

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF
AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:	ARTHUR AMOS	RODNEY BOBBY
	MATTHEW HAZI	DAVID LENGEL
	SHANE NUGENT	AIMEE PETERS
	DEREK STOTSKY	STEVEN VanWOERT
	J. JARRETT WHALEN	

MEMBERS ABSENT: ---

OTHERS PRESENT: DR. RONALD R. ROWE, JR, SUPERINTENDENT
DR. MICHAEL G. PIDDINGTON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
ERIC MAUSSER, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
GREGORY ACRE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
AMANDA SIMPSON, ASSISTANT MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
SHIRLEY SPIEGEL, ASSISTANT ELEM. PRINCIPAL/SPEC. EDUC. COORD.
LYNN R. LONG, OFFICE MANAGER/CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on July 17, 2023, the special meeting on July 25, 2023 and the Transportation Committee Meeting on August 17, 2023. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial reports. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

PERSONNEL:

Promotion(s):

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the promotion of Megan Glass from $\frac{3}{4}$ time elementary art teacher to full-time secondary art teacher on Step 13 of the Master's salary scale at \$69,126 with full benefits, beginning with the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

Hires:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved the following recommend hires. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Granted approval to hire Mr. David Urey IV as an elementary teacher on Bachelor's Step 1 of the pay scale at \$53,150 beginning with the 2023-24 school year, with full benefits, pending clearances.

Granted approval to hire Mrs. Delaney Munnal as a ¾ time art teacher at the elementary school on Bachelor's Step 3 of the pay scale at \$40,323 beginning with the 2023-24 school year, with no benefits, pending clearances.

Granted approval to hire Mrs. Jennifer Flockerzi as a middle/high school cafeteria monitor, pending clearances.

Granted approval of Mr. Max Hamilton as a volunteer boys' soccer coach for the 2023-24 school year, pending clearances.

Granted approval for the following teachers to serve as mentors for the 2023-24 school year.

- Mrs. Cynthia Gilmore for Miss Macey Redmond
- Mrs. Allyson Rust for Ms. Emily Pepper
- Mrs. Rachel Algoe for Miss Mara Weekley
- Mrs. Carrie Schmid for Mrs. Alexis Cannon
- Mr. Marshall Nych for Mrs. Lacey Weaver

FMLA:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved of a FMLA for Ms. Allysen Uber, effective approximately January 3, 2024 through April 2, 2024. Ms. Uber will use 30 sick days concurrent to 60 family medical leave days. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

ESS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the following ESS employees. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: *Passed*

Approved all substitute teachers as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork, as attached.

Approved all aides/paraprofessionals as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork, as attached.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following requests for student travel. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Doug Schmid to accompany students to Grove City College for the BEST Robotics Kick-off on August 26th. The only cost to the school district is the use of one school van.

Approved Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany the 5M Marching Band to Pigeon Forge Tennessee November 9-12, 2023. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for two days. (\$200)

Approved the juniors and seniors to attend the "College and Career Fair" at Thiel College on October 5, 2023. The only cost to the school district is for bus transportation.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following staff development requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved twenty paraprofessionals to participate in Safety Care Re-certification training provided by Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on August 25, 2023 from 8:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the elementary school. Cost for training is \$500.00.

Approved Mrs. Laura Nych to travel to Columbus, Ohio on November 17-19, 2023. She will present at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention on the topic of "Empathy Matters: Creating Connections through Multimodal Test Sets, Digital Culture Boxes, and Community Action Projects". The approximate cost to the school district is \$671.75, which includes registration (\$325), food (\$90), lodging (\$156.75), and a substitute teacher for one day (\$100).

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following use of facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved The Chapel at Mercer to use the elementary school LGI, cafeteria/old gym and conference room, to host "Parent Initiative" on Thursdays, Oct.12,19, 26, and Nov.2, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This workshop is for parents of children 3-11 years old. All aspects of the facility policy will be followed.

Approved Mercer peewee and midget cheerleaders to use the Mercer Elementary School gym and front yard area for practices beginning on August 22 – October 5, 2023. All aspects of the facility policy will be followed.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

FACILITIES (Continued):

Approved the Choral Boosters to host 5th quarter dances after the home football games in the high school cafeteria. These dances are for Mercer students only and will be held in the cafeteria. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed. The dates for the home football games are August 25, September 15, October 20 and 27, 2023.

Approved the Band Boosters using the high school cafeteria on August 26, 2023, for their mattress sale fundraiser. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

YOUR LIFE SPEAKS – NATHAN HARMON:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved Nathan Harmon from Your Life Speaks to speak with the students on October 13, 2023. All costs are covered by Common Grounds, Mercer. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

ELEMENTARY TUITION STUDENTS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved three students to attend Mercer Elementary as tuition students at the rate of \$5000.00 per year each, for the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- A. First grade student
- B. First grade student
- C. Second grade student

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)/MCBHC:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved an Agreement between Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission, Inc. and Mercer Area School District to provide services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) for the 2023-24 school year.

On a roll call vote, members Whalen, VanWoert, Peters, Nugent, Lengel, Hazi, Bobby and Amos voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: *Passed*

EDMENTUM:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved a renewal of the subscription with Edmentum for the Study Island Program License (elementary & middle-high school) and the Reading Eggs Program License (elementary school) for the 2023-2024 school year, in the amount of \$11,774.80. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Hazi, Nugent, Stotsky, Whalen, Bobby, Lengel, Peters and VanWoert voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

THIEL COLLEGE AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved an affiliation agreement with Thiel College to provide clinical site experience for audiology/speech pathology students. This is a five-year agreement beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

SPYGLASS:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the agreement with SpyGlass to review the District's telecommunications service accounts to seek cost recovery, service elimination and cost reduction recommendations. The District used SpyGlass in 2017 and saved \$4,015.80. On a roll call vote, member Bobby, Lengel, Peters, VanWoert, Amos, Hazi, Nugent, Stotsky and Whalen voted yes.

VAN DRIVERS, ROUTES AND SALARIES 2023-24:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved all van routes, drivers and salaries for the 2023-24 school year, per attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

BUS DRIVERS AND ROUTES 2023-24:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved of all bus drivers and routes for the 2023-24 school year, per attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

DISTRIBUTION OF CUB SCOUT FLYERS:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Mercer Area School District to distribute cub scout recruitment flyers at the elementary school. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

JR.-SR. PLAY – RUMORS:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matt Hazi, the Board approved a junior-senior play titled Rumors, to be held Nov. 15-17, 2023. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MOU WITH MERCER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Education Association and Mercer Area School District regarding the Section 125 Flexible Spending Program for Medical and Dependent Care Expenses and Premiums, per attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

DISCUSSION ON ROOF REPAIR BIDS:

After discussion, David Lengel motioned to reject all roof repair bids, motion seconded by J. Jarrett Whalen. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

BACKPACK PROGRAM:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved partnering with Trinity Presbyterian Church for the Mercer Elementary Backpack Program. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional business, Shane Nugent motioned to adjourn the meeting, Rodney Bobby seconded. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Lynn R. Long, Office Manager

David R. Lengel, Board President