

Regular Board of Education Meeting
North Mac High School Media Center
231 West Fortune Street, Virden, IL
6:30 p.m. – April 23, 2025

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

Present – Alexander, Kirk, Nichols, Pinkston, Watson, White, Christopher
Also Present – Kyle Hacke

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Christopher

3. Communications

3.1 High School Student Presentation – Jessica Custer introduced Alana Frey, Bella Travous, Ariadna Lopez and Brooke Gillespie who participated in her Family and Consumer Science classes. Students were excited about the sewing unit and showed off their creations. Ryan Leonard presented the Rocketry Club which consisted of students Zane Mauzy, David VanHuss, Andrew Swain and Brett Gillespie. They participated in the national qualifying event. They did not finish in the top 10% to move forward but learned a lot from the experience. Students were able to use the equipment in the STEM lab for their rocket parts. Also had to complete a marketing plan and present it as part of the competition. They are still awaiting results from those parts. The Rocketry Club will be helping the 6th graders with their rockets and launches.

3.2 Administrator's Reports – Pinkston stated attendance looked good. Christopher thanked the Administrators for their work in putting together the reports.

4. Public Comment – Marshall Pressler – spoke regarding the Coop for sports. Talking with other coaches all over, numbers are down in general. Rec programs are struggling as well with numbers. Asked the board to vote to approve a coop.

5. *Motion was made by Nichols, seconded by Kirk to approve the Minutes from the Regular & Closed Sessions of March 26, 2025. Yea Votes: Alexander, Kirk, Nichols, Pinkston, Watson, White, Christopher

6. *Motion was made by Kirk, seconded by Nichols to declare results of board election as presented by County Clerks. Hacke noted that the District had not yet received Macoupin Counties numbers but did receive Sangamon. Yea Votes: Watson, Alexander, Kirk, Nichols, Pinkston, White, Christopher

7. Administer Oath of Office to Newly-Elected Board Members – Members affirmed their oath of office.

8. *Motion was made by Nichols, seconded by Kirk to adjourn Sine Die. Yea Votes: Pinkston, Alexander, Nichols, Watson, White, Christopher. No Votes: Kirk

9. Hacke was appointed President Pro Tem and Aprille Kuhar was appointed Secretary Pro Tem

10. *Election of Board Officers

1. President
Nominations – Pinkston nominated Drew Christopher
2. Vice-President
Nomination – White nominated Jodi
3. Secretary
Nominations – Alexander Nominated Shayna Prose

11. *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Watson to establish regular Board meetings as the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Hacke stated that this would make special called meetings before a regular meeting at 5:45 Yea Votes: Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Watson, Webb, White

12. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members – Certificates of service were presented, and a time of celebration was held.

13. *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Watson to approve the Consent Agenda removing item 14.12. Yea Votes: White, Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Watson, Webb

Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Watson to approve Consent Agenda item 14.12. Yea Votes: Webb, Alexander, Christopher, Prose, Watson, White. Present Votes: Pinkston.

Consent Agenda (ALL ITEMS ITALICIZED AND IN BOLD)

13.1 Financial Reports

13.2 Bills Payable

13.3 Approve 2025-2026 IESA Membership

14. ***Employment and Resignation of Personnel*****

14.1 Accept Resignation of Amy Morgan, Middle School Cheer Coach

14.2 Accept Resignation of Lauren Barnes, Elementary School Teacher, as of the end of the 2024-25 School Year

14.3 Accept Resignation of Ryan Lightle, High School Special Education Teacher as of the end of the 2024-25 School Year

14.4 Employ Lilian Mullen as Elementary School Teacher for 2025-26 School Year

14.5 Employ Abby Olson as Intermediate School Teacher for the 2025-26 School Year

14.6 Employ Alex Barnes as High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Contract Beginning July 1, 2025

14.7 Employ Joe Worth as Middle School Wrestling Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

14.8 Approve Maddux Rigsby as Volunteer Assistant Football Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

14.9 Employ Abby Olson as Middle School Cheerleading Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

14.10 Employ Konner Beer as High School Boys Head Basketball Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

14.11 Employ Will Downs as Freshman Boys Basketball Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

14.12 Approve Troy Pinkston as a Paid Volunteer High School Boys Assistant Basketball Coach for the 2025-26 School Year

*****Note: Final employment of all new employees is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check and all necessary local and state requirements.***

15. Discussion Items

15.1 Superintendent's Report & Board Discussion Items

- State is setting a math plan like a literacy plan to deal with student achievement.
- Gym update - Hacke updated the board on status of High School Gym project
- Route 4 IDOT project – The State of Illinois wants to purchase a permanent and temporary easement and possibly purchase a small part of ground. Hacke will update as further information is available.
- South Campus gym floor – Issues were found with the South Campus Gym floor. Solutions are being discussed and more information will be given when available.

16. Items to be Considered for Action

16.1 *Motion was made by Pinkston, seconded by Webb to approve a lighting, ceiling and HVAC Upgrade. Dikan/TMI presented proposal and answered questions. Plan is to have this completed by August when teachers and students return. Schedule is looking like 6-8 weeks. Yea Votes: Prose, Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Watson, Webb, White

16.2 *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Pinkston to approve IHSA Boys Soccer Cooperative Agreement. Yea Votes: Prose, Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Watson, Webb, White

16.3 *Motion was made by Pinkston, seconded by White to approve seeking other athletic cooperative agreements. Discussion was held regarding current Co-op's and potential Co-op's for other sports. Yea Votes: Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Watson, Webb, White

16.4 *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Prose to approve the Literacy Plan. Hacke stated there is an opportunity to receive a \$2000 grant for putting this plan together. Yea Votes: Pinkston, Alexander, Christopher, Prose, Watson, Webb, White.

16.5 *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Prose to approve the purchase of Math Curriculum. Raynor provided information regarding the materials. Yea Votes: Watson, Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Webb, White

16.6 *Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Webb to approve the purchase of Literacy Curriculum. Raynor provided information regarding the curriculum. White had questions regarding the materials. His questions and comments are attached. Yea Votes: Pinkston, Alexander, Christopher, Prose, Watson, Webb. No Votes: White

16.7 *Motion was made by Pinkston, seconded by Webb to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with NMEA adding a Middle School Wrestling Coach Position. Yea Votes: Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Watson, Webb, White

17. *Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee or office of the public body, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – No closed session needed

18. *Motion was made by Pinkston, seconded by Alexander to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Yea Votes: Alexander, Christopher, Pinkston, Prose, Watson, Webb, White

***Denotes Actionable Items**

How do the teachers feel about using this curriculum?

After doing some research on the Amplify CKLA curriculum I have some concerns.

Reports of teaching religion to very young students with bias towards Islam while Christianity is described negatively.

Are we now going to teach religion to elementary students or is that going to be scrubbed from the curriculum?

Other material is reported to have negative talk about law enforcement / border patrol, dead bodies, swear words in poetry and sexual descriptions.

Are these lessons and books containing this type of material used in lessons going to be scrubbed from the curriculum?

Critical Race Theory is a prominent component in many of the lessons.

For anybody that doesn't know what critical race theory is, it was brought about in the 1970's by a Harvard Law professor named Derrick Bell. It is a racist Marxist theory which basically breaks down everyone into groups based on their race into oppressed and oppressor classes. If you are of black or brown skin, you are oppressed if you are of white skin, you are an oppressor. Every aspect of society was set up by the oppressor to keep down and control the oppressed. When followed to its logical conclusion, CRT is destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based.

Are we going to be in the business of teaching this racist ideology to our students or is this going to be scrubbed from the curriculum as well?