

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #34
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH CAMPUS BOARD ROOM
MINUTES

Date: February 9, 2016

Members present: Handy, Spann, Worth, Hays

Person taking minutes: Marica Cullen

Also present: Marica Cullen, George Richards, Jr., Rick Maguire, Dennis Kendall, Ron Ochu, Randy Smith, Dave Smith, Dave Harmon

Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Chair Handy led a discussion to update members on options presented by First Midstate for the \$3,000,000 Health Life Safety Bond issuance. The five options included 5, 10, 13, 15, and 20-year amortization schedules with varying impact upon the tax levy. The 5-year repayment schedule would double the tax levy in the bond and interest fund. The 10-year option includes an increase of 4 cents on the bond and interest levy. The 13, 15, and 20-year options included no increase to the tax levy, but increased interest costs and lowered district borrowing capacity for any construction projects should state Capital Development Board funds become available.

Handy also provided information for the Committee on the past tax levy rates for the bond and interest fund. North Mac, since 2010, has paid off all of the former Virden District debt (approximately 1 million at consolidation) and has approximately 1.7 million left of the former Girard district debt (approximately 4.7 million at consolidation). The repayment of debt has reduced the tax levy from 72 cents for bond payments to 43 cents for bond payments.

After lengthy discussion, Board members concurred that the best option for maintaining a level tax rate and allowing options for future bonding would be to adopt the 10-year repayment schedule at its regular February Board of Education meeting.

Handy then led the Committee in reviewing feedback from the Town Hall Meeting held February 1, 2016 for high school options. Feedback was varied from the many groups with the common theme of requesting additional information. Cullen reported that the architect had been asked to provide additional funding options and more detailed cost breakdowns to address the high school needs based upon the feedback and Board members' requests. The architect is working to complete those requests.

More discussion, with community member input, included how to provide more information regarding options and building conditions, the possibility of state funding for building and/or renovating, the impact upon taxes with increased borrowing, and the

potential for relief from passage of the CFST in Macoupin County upon property taxes. Additional discussion included ways to inform the public of the on-going options and considerations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.