done last year. The grant is a matching grant and will be used to continue updates to chain link fencing throughout the district. Mr. Crews offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hendrix authorize Mr. Ross to apply for the ISBE School Maintenance Project Gran. On a voice vote, the authorization of application was approved 6-0.

Mr. Crews offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hendrix, 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 The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Crews, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye. The board went into closed session at 6:35 p.m.

Mrs. Hendrix offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Gard, to return to open session. All present voted aye. The Board returned to open session at 6:53 p.m.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, to approve the maternity leave request of Courtney Davidson. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr.

Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rayhel, to accept the retirement letter of Teresa Wright. On a voice vote the acceptance was approved 6-0 with plans to recognize Mrs. Wright at a future board meeting.

Mr. Crews offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Gard, to approve the hire of Dolan Whitaker as the 5th & 6th Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 School Year. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer, to approve the hire of Jacob Ferris as the 5th & 6th Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 School Year. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Macke offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Crews, to approve Dallas Richardson and Joey ORourke as Volunteer 5th & 6th Boys Basketball Coaches for the 2023-24 School Year. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mr. Crews offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Macke to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Marshall Education Association w/ regards to adjusting the placement of specific Profession Educator Licensed Employees on the Salary Schedule. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Crews, aye; Mrs. Rayhel, aye; Mr. Gard, aye; Mrs. Hendrix, aye; Mr. Maurer, aye; and Mr. Macke, aye.

Mrs. Rayhel offered a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hendrix, to adjourn. All present voted aye. The Board adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

