

## Minutes of September 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

ARTHUR AMOS  
MATTHEW HAZI  
SHANE NUGENT  
DEREK STOTSKY

RODNEY BOBBY  
DAVID LENGEL  
AIMEE PETERS  
STEVEN VanWOERT

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

J. JARRETT WHALEN

**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.  
MICHAEL STABILE, BUSINESS MANAGER/BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Mark Kasiorek and Mr. Warren Whetzel, PA Constables, spoke to the Board regarding school safety and qualifications the Constables have acquired.

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 eight members present.

**MINUTES:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2023. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, 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, Peters, and VanWoert voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

**Motion:** Passed

**Personnel:**

*Retirement:*

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board accepted, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Laura Shillito, Special Education Secretary, effective January 22, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

**MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)**

**Hire:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following hires. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved the addition of Mr. Scott Reid to the master bus driver list for the 2023-24 school year.

Approved the hiring of Mr. Jeffery Brandes as a van driver, at the rate of \$75/day, to travel to Bathesda Lutheran Services, Meadville, PA on a daily basis, pending clearances.

Approved the hiring of Mrs. Brittany Milliren as a van driver, at the rate of \$65/day, to transport students to Creative Christian Learning Center, Mercer, PA, pending clearances.

Approved Mrs. Laura Nych to serve as a mentor for Mr. David Urey IV, for the 2023-24 school year.

**EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):**

**Hires/Resignations:**

Approved hiring substitute teachers, aides & paraprofessionals and/or accept, with regret, the resignation of such employees submitted by Educational Staffing Solutions, as attached.

**AMERICORPS:**

Approved Mr. Max Hamilton to fill the Middle/High School AmeriCorps position for the 2023-24 school year, at \$13,200 cost share to the district.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following requests for professional development. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved Mrs. Allyson Rust to attend the 2023-24 School Counselor Network at Midwestern Intermediate Univ IV from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the following dates: Sept. 28, 2023, January 11 and March 21, 2024. There is no cost to the school district.

Approved Ms. Lisa Wishart to attend Academic Games Training at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on September 8, 11, October 2, December 1, 2023 and May 6, 2024. One substitute is requested for each day at \$100/day. (Total \$500)

Approved Ms. Emily Pepper to attend the Act 158: Pathways to Graduation Fall Refresher workshop on September 27 at MIU4 in Grove City. There is no cost to the district.

Approved Mrs. Jennifer Mausser to attend the K-12 Student Assistance Program Training on October 24, 25 and 26, 2023 at Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission. The cost to the district is \$350 for the training and a substitute nurse for three days.



MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: (Continued)

Approved Mrs. Andrea Crooks and Mrs. Maggie Ference to attend the School Wide Positive Behavior Coaches Day Summit at MIU4 on October 10, 2023. Two substitute teachers are requested for the day. (\$200)

Approved the following professional staff and support staff to attend Initial and re-certification for Safety Care Training at the MIU IV. The total cost to the district is \$1,630.00, which includes two substitutes teachers (\$200).

- Mrs. Joni Kostelnik, Mr. Kevin Reese, Mrs. Lydia Sipe, and Mrs. Korina Yanak
- Jessica Montalvo, Virginia Smith, Sheena Ross, Kathy Miller, Kristina Claypool, Shiela Grossman, Daina McAdams, Dave Tomson, Brianna Parker

Approved Mrs. Kelsey Rose, Mrs. Korina Yanak, and Mrs. Lydia Sipe attend the Speech Professional Learning Community at the MIU IV on the following days: October 4, December 5, 2023, February 8, April 15, 2024. The training is from 9:00- 3:00 each day. No substitute coverage is needed and there is no cost to the district.

Approved Mrs. April Edney to attend the PaTTAN Training entitled "Strategies for Diffusing and Preventing Challenging Behavior" on October 25, 2023 at PATTAN in Pittsburgh, PA. There is no cost for the training. One substitute is needed for a cost of \$100.00 to the district.

FACILITIES REQUEST:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following facility requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved Mercer Elementary Student Council and the Positivity and Kindness Krew (PAKK), advisors Mrs. Maggie Ference and Mrs. Wendy McClure, to host a Parent's Day Off fundraiser on October 20, 2023. This fundraiser will take place from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the elementary school. The cost for participation will be \$10 per student and open only to Mercer students in grades K-6. Proceeds from this event will be allocated for the Holiday Feast in December.

Approved the Shenango Valley Chapter of Wrestling Coaches to use the LGI room on the following Sundays at 6:00 p.m.:

Nov. 5, Dec, 10 & 17, 2023, January 7 & 21, and Feb. 4, 2024

Approved the Track and Cross-Country Boosters to use the track, parking lots, and cross-country course to host an elementary cross-country relay event on October 4, 2023. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)

**FACILITIES:** *(Continued)*

Approved Sankey Financial Services to use the middle/high school LGI on November 4, 2023 for a retirement seminar. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved Mercer Elementary Student Council and the Positivity and Kindness Krew (PAKK) to host a holiday feast dinner for elementary families on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Mercer Elementary Cafeteria. Dinner will be provided by AVI.

Approved Mercer Community Band to use the middle-high school auditorium and cafeteria on Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. for their annual Christmas Concert.

**STUDENT TRAVEL:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved the First Grade class, approximately 85 students, 10 staff and parent chaperones, to travel to Irons Mills Farmstead, New Wilmington, PA on October 19, 2023. Two buses and one van are requested for transportation. One substitute nurse is requested for the day, which is the only cost to the school district. (\$100) Cost for the transportation and facility admission is being paid for by the PEP Association.

Approved the girls' soccer team to travel to Pittsburgh, PA on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 for a professional soccer game. This game is rescheduled from the original trip, which was cancelled due to inclement weather. The only expense to the school district is for the use of two school vans.

Approved Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany Academic Games members to Slippery Rock University on October 18, November 15, December 13, 2023, January 10, February 7 and 14, 2024 for tournaments. One substitute (\$100) per day and transportation for each day is requested. (\$600)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Friedhoff to accompany approximately 45 marching band students and five (5) chaperones to Pigeon Forge, TN on November 9-12, 2023, to perform and see the cultural/historical significance of the area. One substitute teacher is needed for two days (\$200), which is the only expense to the school district.

Approved Ms. Emily Pepper to accompany two students to Extreme Leadership on September 9, November 13, March 4, April 10 and April 22 of the 2023-24 school year at MIU4 in Grove City. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Approved Mrs. Nicole Walzer to accompany Middle-High School students to Academic Games on October 18, November 1 and December 11, 2023, January 10, 17, 24, and February 14 and 27, 2024. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for 8 days and transportation. (\$800)



**MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)**

**STUDENT TRAVEL: (Continued)**

Approved Mr. Doug Schmid to accompany the Robotics Team to the BEST of the Robotics competitions on October 7, 2023 at the Ross Park Mall, Pittsburgh, PA and on October 20 & 21, 2023 at Grove City College. The only cost to the school district is for the use on a school van.

Approved Ms. Samantha Hong and Ms. Erin McLaughlin to accompany students to the Steelers STEM Challenge at MIU4 in Grove City on October 30, 2023. The only cost to the school district is for the two substitute teachers (\$200) and the use of two school vans.

Approved Mrs. Shelley Rowe to accompany French students to the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh on November 2, 2023 to watch the French musical *Les Miserables*. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Approved Ms. Emily Peffer to accompany students to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo on September 21, 2023 in Canfield, Ohio. There is no cost to the district.

Approved up to eight (8) student athletes to travel to Grove City High School, via school van, on October 12, 2023 to participate in a leadership/sportsmanship program sponsored by District 10. The program will run from 8:15 – 1:00 p.m. and will feature Craig Hillier as the main speaker. The only cost to the district may be for one substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

**RESCHINI GROUP-AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AGREEMENT:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Engagement Agreement between The Reschini Group and Mercer Area School District to fulfill reporting requirements mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Internal Revenue Service for 2023. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

**Motion:** *Passed*

**PSBA CANDIDATE LIST:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following list of candidates for PSBA. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2024 President-Elect (one-year term)	Allison Mathis, North Hills School District
2024 Vic President (one-year term)	Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area School Dist.
2024-2026 Treasurer (three-year term)	Karen Beck Pooley, Bethlehem Area SD
2024-2026 Western Zone Rep (three-year term)	Marsh Pleta, Washington School District
2024-2025 Section W3 Advisor	Erik Meredith, East Allegheny School Dist.
PSBA Insurance Trustee (three-term)	Marianne Neel, West Jefferson Hills SD
PSBA Insurance Trustee (three-term)	Michael Faccinetto, Bethlehem Area SD

**MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)**

**FINALSITE:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the agreement with FinalSite to provide the parent mass notification system for the school district. Cost is \$5,621.00 for the 2023-2024 school year and \$1,350.00 for the next four (4) year period (2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, & 2027-28). On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

**Motion:** *Passed*

**ROOF REPAIR BIDS (Rejected):**

A motion to reject all roof bids was made by David Lengel, second by Derek Stotsky. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

**Motion:** *Passed*

**ROOF BID RESULTS**

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Elementary School</u>	<u>Middle/High School</u>	<u>Roof Vents</u>	<u>Total</u>
Genesis Roofing	\$153,500	\$1,040,500	\$3,500	\$1,197,500
Momentum*	\$35,450	\$850,500	\$28,950	\$914,900
Northwestern	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ramp Construction	\$30,000	\$955,050	\$14,000	\$999,050

*\*Please see attached deviations form for Momentum Builders.*

**BID FOR NEW TRUCK:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved seeking bids for a new maintenance truck. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

**MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY – BOOK PURCHASE:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the attached list of books for the middle-high school library. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

**MOU WITH WEST MIDDLESEX ASD FOR SPECIAL EDUC. SERVICES:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mercer Area School District and the West Middlesex Area School District for special education services and programs for High School Life Skills Support for the 2023-2024 school year. On a roll call vote, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

**Motion:** *Passed*

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BOARD MEETING: (Continued)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

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David R. Lengel, Board President