

**NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #34**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**North Mac High School Media Center**  
**231 West Fortune Street, Virden, IL**  
**6:30 p.m. – November 8, 2023**

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

Present – Alexander, Kirk, Pinkston, Watson, White, Christopher

Absent – Nichols

Also Present – Kyle Hacke, Sarah Raynor, Molly Uhe-Edmonds, Brian Carman, Connie Schroeder, Annie Rhodus, Marsha Dorr, Cathy Howard, Jai Ireland, Dawn McFarland, Andrea Christopher, Keely Perrine, Claire Harvey, Katrina Harvey, Jayme Rose, Angie Fatheree, Matt Buchanan, Courtney Klaus, Denise Pope, Cinthia Gillespie, Brooke Gillespie, Brian Gillespie, Carrie Buchanan, MaKenna Buchanan, Benjamin Lowder, Rod Dowell, Karen Dowell, Logan Runyen, Tiffany Boehler, Marshall Pressler, Jessica Grady, Kate Loveless, Julie Hampton, Clayre Hampton, Amanda Hendricks, Addison Early, Abby Hendricks, Brooke Earley, Katie McQueen, Missy Keirs, Kamrey Brockmeyer, Taylor Keirs, Adrienne Adams, Hayleigh Hamilton, James Hamilton, Jessica Hamilton, Sally Burns, Tamara Sandness, Sara Wiseman, Gail Turner, Chris Hatalla, Audree Lange, Brittnee Lange, Deb Marsaglia, Jessica Gilmore, Jerrod Dowell, Addison Clark, Annette Moralee, Roy Sloan, Stephanie Sloan, Kara Dowell, Shane Dowell, Michelle O’Shea, Ryleigh Lutz, Dena Roller, Chris Raynor, Bryan Lambdin, Dawn Sanson, Morgan Sanson, Piper Dowell, Alex Barnes, TJ Wilson, Taylor Edwards, Janice Cain, Suzanne Maddox, Pat McLean, Tim McLean, Marshall Pressler, Aprille Kuhar

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Christopher

3. Public Comment

Keely Perrine – Read a letter from Marlee Kirby, former volleyball coach for the district. Letter informed board that coaching is hard and not every parent/player will be happy. Kirby asked the board to let coaches’ coach.

Carrie Buchanan – spoke as the High School JV Volleyball coach and teacher in the district. Buchanan spoke regarding Dowell’s work ethic and commitment to the team.

Benjamin Lowder – spoke as a parent of a volleyball player. Lowder indicated that his daughter has been disciplined/corrected by Dowell and benefited her by making her a better player. Lowder asked that the board follow their own policy regarding chain of command.

Christy Lowder – spoke as a parent of a volleyball player. Lowder indicated that a board members conduct regarding this issue had been inappropriate.

Ryleigh Lutz – spoke as a volleyball player and was supported by her mother Michelle O’Shea. Lutz spoke regarding her experience with Dowell as a coach.

Izabella Watson – spoke as a volleyball player. Watson relayed her experience as a High School Volleyball player for Dowell.

Rod Dowell – spoke as a community member. Dowell thanked the board for the responsibility they take on as board members. Dowell encouraged board to follow their own policies regarding chain of command.

Sara Wiseman – spoke as a parent of a volleyball player. Wiseman asked that the board ensure they are holding all coaches to the same standard and measurement of success. Connie Schroeder – spoke as employee and union co-president. Schroeder addressed the statements sent to Dowell as issues for her running of the volleyball program. Schroeder asked that the board allow the Athletic Director to do their job in assessing the coach and program and also ensure they are following their own policies. Shane Dowell – spoke as a parent and spouse of Kara Dowell. Dowell gave detailed information regarding complaints sent to Kara Dowell by the board. Kara Dowell – spoke regarding her volleyball program and addressed the issues given to her by the board.

4. \*Closed Session

Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Kirk to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee or officer of the public body, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Yea Votes: White, Alexander, Kirk, Pinkston, Watson, Christopher

Motion was made by Pinkston, seconded by Alexander to return to open session at 8:54 pm. Yea Votes: Kirk, Alexander, Pinkston, Watson, White, Christopher.

5. \*Dismissal of Coach from Extra-Curricular Position – No action will be taken.

President Christopher apologized to the community, players, and Coach Dowell and her family. Christopher stated that he had been too emotional and did not use logic when requesting Dowell's removal. Christopher asked the volleyball players to rally around Coach Dowell and support her. Christopher reaffirmed the board's support is Brian Carman as Athletic Director and will let him do his job. Christopher asked the community to please follow the chain of command with complaints.

6. \*Motion was made by Kirk, seconded by Alexander to Adjourn at 8:59 pm. Yea Votes: Pinkston, Alexander, Kirk, Watson, White, Christopher

**\*Denotes Actionable Items**