

MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bozymowski at 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Bozymowski, Genest, Farley, Hubler, White

Administrators Present: Alberti, Bodiya, Mullen, Pritchett, Riley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. The Agenda was accepted as presented. Moved by Genest, supported by Farley. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent DeVault welcomed the Board, staff and guests to the Keith Bovenschen School and introduced Bovenschen Acting Principal Cathy Sulkowski and Associate Special Education Director Steve Berg.

OPEN MEETINGS
COMPLIANCE

President Bozymowski asked any patrons wishing to be heard to fill out a form for that purpose and submit it to Mr. Hubler. Time would be allowed under Section II, A.

INTERESTING
THINGS ABOUT
STUDENTS AND STAFF

Superintendent DeVault reported that a PAC event was hosted Sunday evening, November 22, for MISD special education students at Toys R Us in Madison Heights. They had some great crafts, snacks, toys to play with, gifts and so much fun. Joy, one of the students, was thrilled to win an Elsa singing doll from the movie Frozen, and she got her picture taken with Geoffrey and lots of hugs from him. All of the store staff on hand were helpful and understanding of the kids. The PAC would like this outing to become an annual event. It was a great experience and brought so much happiness to the students.

The Bozymowski Center is creating a school store that the students in the Retail classroom will be running. To get the store up and running, the class is selling Bozymowski Bears spirit wear which will be tied to the school wide positive behavior support program. All proceeds will go to the operations of the store.

Students at Bozymowski were hard at work creating beautiful gifts to sell at the annual Bozymowski Santa Shop that took place November 18-20 in the Bozymowski Library. Many students and staff purchased holiday gifts for their love ones.

Bozymowski is first voluntary staff evening training was a success. They had 16 staff members attend the After School Special on structuring your classroom to meet the needs of students with Autism. The session was in the evening, and dedicated staff attended the event.

This year, the Bozymowski administrative team is focusing on school and program culture. They had their first month of staff awards related to the FISH theme for the year “Catch the Energy – Release the Positive.” The FISH theme focuses on four core values of Play, Make their Day, Be Present, and Choose Your Attitude.

The October winners were:

Don't Worry Be Happy Award (Singing Billy Bass Fish Plaque)- Kathy - Slater, Rodgers Elementary Paraprofessional.

- Play Ball Award (Baseball Helmet) - Angela Swoszowski, Bozymowski - Center Teacher for Custodial Maintenance.
- Give a Hand Award (Hand Mug with Flowers) - Nicole Steele, Wilde - Elementary Paraprofessional.
- Go Ahead Make My Day Award (a framed photo of Clint Eastwood) - Karen Mantyla, Bozymowski Paraprofessional

Lutz School for Work Experience held the traditional Lutz Student-Staff Hockey game this morning on November 24. The students were determined they would beat the staff. Students and staff had a great game. Mrs. Genest mentioned Superintendent DeVault participated in the game and was a goalie. The students were very enthusiastic and also enjoyed the music and the hula-hoops.

The Special Treasures store is preparing for the holiday season. Under the leadership of teacher Adrienne Ballor, the students from Lutz operate this store. There is a great deal of new items made by Macomb County students in the store.

Thanks for all who attended and/or donated to the MIPP fundraiser held by the Vermeersch family, in honor of MIPP-ESC on November 7. This annual fundraiser held by the Vermeersch family (27 years now) was able to raise a record amount (\$4,100) directly donated to MIPP-ESC. We anticipate purchasing much needed equipment that future MIPP students will be able to enjoy for many years to come.

MIPP holiday event, for three year old special education students, will be from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the following sites: We expect hundreds of parents and grandparents.

December 16th - MIPP ESC at ESC
December 21st - MIPP Millar and Romeo at ESC
December 21st - MIPP Home at Millar

MISD Technician Denise Jobe reports that the MISD Distance Learning program is off to a good start this school year. Among the program's October events were ASK programs including a new book, "I Can Do It" with author Dana Lehman, who interacted through videoconferencing with five teachers and 125 students from 2nd and 3rd grades. The book's focus is on overcoming insecurities and developing confidence.

Denise also reports that a perennial favorite ASK program, "A Polar Bear's Journey" conducted by a specialist from the Buffalo Zoo, was provided by MISD to the first three 3rd grade teachers and 80 students of the season. This book is aligned with the mammals unit of 3rd grade science.

Video Technician Brian Boudreau reports that the new MISD videoconferencing system, approved by the Board last school year, is now in full production use and is yielding substantially improved ease-of-use results for teachers in our local districts. The new system includes the ability to participate in a video conference, such as our ASK programs, from any computer with a camera and microphone, greatly reducing the need for teachers to acquire and operate traditional, specialized videoconferencing equipment. Brian reports the new capability is getting rave reviews from our participants, as we had hoped.

Instructional Technology Consultants Jan Harding and Jennifer Parker-Moore report that the 21Things4students and 21Things4teachers projects recently received the Interactive Success for Technology in Education (ISTE) Seal of Alignment at the ISTE Meeting. This prestigious honor has only been achieved by 17 projects and MISD is the proud holder of 2 of the 17 Seals.

MISD's Macomb2020 project, a joint project between MISD Technology Services, Consultant Services, and Special Education, was a featured presenter at the recent MASB Meeting. Staff genuinely appreciated the presence of several MISD Board members and the encouragement they received from them. The presentation was well received and generated many inquiries from attendees relating to replication in other regions.

The entire Instructional Technology Department was involved in developing and executing the Michigan Digital Learning Conference at the MISD ESC Building in mid-October. Over 400 educators attended during the two day event, with a stellar set of presentations and workshops focused on technology infused education available to the participants. The survey results indicate that the conference was very well received. Special thanks go to consultants Jennifer Parker-Moore, Sue Hardin, and Jan Harding for spearheading this statewide event in conjunction with our partners at REMC and MACUL.

On November 10, over 175 people attended the Life Long Learning Institute. The topic of the day was Seniors Standing Strong led by Carol Lemieux. She led the group in chair exercises.

Superintendent DeVault also reported that today hundreds of Macomb students were named to the National Honor Society.

Mrs. Sulkowski and Mr. Berg provided an overview of Bovenschen School for students. Currently, there are 308 students with special needs, including five classrooms of students with moderate impairments; nine classrooms of students with severe cognitive impairments and 13 classrooms have severe multiple impairments. Many students move in to the catchment area and an equal amount move out each year. Students that are three years old and have high needs, are referred to Bovenschen from the Macomb Infant Preschool Program, as well as from the local districts. There will be 19 completer students this year. Most of those students began at Bovenschen, and the students that can will transfer to Lutz School for post-secondary transition experiences. There are 31 buses that transport students daily into the school. Many of these buses are used for community based instruction to various businesses in the neighboring areas. The building was built in 1959, and through the years we have seen a dramatic increase in medically fragile students entering the program.

Superintendent DeVault mentioned that we may schedule a special board meeting in December.

STUDENT RECOGNITION PRESENTATION

Beth Alberti, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, reported that Michigan Representative Anthony Forlini introduced House Bill 4542, Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program ACT, which passed, and will support individuals with disabilities. The bill will help families who have individuals with disabilities to achieve a better life by establishing a tax exempt savings account, "ABEL." The bill is modeled after a national law in 2014, which provides savings accounts for individuals with disabilities to be used for; education, transportation, housing, management of legal fees and other supports. It will not affect the students' Social Security Income, Medicaid, or any other benefits they may receive. The maximum money that can be placed in such an ABLE account is \$500,000. Michigan is now one of the highest in the country in terms of support for students with disabilities.

Ms. Alberti introduced Mr. & Mrs. Castro and their son Scott, who attended the bill signing event at Governor Snyder's Office. Mr. & Mrs. Castro mentioned it was a very important event and they were able to have a tour of the Capitol. They expressed their gratitude for Representative Forlini's support, as well as the MISD. Ms. Alberti

presented Scott with a commemorative picture frame from the signing event.

Superintendent DeVault noted that the MISD team provided tremendous support on the bill. President Bozymowski thanked Scott and Mr. & Mrs. Castro, on behalf of the Board of Education, for attending the Board meeting and for their commitment and support in the process; and stated the Board of Education is very proud of Scott.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
UPDATE
PRESENTATION

Beth Alberti, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, provided an overview of Special Education for Students with Disabilities in Macomb County and included data and illustrations. The MISD supports local districts in fulfilling state and federal requirements for special education support services to students with disabilities. We provide specialized schools for students with IEPs. In addition, we provide support and related services, such as, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Teacher Consultant for Visually Impaired, Orientation & Mobility Specialists and many more. We also partner with parents to address developmental concerns for their infants and toddlers. There are approximately 19,000 students with special needs, which is 13.2% of the student population. The State of Michigan has 13 eligibility areas. In Macomb County, the largest eligibility category is Specific Learning Disability (SLD), which is 32%. Nationally SLD is 42% of 5.7 Million Special Education Students.

However, the fastest growing category is Autism. In Macomb County, 10% of students are identified with Autism. This identification rate has been a dramatic increase of 35% over the last ten years. According to the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with Autism; 2% of students with disabilities (1 million) in the country are diagnosed with Autism. The MISD operates 11 sites for students with severe Autism (ages 3 through 26). Those sites are spread throughout the county. The increasing risk factors include babies born from mothers later in life, premature births, and the increased use of fertility treatment. There is also a higher risk of developmental disabilities. The underlying causes-not fully understood: genetics, environmental factors, or a combination of both.

Ms. Alberti also reported that there are 19 Special Education Programs throughout the county. There is a county-wide web-based Special Education Management System (TieNet). The MISD Assessment Center conducts 50 evaluations weekly (OT, PT, Speech, Social Worker, etc.). Other ISDs in Michigan do not provide these services. Macomb also operates the three, which provides parent education and training for 700 young children yearly. The MISD is the lead agency for the Early On Program. The MISD and its local districts provide a continuum of special education programs and services such as: the general education classroom with supports, Teacher Consultant services and co-teaching; resource

rooms; categorical classrooms; separate schools; residential facility or hospital; and homebound services. In addition, the MISD operates an Assistive Technology Lending Library, where districts can test out various assistive technology tools and devices to see if a particular student could benefit from such items in order to access the general education curriculum.

Ms. Alberti also provided information on the Macomb STEP Program (Students Transitioning Effectively Post-Secondary) for students' with mild impairments, ages 18 through 26 year olds. STEP promotes and facilitates individual growth toward acquisition of transition skills in employment, training, community participation; and adult and daily living. Ms. Alberti also discussed the need to replace Keith Bovenschen School. Bovenschen is over 50 years old, the structure is outdated, the pool is aging and the design is not conducive to the medically fragile students.

Superintendent DeVault mentioned that the special education student population, in our MISD centers, is maintaining; unlike the K-12 general education student population, which is declining. We hope to do more in the future for Bovenschen School. The school was built in 1959 and he has had discussions for improvements and replacement of the building.

President Bozymowski thanked Ms. Alberti, on behalf of the Board of Education, for the informative presentation and thanked her and all her staff for their commitment and dedication to the special education students of Macomb County.

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| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | 2. Moved by Farley, supported by Hubler, to approve the November 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes, as recommended by Administration. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried. |
| APPROVAL OF PAC MEMBER | 3. Moved by Genest, supported by White, to approve the appointment of Ms. Christine Coppola, Chippewa Valley Schools, to the Parent Advisory Committee for the 2015-2016 school year, as recommended by Administration. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried. |
| ADJOURNMENT | 4. Moved by Genest, supported by Hubler, to adjourn. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried. |

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

John A. Bozymowski

John A. Bozymowski, President

Donald R. Hubler

Donald R. Hubler, Secretary