

MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Genest at 4:00 p.m.
Members Present: Genest, Hubler, Farley and Schulte.

Administrators Present: DeVault, Bollinger, Michalak, Riley, Frank and Cummins.

APPROVAL OF
AGENDA

1. Superintendent DeVault requested that the Board have an executive session before the action items to update on negotiations. The Agenda was accepted and moved by Farley, supported by Hubler. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

INTERESTING THINGS

Superintendent DeVault reported that Carolyn Thomas has worked hard to make sure all our AI elementary programs will have meals served over the summer.

Flynn Educational Center will be hosting its annual BBQ on July 22nd for students and families. Flynn's program completion will take place on July 31st. Flynn was also awarded the Evergreen Green Schools Award.

On May 22nd, the Lutz choir held their spring concert. On June 26th, Lutz hosted its annual talent show highlighting the incredible talents of our young adults. This year, over 200 students took part in performances inspired by the magical theme of Disney. The program concluded with a powerful finale as the Lutz Choir performed, "Let it Go."

The secondary autism program has two "Make a Difference" Award winners: Bryan Sprader, a post-secondary teacher at Flynn Educational Center and Katy Jenkins, a high school secondary autism program teacher from one of our outbuildings at Centerline High School.

The annual "Shoe Us the Love" event took place where secondary autism program students worked on interviewing school skills in order to be "hired" to work at the shoe event and then job training skills which included working on sorting and packing up shoes all while contributing to the community by collecting shoes for others that will be recycled.

Bozymowski Center was awarded the Evergreen Green Schools Award for the 2025-2025 cycle.

Bovenschen staff were treated to a Cinco de Mayo themed luncheon by their PTO on May 5th. The PTO provided and served lunch to all staff in honor of teacher/staff appreciation week. On May 15th, Bovenschen held its annual Walk, Roll and Run. Due to construction, students had to walk, roll or run around the school using sidewalks only instead of the usual Frazho path. On May 16th, Bovenschen held its junior/senior prom in the school gym. The students enjoyed a neon themed dance where a king, queen, prince and princess were crowned. This event could not have taken place without the support of our staff and the PTO to help decorate and provide food and prizes for the students. On May 17th, Bovenschen had five SXI students participate in the MATP games at Bloomfield Hills High School. They were accompanied by five staff members and the games were specific to students with more physical needs and are unable to participate in the State Special Olympics in Mount Pleasant with their peers.

Neil Reid students attended the Tri-County Green Schools Celebration at the Detroit Zoo on May 1st after obtaining emerald status. Neil Reid students attended a sensory friendly production of the Wizard of Oz at the Macomb Community College.

Glen Peter's PE teacher, Ryan Borges, partnered with the International Academy of Macomb physics teacher, Katelyn Vutci, to explore ways to make physical activities more accessible to students. Ms. Vutci and her students visited Peters and observed a PE class to gain a better understanding of the students' abilities and support needed. They also interviewed Sarah Ko, speech therapist, to learn more about the variety of switches that students use to activate devices. IAM students ultimately settled on creating a way for students in wheelchairs to participate in a golf activity. After developing multiple prototypes, they built and recently presented students with a tabletop putt putt golf course that allows students to independently hit a switch that activates a mini blower that blows the ball toward the hole. This project and partnership have provided students with significant mobility limitations and an opportunity to independently experience the thrill of success in a game as precise as golf. Switches of all assorted sizes and sensitivity can be used to meet the student's individual needs. They were purposeful in building the table at a height that is accessible to students seated in wheelchairs and built the table on wheels so that it can be positioned to meet each student's range of motion.

Students from Glen Peters made 230 Independence Day cards to brighten the day for local veterans. Teacher Mary Beaumont coordinated with the VA in Detroit to make this opportunity possible.

Teresa Upina, Transportation Director, was elected to a 3-year term on the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation Board of Directors at the recent MAPT annual conference.

The week of June 24th through 26th, the MISD DHH program held their first summer camp. The mission of the camp is to provide the deaf/hard of hearing students an opportunity to meet and form friendships with other students like them who attend schools throughout Macomb County. The eight elementary aged students participated in activities where they learned about their hearing loss and worked on their communication and social skills. Students and parents reported that they enjoyed the camp, and one parent said it was nice for her son to be with others that were “like him” and that this increased his confidence. The MISD DHH program has already begun planning additional opportunities for students who are deaf/hard of hearing to get together for informational and social events for the 2025-26 school year.

OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE

President Genest appointed Michael Schulte as Acting Secretary (in Brian White’s absence). She then asked patrons wishing to be heard to fill out a form for that purpose and submit it to Mr. Schulte. Three minutes per person would be allowed under Section II, A.

GROW YOUR OWN

Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Alesia Flye, introduced Sarah Strohbeck to report on the “Grow Your Own” program. Dr. Flye also stated that the Michigan Department of Education has requested that this program be showcased on site.

Consultant Sarah Strohbeck reported that the “Grow your Own” pipeline includes career exploration in middle school, the teacher cadet academy for 9-12th grades, CTE, Early College and Macomb’s Emerging Educators. We currently have two cohorts with about 88 students from Macomb County high schools who attend nine universities in Michigan and are pursuing a teaching certificate. We had our first graduate in May of this year and will have 15 student teachers this fall. Part of their criteria is they must teach as instructional ambassadors in Macomb County, and they also can fill substitute teacher positions due to the credits they have. Students are offered a professional workshop that includes mock interviews with district administrators, professional headshots for LinkedIn and resume writing. In June we held our 5th annual teacher cadet academy. This year we had nine Macomb County districts with about 125 teacher cadets in attendance. The students ran the event and created the breakout sessions.

Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, Justin Michalak, reported on the “Grow Your Own” program for

paraprofessionals. This program helps with the shortage of special education teachers in this state by providing classes in the evening so educators can still work a full-time job. The university reduced the program to 3.5 years, and we utilize a grant that covers the costs to have a paraprofessional with 56 college credits to have the cost of tuition, fees, books and tests. This program is dependent upon continuation of state and federal support. When they are done with the program they will obtain a K-12 specialized endorsement in autism or cognitive impairment and a grade 3 through 6 general education endorsement. Paraprofessionals have to maintain employment by committing to four years in Macomb County and with their district.

We have had three cohorts begin this program. Our first 18 graduates will be finished in December 2026 with a second cohort of 28 in December of 2027 and a third cohort of 23 in December of 2028. The first year we began the program they could not obtain an autism endorsement as it was a master course which was later moved. Participants also must complete clinical placements with six hours a week in an elementary classroom for literacy and math lessons.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Daryl Dombrow of Barton Malow provided an update to the Board on the current construction project. We are focused on making the building watertight and completing the MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing). We currently hold about 70-90 staff a day on the project. Floor slabs are 81% complete, the roof membrane is 95% complete, the brick veneer is 58% complete and the MEP is 46% complete. The underground work is complete with the exception of the sanitary for the splash pad. Concrete and paving will begin this fall.

Mr. Hubler asked if there were any unforeseen issues with the delivery of materials. Mr. Dombrow reported that at this point there are no issues. They continue to track the electrical switchgear and have back-up plans in place in case there is an issue.

The Administration reviewed issues related to tile installation and material selection. Also, a report from architect of problem with whiteboard classroom communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Motion was moved by Hubler, supported by Farley, to go into Executive Session to update the Board on negotiations. Roll Call: All present. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Motion carried. The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 5:37 p.m.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

3. Vice President Donald Hubler conducted the election for the position of President of the Board of Education.
Motion by Schulte, supported by Farley, that Theresa Genest be nominated as President.
Motion by Farley, supported by Schulte, that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.
Motion by Farley, supported by Schulte, that Donald Hubler be nominated as Vice President.
Motion by Farley, supported by Schulte, that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Ayes: all, nays: none. Motion carried.
Motion by Hubler, supported by Schulte, that Edward Farley be nominated as Treasurer.
Motion by Schulte, supported by Hubler, that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.
Motion by Schulte, supported by Farley, that Brian White be nominated as Secretary. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.
Motion by Hubler, supported by Schulte, that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

BOARD MEETING DATES

4. Moved by Schulte, supported by Hubler, to establish the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month as regular board meetings with the exception of no meetings on the fourth Wednesdays in July and December, unless otherwise noted. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and held in the MISD Board Room, unless noted otherwise.

MASB LRN REPRESENTATIVE

5. Moved by Schulte, supported by Farley, to appoint Donald Hubler as the MASB Legislative Relations Network member for the current school year. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

MASB DELEGATE/ALTERNATE TO DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

6. Moved by Schulte, supported by Farley, to appoint Donald Hubler as voting Delegate and Edward Farley, as voting Alternate at the MASB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly at the Fall Conference. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

SEMCOG GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE/ALTERNATIVE

7. Moved by Farley, supported by Hubler, to appoint Donald Hubler as delegate and Michael Schulte as alternate to the SEMCOG General Assembly for the 2025-2026 school year. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

MCSBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

8. Moved by Hubler, supported by Farley, to appoint Theresa Genest as MCSBA Legislative Committee Representative and Brian White as alternate for the 2025-2026 school year. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD-
ADULT AND EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Whereas Donald Hubler was appointed by the Macomb County Executive to serve on the Adult and Education Subcommittee of the Workforce Development Board of Michigan Works.

Moved by Schulte, supported by Farley, that Donald Hubler be authorized to serve in that capacity. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

TRAFFIC SAFETY
ASSOCIATION

10. Whereas Theresa Genest was elected to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Macomb County Traffic Safety Association.

Moved by Schulte, supported by Hubler, that Theresa Genest be authorized to serve in that capacity. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

11. Moved by Hubler, supported by Farley, to approve the July 9, 2025 Consent Agenda, as recommended by Administration. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

RETIREMENTS

12. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following retirements:

Karen Allen
Administrative Support

RaeLynn Belski
Paraprofessional

Roberta Farina
Pupil Accounting Specialist

Genine Hodges
Administrative Support

Lori Sutcliff
Teacher

Debra Sabelhaus
Paraprofessional

Moved by Schulte, supported by Hubler, that the Board of Education accepts, with regret, notification of retirements as per the above, and expresses its deep appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the Board and its Administration. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.

EXTENSION OF DATA
TECHNICIANS CONTRACT

13. Moved by Farley, supported by Hubler, to approve the extension of the Data Technicians' Contract, as recommended by Administration. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

FLYNN CLASSROOM
RENOVATIONS

14. Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, Justin Michalak, reported that special education from 9th grade to age 26 has been growing significantly and because of this we need two split two of the large classrooms at Flynn to make room for additional classrooms without adding onto the current footprint.

Moved by Schulte, supported by Farley, to contract for the renovations of the Flynn classrooms from A-C Building System Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$394,200.00 as recommended by Chris Frank and Sal Pellerito. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

VIRTUAL TAPE LIBRARY

15. Chief Information Officer Mark Cummins reported that we are in need of updates to the equipment used for backup of local district data.

Moved by Hubler, supported by Farley, to purchase virtual tape library equipment and related services from DMC Technology Group, in the amount of \$64,526, as recommended by the administration. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

TAPE BACKUP SYSTEM

16. Moved by Hubler, supported by Farley, to purchase tape backup system equipment and related services from Archive Data Solutions, in the amount of \$20,625, as recommended by the administration. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Motion carried.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND
FUTURE BUSINESS

Superintendent DeVault reported that given conflicting schedules, August 13, 2025, Board meeting may be canceled, or the time may be changed to 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

17. Moved by Schulte, supported by Hubler, to adjourn. Ayes: all; nays: none. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Theresa Genest, President



Mike Schulte, Acting Secretary

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