

MAROA-FORSYTH C.U.S.D. #2

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 24, 2020

6:30 pm - HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - A. Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM
2. Roll Call
 - A. Present - Wissam Hasnain, Matt Crawford, Brad Wilkey, Lindsey Wise, Darin Duzan.
 - B. Absent - Lori Willoughby, Brandi Binkley

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations

4. Professional Therapy Dog 2020-2021
 - A. Jessica Hill - Grade School Social Worker presented with Padgett, Certified Therapy dog. She provided information regarding Padgett (attached). Padgett is 9 years old and will be fully certified in April 2020. They are part of the Macon-Piatt crisis team and Pawprint Ministries. John - Have seen therapy dogs as a model in schools today. Carrie - Has seen students really open up to Padgett.
5. Audit 2019
 - A. John - Had problems finishing Audit - but it is complete and our financial profile is good. Leo - Presented Financial Profiles FY18, 19, 20 (attached). Summary shows score for FY19 to be 3.45. Projected score for FY20 is 3.80.
6. Recognition of Visitors and Delegations
 - A. N/A
7. Citizens Wishing to Address the Board
 - A. N/A

Learning & Discussion

8. Maroa-Forsyth Education Foundation & March 14 Community Celebration Update
 - A. John - Final day to purchase tickets for the Community Celebration is this Thursday (2/26/20). As of today, 186 committed. The highlight of the night will be the first ever Hall of Fame Induction. Tomorrow night (2/25/2020), the new Foundation Board will meet for organization and officers. Members are Mike Mandrell, Bart Rose, Sara Gentle, Nathan Chandler, John Ahlemeyer, Phil Applebee, and Amanda Riley.
9. School Resource Office (SRO) Job Description
 - A. John - Have been working on job description since the last meeting. Will have SRO on both campuses (Maroa & Forsyth). This is a priority for the safety of our kids. He has been working on intergovernmental agreements with Maroa and Forsyth for

jurisdiction. Darin - Would prefer candidate with Bachelor Degree and some law enforcement experience. Wissam - Wanted to make sure a background check would be done.

10. District Information Referendum Update
 - A. John – 2 of the latest items are a mailer and FAQ’s (attached). On our District Website, there is an area for FAQ’s and a place to leave questions.
11. March 2020 Board Meeting Date
 - A. John – Change the March meeting date to March 30th. Normal meeting date is over Spring Break. If the meeting is March 16, that shortens the time for getting the bills ready and that date is also before the election on March 17th. John will post the new date on the website.

Action

12. Approval, Consent Agenda (Any item may be removed from the consent agenda by any board member.)
 - a. Approval of the Open/Closed Minutes for the Board Meeting on 1/27/20
 - b. Board Bills of February 2020
 - c. Financial Reports
 - d. Treasurer’s Report of January 2020
 - A: Motion to approve: M. Crawford, 2nd by B. Wilkey
 - Discussion: None.
 - Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan.
 - No votes: None
 - Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley.
 - Motion passed.
13. Approval, School District Safety Plan 2020-2023
 - A: Motion to approve: B. Wilkey, 2nd by D. Duzan
 - Discussion: None
 - Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan
 - No votes: None
 - Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley
 - Motion passed.
14. Approval, School Resource Officer Job Description & 2020-21 Positions
 - A: Motion to approve: M. Crawford, 2nd by W. Hasnain.
 - Discussion: Corrected version - Add experience or Bachelor Degree preferred.
 - Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan.
 - No votes: None
 - Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley.
 - Motion passed.
15. Approval, School District Professional Therapy Dog Policy, 6:122
 - A: Motion to approve: B. Wilkey, 2nd by L. Wise.
 - Discussion: None
 - Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan.
 - No votes: None
 - Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley
 - Motion passed.

16. Approval, Hiring of Personnel & Acceptance of Resignations - Personnel Report of 2-21-20 (attached)
A: Motion to approve: M. Crawford, 2nd by W. Hasnain.
Discussion: None
Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan.
No votes: None
Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley
Motion passed.
17. Approval, Scott State Bank Signature Changes, Entity Authorization, & Corporate Wire Transfer Agreement
A: Motion to approve: L. Wise, 2nd by B. Wilkey.
Discussion: John - This is due to the changes in the Business Office.
Yes votes: W. Hasnain, M. Crawford, B. Wilkey, L. Wise, D. Duzan.
No votes: None
Not present: L. Willoughby, B. Binkley
Motion passed.
18. Closed/Executive Session - Approval, To enter closed/executive session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, dismissal, or performance of specific employees & for collective negotiation matters & for filed litigation of the public body pursuant to Section 5.0 ILCS 120/2(c)(1,2,11) [If needed]
A. N/A
19. Adjournment
A: Motion to adjourn: M. Crawford, 2nd by D. Duzan
All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None
Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Approved: _____

Attested: _____

Date: _____

Meet Padgett

Certified Therapy dog with School Social Worker
Jessica Hill

Padgett is a 9 year old cockapoo (cocker spaniel/poodle) who was adopted from a rescue shelter in 2011. After responding to many crisis in the Central Illinois area as part of the Macon-Piatt crisis team, I was able to see the value in comfort & therapy animals while they assisted grieving students. In May of 2019, we started training with Pawprint Ministries Comfort Dogs. Padgett and I have been going on community visits with this organization since August of 2019. Padgett will receive his therapy dog certification through Alliance of Therapy Dogs in April.

The Helping Power of Animals

Research has shown that therapy dogs support psychological and academic growth while increasing social skills and self-esteem in children. Therapy dogs have been trained to provide emotional support which positively impacts reading skills, emotional functioning, and communication skills. In addition, the use of therapy dogs may decrease anxiety, improve self-esteem, and increase overall academic achievement in students.

How can Padgett be utilized at Maroa-Forsyth Grade School?

- Positive presence around the building
- Work with students 1-1 who are having a difficult day, working through grief, anxiety, or life changes
- Work with students in group counseling
- Read/work with reluctant readers or learners
- Visit classrooms
- Be used as an incentive for students to achieve and accomplish goals

Therapy dog question & answer

What about students with allergies?

Padgett is required to meet cleanliness and grooming requirements to maintain his certification and minimize allergic contact. Petting the dog is voluntary, not a requirement. Students are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands after touching the dog. Padgett is also brushed daily to minimize the dander on the dog.

What if a student is afraid of dogs?

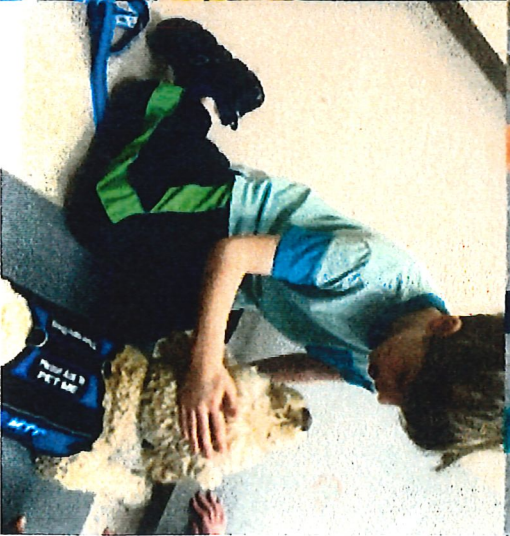
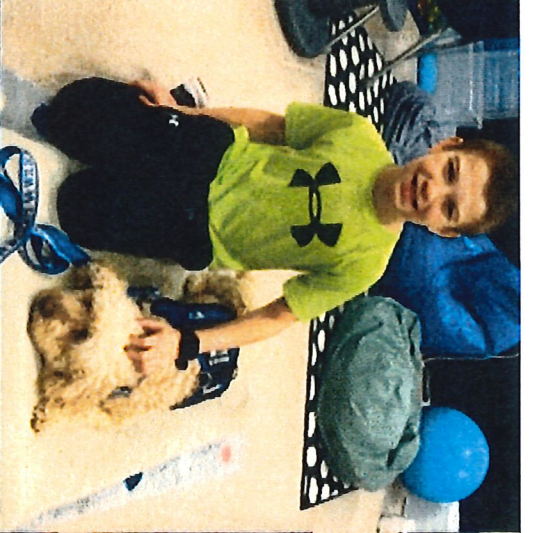
There are several rules that Padgett will follow at school. He will never be allowed off leash and will never be handled by anyone other than myself, except in possible case of emergency. Teachers will communicate if they have a student who is afraid of dogs and we will ensure all students and staff feel safe.

What if there is an emergency at school?

Padgett will have a wire crate kept in my classroom should we have an internal emergency that would not allow him to accompany me.

What if an accident happens with the dog?

I have researched insurance policies and through our therapy dog organization (Alliance of Therapy Dogs) for \$200/ year a \$2,000,000 policy can be purchased.



Financial Profiles FY18, 19, 20

Financial Recognition = 3.54-4.00
 Financial Review = 3.08-3.53
 Financial Early Warning = 2.62-3.06
 Financial Watch = 1.00-2.60

| Year | Score | Year | Score |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| FY09 | 3.35 | FY15 | 2.80 |
| FY10 | 3.25 | FY16 | 3.25 |
| FY11 | 3.25 | FY17 | 3.25 |
| FY12 | 2.10 | FY18 | 3.70 |
| FY13 | 2.45 | FY19 | 3.45 |
| FY14 | 2.45 | FY20 | 3.80 |

Review
 Projected

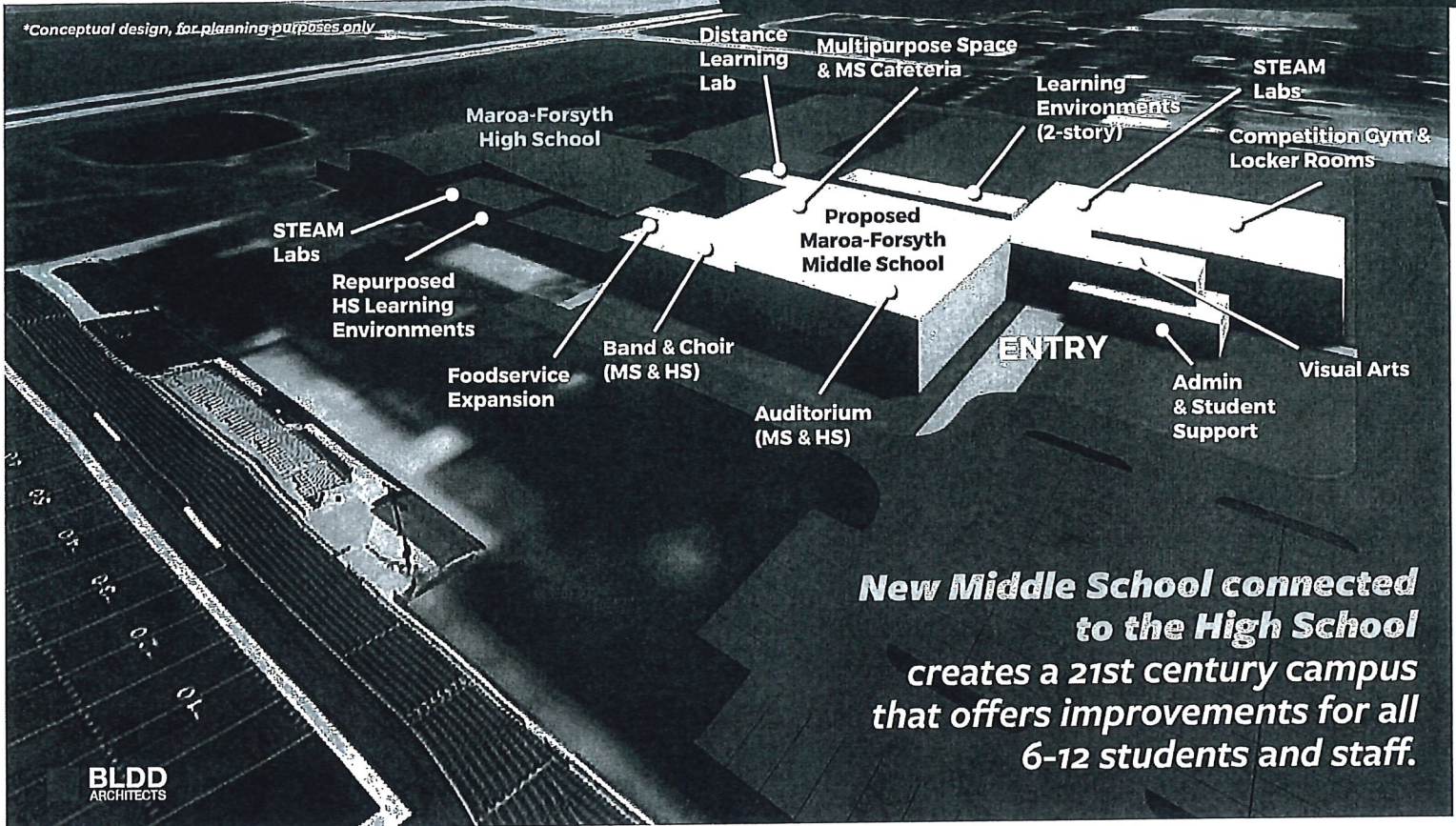
| FY18 Score | Proposed Budget Figures | Ratio/Days/% | Score | Weighted |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 35% Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio 4=>or =25% 3=<25%>or =10% | \$2,731,472 \$9,553,215 | 28.6% | 4 | 1.40 |
| 35% Expenditure to Revenue Ratio 4=\$1.00 or less 3=\$1.00-\$1.10 2=\$1.10-\$1.20 | \$8,774,483 \$9,553,215 | \$0.918 | 4 | 1.40 |
| 10% Days Cash on Hand 4=180+ 3=90-180 2=30-90 | \$2,772,360 \$24,374 | 113.7 | 3 | 0.30 |
| 10% Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$0 \$5,147,041 | 100% | 4 | 0.40 |
| 10% Percent of Long-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$16,430,000 \$27,854,576 | 41% | 2 | 0.20 |
| | | | Profile | 3.70 |

| FY19 Score | Proposed Budget Figures | Ratio/Days/% | Score | Weighted |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 35% Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio 4=>or =25% 3=<25%>or =10% | \$3,552,026 \$9,548,448 | 37.2% | 4 | 1.40 |
| 35% Expenditure to Revenue Ratio 4=\$1.00 or less 3=\$1.00-\$1.10 2=\$1.10-\$1.20 | \$9,727,894 \$9,548,448 | \$1.02 | 3 | 1.05 |
| 10% Days Cash on Hand 4=180+ 3=90-180 2=30-90 | \$3,552,026 \$27,022 | 131.4 | 3 | 0.30 |
| 10% Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$0 \$5,781,481 | 100% | 4 | 0.40 |
| 10% Percent of Long-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$14,215,000 \$31,288,016 | 55% | 3 | 0.30 |
| | | | Profile | 3.45 |

| FY20 Score (Projected) | Proposed Budget Figures | Ratio/Days/% | Score | Weighted |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 35% Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio 4=>or =25% 3=<25%>or =10% | \$3,755,927 \$10,521,486 | 35.7% | 4 | 1.40 |
| 35% Expenditure to Revenue Ratio 4=\$1.00 or less 3=\$1.00-\$1.10 2=\$1.10-\$1.20 | \$10,352,154 \$10,521,486 | \$0.98 | 4 | 1.40 |
| 10% Days Cash on Hand 4=180+ 3=90-180 2=30-90 | \$3,755,927 \$28,756 | 130.6 | 3 | 0.30 |
| 10% Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$0 \$5,815,074 | 100% | 4 | 0.40 |
| 10% Percent of Long-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining 4=>or= 75% 3=50%-74% 2=25%-50% | \$12,827,000 \$31,343,981 | 59% | 3 | 0.30 |
| | | | Profile | 3.80 |

MAROA-FORSYTH CUSD #2

**Conceptual design, for planning purposes only*



New Middle School connected to the High School creates a 21st century campus that offers improvements for all 6-12 students and staff.

Upon taxpayer approval, a full design process will be undertaken with district stakeholders. For planning purposes, the conceptual design includes but is not limited to:

Academics & Student Support:

- Full suite of future-focused MS learning environments, plus student support, admin and building support
- Distance learning lab to complement existing media center (shared MS+HS)
- Collaboration and breakout spaces (both MS & HS)
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) labs (both MS & HS)
- Foodservice expansion (shared MS+HS)
- Multipurpose space (shared MS+HS)
- Repurposed HS classrooms (old band & choir)
- New parking

Athletics:

- Competition gym & locker rooms (MS)
- Fitness room (shared MS+HS)

Fine Arts:

- Auditorium and scene shop (shared MS+HS)
- Visual arts classroom (MS)
- Band & choir spaces, including practice rooms and storage rooms (shared MS+HS)

Benefits:

- Students can access all programming in the same building (safe & secure for students)
- Students are optimally grouped to meet their developmental needs
- Most economic use of construction funds, allowing for dollars to improve both MS & HS environments
- Increased opportunities for advanced courses for MS students and specialized programming at HS (electives)... more robust curriculum
- Eliminates current duplicate spaces at HS & MS (library, cafeteria, kitchen, band/choir)
- Shared professional and support staff (band, chorus, nurse, social work, buildings and grounds, lunch, custodial) operate in the same building
- Shared state-of-the-art athletic fields for 6-12
- Operational cost savings for transportation, utilities, building renewal and maintenance
- High quality schools and great opportunities attract and retain families, plus enhance our district reputation and property values

Your vote on March 17 is important, please be informed.

<https://www.mfschools.net/trojans-of-tomorrow>



Frequently Asked Questions Maroa-Forsyth Ballot Proposal

Updated 02.19.20

DISTRICT NEEDS:

The Plan to Improve Maroa-Forsyth School District Educational Advantages, Improve Safety, Financially Responsible

Q: Why is this proposal needed?

A: Our middle school was built in 1933. While it has well-served our community for nearly 90 years, it is now worn out. When the Trojans of Tomorrow community engagement program explored options for improving middle school facilities, it soon became clear to the participants that spending money on the existing building made little sense and that a new school was a more cost-effective long-term solution for our community.

Research shows that student learning is impacted by the quality of school facilities. Improved learning environments will help prepare students for high school. And better prepared students for high school means that students will perform better at that level and be job or higher education ready upon graduation.

Q: How was this proposal developed?

A: The Maroa-Forsyth School District improvement plan is based on recommendations from hundreds of District parents, residents, and employees who participated in the Trojans of Tomorrow community engagement project from April to December 2019. In this process, ten scenarios or options were evaluated including both short-term and long-term costs and the quality of learning environments for students. The participants reached consensus, reported that consensus to the Board of Education, and the Board followed by unanimously placing the proposal on the ballot for a new middle school located in Maroa attached to the existing high school. The proposal also calls for some improved spaces in the high school. Details on this plan can be found elsewhere in this Frequently Asked Questions document.

Q: What long-term solution was placed on the ballot by the Board of Education?

A: Following a report by the community steering committee, "Trojans of Tomorrow", the Board of Education unanimously voted to place a bond proposal on the March 17, 2020 ballot.

The bond proposal would support construction of a **New Middle School Connected to the High School**. *Upon taxpayer approval, a full design process will be undertaken with district stakeholders.* For planning purposes, the conceptual design includes but is not limited to:

Academics & Student Support:

- New **classrooms**.... A full suite of future-focused MS learning environments,
- New student support, admin and building support
- New **distance learning lab** to complement existing media center (shared MS+HS)
- New dedicated space for **collaboration and breakout** spaces (both MS & HS)
- New **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) labs (both MS & HS)
- **Foodservice** expansion (shared MS+HS)
- New **multipurpose space**, dual purpose as MS cafeteria during lunch hours (shared MS+HS)
- Repurposed **HS classrooms** (old band & choir)
- New **parking**

Athletics:

- New competition **gym & locker rooms** (MS)
- New **fitness** room (shared MS+HS)

Fine Arts:

- New **auditorium** and scene shop (shared MS+HS)
- New **visual arts** classroom (MS)
- New **band & choir** spaces, including practice rooms and storage rooms (shared MS+HS)

Q: How does this proposal benefit students?

A: The plan provides many educational advantages for Maroa-Forsyth students. A new middle school, attached to the high school, will create improved learning opportunities for all students in grades 6-12.

- Students can access all programming in the same building (safe & secure for students)
- Students are optimally grouped to meet their developmental needs
- Most economic use of construction funds, allowing for dollars to improve both MS & HS environments
- Increased opportunities for advanced courses for MS students and specialized programming at HS (electives)...more robust curriculum
- Eliminates current duplicate spaces at HS & MS (library, cafeteria, kitchen, band/choir)

- Shared professional and support staff (band, chorus, nurse, social work, buildings and grounds, lunch, custodial) operate in the same building
- Shared state-of-the-art athletic fields for 6-12
- Operational cost savings for transportation, utilities, building renewal and maintenance
- High quality schools and great opportunities attract and retain families, while maintaining and raising our district reputation and property values

IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Q: How will this referendum impact our families and community?

A: If successful, this referendum will allow Maroa-Forsyth School District to:

- Protect taxpayers' investment in their homes and our school facilities
- Provide students with opportunities equal to neighboring schools
- Maintain best practices in keeping our schools safe and secure

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO TAXPAYERS

Q: How will the new middle school be financed?

A: The Maroa-Forsyth ballot referendum is a \$33 million plan to address our real need for a new middle school and provide necessary educational improvements at the high school for grades 6-12 use. The plan is financially responsible because we can use county sales tax funds to provide relief from total reliance on property taxes for taxpayers. Only a portion of the new school will be financed by property taxes. For the owner of \$100,000 home, that means \$54 a year or about \$1 per week.

Q: Was an option explored for building the new middle school in Forsyth?

A: One of the many options explored by the Trojans of Tomorrow community engagement program was building a new middle school in Forsyth. This option included a generous offer from the village of Forsyth to help finance this building with sales tax revenue. While this option had many pluses, the majority of community engagement participants preferred the option in Maroa, with the new middle school attached to the high school, because of long term educational benefits and cost savings by having shared facilities and staff between the high school and middle school. In short, they decided that the long-term benefits outweighed the short-term benefits of financing the new school.

Q: If the proposal passes, what can the money be used for?

A: The money can only be used for the building and construction-related services (such as architecture and engineering) and not for operating costs (teacher and staff salaries, books, etc). It can be used for classroom furniture. Whether the bonds are financed by sales tax revenue or property tax revenue, the same answer applies.

Q: What exactly will voters see on the March 17, 2020 ballot?

A: The ballot language reads:

"Shall the Board of Education of Maroa-Forsyth Community Unit School District #2, Macon and DeWitt Counties, Illinois, build and equip a new middle school building on the existing Maroa-Forsyth Middle School site, demolish the existing Maroa-Forsyth Middle School Building, alter, repair and equip the Maroa-Forsyth High School Building, improve school sites and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$33,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?"

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

Dr. John Ahlemeyer, Superintendent

john.ahlemeyer@mfschools.net

(217) 794-3488, Ext. 5103

www.mfschools.net

MAROA-FORSYTH C.U.S.D. #2

February 21, 2020 Personnel Report

Teacher Certified Staff Resignations/Retirements/Leaves for Board Action

- Barb Hazlehurst, HS French Teacher
- Allison Tutt, HS SPED Teacher
- Kyle Tutt, HS Social Studies Teacher

Non-Teacher Certified Staff Resignations/Retirement/Leaves for Board Action

- LeShelle Donoho, Unit Office

Teacher Certified Staff Open Positions

- None at This Time

Non-Teacher Certified Staff Open Positions

- None at This Time

Teacher Certified Staff Recommendations for Board Action (Individual Information Attached)

- None at This Time

Non-Teacher Certified Staff Recommendations for Board Action

- Caleb Wilson, GS Evening Custodian
- Tracy Street, Cafeteria Sub

Miscellaneous Personnel Information

- Spring 2020 Volunteer Coaches (Listed Below)

HS Track

Jeff Ohlemeyer

MS Track

None

HS Baseball

Luke Azzarelli

Jim Bednar

Pat Hall

HS Softball

Bill Corley

Bill Rentmeister

Heather Ennis

HS Tennis

Cory Sandgren