

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #34
June 24, 2015
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
South Campus Media Center
6:30 P.M.

1. The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Robyn Hays.
 - 1.1 Roll call: Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Hays– Present

Nichols - Absent

Also present – Marica Cullen, Patti Fetter, Rob Horn, Dennis McMillin, Michele Cimarossa, John Downs, Nancy Bitner, Ron Ochu, Debbie Ochu, Millie Burgess, Jacqueline Meyers
2. Closed Session – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Worth to adjourn to closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees, collective bargaining, student discipline and other matters at 6:32 p.m. Yea votes: Handy, Spann, Worth, Alexander, Cole, Hays
3. Returned from Closed Session at 7:42 p.m.
4. President’s Remarks – Hays read a thank you from the Betty Long family and also one from Donna McLeese. See attachment for the remainder of her comments.
5. Consent Agenda – Motion was made by Handy, seconded by Worth to approve the Consent Agenda. Yea votes: Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Alexander, Hays
6. Communications
 - 6.1 Capital Area Career Center Report – Spann reported on the June 18th Board of Control Meeting. North Mac has 28 students in the morning program and 18 in the afternoon program. A total of 789 students attend CACC. CACC is a viable option for students who want hands-on industry training. The Board of Control decided to have four meetings each year rather than three. Hays stated we need options for all students, which includes trades that can be taught at the center. David Spann was elected Secretary of the Board of Control and Marica Cullen will still chair the Executive Council.
 - 6.2 Superintendent’s Report – See Attached. North Mac loses 7% of its Operating Budget when State Aid is prorated; other districts only lose 1/10 of 1% of their Operating Budget under current system. All end of year reports have been filed and submitted.

Mr. Downs reported the Sports Boosters have helped purchase equipment for High School Basketball, High School Volleyball and High School Football. A general discussion was held on the advertisement on the new score clocks which the Sports Boosters will be purchasing for football.

The Frequently Asked Questions document will go live tomorrow on the North Mac web page. All FOIAs are on the website, including a log with summary of contents and answer dates. The posting of all FOIAs documents became too large for the website and exceeds the legal posting requirements. In response to Mr. Spann's question, the Superintendent reported legal fees for FOIA this year are around \$40,000. The district's attorneys have been contacted so frequently due to requests involving potential conflicts with Federal and State employee and student privacy rights. If a request is in question, it is referred to legal. Spann stated majority of schools have been under a microscope, and he hopes next year our number of FOIAs will be down.

- 6.3 Review of the State of the District Report – Due to length of meeting, the entire report was not given. Mr. Horn stated that the number of graduating students has been corrected, and it will be a true number in the future. The dropout number will be actual students who have dropped not ones that are being homeschooled or studying classes online. Also, some of the problem with the numbers were students taking classes that were only a semester rather than the full year. Two students have already completed the Credit Recovery program that was offered by the ROE and have received their diplomas. Our homeless coordinator, Mrs. Hampton does a great job of identifying our homeless. Worth questioned when the Five Essentials will be available. Cullen reported data will appear on the Fall Report Card if enough responses were recorded.
7. Public Comments for Continuing Business Agenda – None
8. Continuing Business
 - 8.1 Liability Insurance Renewal – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Handy to accept the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust FY16 Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance Renewal. A discussion was held regarding the large increase. Yea votes: Spann, Worth, Alexander, Cole, Handy, Hays
 - 8.2 Prevailing Wage Resolution – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Alexander to approve the Prevailing Wage Resolution for FY16. Yea votes: Worth, Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Hays
 - 8.3 Health Life Safety Projects – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Worth to approve the proposal from Evans Masons for \$9,708 to complete the repairs to the brickwork on the east side of the original high school building at the South Campus. Yea votes: Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Hays

Motion was made by Handy, seconded by Worth to approve the proposal

Lewis Electric to replace the Emergency Backup Lighting system for the Intermediate School for \$16,255. Yea votes: Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Alexander, Hays

8.4 Student Handbook 2015-2016 – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Alexander to adopt the 2015-2016 North Mac Student Handbook. Yea votes: Worth, Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Hays

8.5 First Reading of Staff Handbooks

8.6 Release of Bids for Bread, Milk and Fuel – Motion was made by Handy, seconded by Alexander to release and the advertisement for competitive bids for bread, milk and gasoline/fuel. Yea votes: Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Alexander, Hays

8.7 Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Cole to approve the disposal of the old kitchen equipment from the North Mac Elementary School. Yea votes: Handy, Spann, Worth, Alexander, Cole, Hays

8.8 Loan from Working Cash to Transportation – Motion was made by Handy, seconded by Spann to approve a loan from Working Cash to the Transportation Fund of \$50,000 to meet June budgeted expenditures. Yea votes: Worth, Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Hays

8.9 Personnel Recommendations – Motion was made by Cole, seconded by Spann to approve the personnel recommendations from Closed Session. Handy made the statement that after the budget is finalized if funds are available the board will reconsider the raises to the administration and the non-union personnel and give them another 1% in January which would be retroactive to July 1, 2015. Yea votes: Alexander, Cole, Handy, Spann, Worth, Hays

9. Public Comments – Ron Ochu was first to address the board. He stated how textbooks should be the cornerstone of curriculum. He does not feel that textbooks really need to be replaced because things don't change that much. The district spent \$130,000 on textbooks which is only 2% of 15.5 million budget. According to the District Report card our spending has decreased, and he pointed out it decreased more than other districts' spending. He gave each board member a copy of the report. Copy is attached.

Cullen stated that in July of 2012 the district had only \$274,000 in the Education Fund, which forced a reduction in force of 38 employees. The District tried to sell bonds but was unable to proceed. The decline in spending is the same with any district that is dependent upon general state aid. The district had to immediately and drastically reduce spending due to lack of funds.

Jaqueline Meyers was the next to address the board. She stated all she hears about is money. People have been calling her and stating that they feel bullied by the administration and the board. She knows how it feels to work under an

administration that bullies; she worked under Blagojevich who was a bully.

Hays responded we need more positive support and less negative gossip about the District. Spann said we were in financial dire straits in 2012 and Mr. Loy (the auditor) commended the Superintendent and the Board for turning the finances around in one year. Worth asked who are these people who call and received no answer.

A Committee of the Whole meeting was set for Tuesday June 30th at 6 p.m. for Long Range Planning.

Meeting adjourned 9:47 p.m.

President

Secretary