

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF
OCTOBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: ARTHUR AMOS MATTHEW HAZI
 DAVID LENGEL SHANE NUGENT
 AIMEE PETERS DEREK STOTSKY
 STEVEN VanWOERT

MEMBERS ABSENT: RODNEY BOBBY 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
 MICHAEL STABILE, BUSINESS MANAGER/BOARD SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:45 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were seven members present. A moment of silence followed, for three Lakeview students who passed away.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on September 16, 2023, the Transportation Committee and Curricular/Extra-Curricular Committee Meetings on October 12, 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, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters and VanWoert voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the student discipline as recommended by the Discipline Committee, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

PERSONNEL:

Resignations:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Vicki Reed as a middle/high school cafeteria monitor and a door monitor (through ESS), effective October 1, 2023. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hire:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved hiring the following. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hired Mrs. Christine Rowe as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$65/day, pending clearances.

Hired the following weekend boiler operators.

Mark Shoemaker at \$10.00/hour

Barry Gosnell at \$10.00/hour

Hired the 2023-24 Winter Coaches, per the attached list, pending clearances.

Hired the 2023-24 school advisors, per the attached list.

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):

Hire/Resignations:

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

FMLA:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved a 12-week Family Medical Leave for Mrs. Emilie Mulneix, to begin approximately Dec. 16, 2023. Mrs. Mulneix will use 30 sick days and 30 FMLA days. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Mrs. Wendy McClure, Mr. Tyler Hile and Mrs. Michelle Santom to attend Health/Physical Education Network Training with PDE at MIU4 on December 4, 2023. There is no cost for registration. One substitute teacher for each is the only expense for the day. (\$300) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

STUDENT TRAVEL: (Continued)

Approved Mrs. Maggie Ference to accompany six (6) Mercer Elementary Student Council members to PBIS Student Leadership Summit at MIU4 on October 24, 2023. There is no cost for the registration. The only expense to the school district is for one van and one substitute that is requested for the day. (\$100)

Approved Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Advanced Chamber Choir students, approximately three, to Westminster College October 26-28, 2023. One substitute is needed for two days, and the use of one school van is requested for two days. (\$200)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany band students to Slippery Rock University on November 7, 2023 for Honors Band auditions. The total cost to the district is for one substitute teacher for the day (\$100) and one bus for transportation.

Approved Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany approximately 20 Show Choir students to the following events:

- Dec. 1, 2023 at 1:15 p.m. – Quality of Life, Mercer, PA. One substitute is requested (\$100) and one bus for transportation.
- Dec. 1, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. – Mercer Light Up Night. No substitute and no transportation needed. There is no expense to the school district.
- Dec. 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Buhl Park Light Up Night, Sharon, PA and Rotary Christmas Gala at Mehard Manor, Mercer, PA No substitute is needed. One bus is requested for transportation and is the only expense to the school district.
- Dec. 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – Lion’s Club, Fredonia PA. No substitute is needed. One bus is requested for transportation and is the only expense to the school district.
- Dec. 9, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. – Cottage Gardens, Hermitage, PA (Saturday) No substitute or transportation is requested. There is no expense to the school district.
- Dec. 11, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. – Shenango on the Green, New Wilmington, PA. No substitute is needed. One bus is requested for transportation and is the only expense to the school district.
- Dec. 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. – Brandy Springs Park, Mercer, PA. There is no expense to the school district.
- Dec. 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. – The Lakes at Jefferson, Mercer, PA. There is no expense to the school district.
- Dec. 18, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. – Courthouse and Avalon Springs, Mercer. One substitute teacher (\$100) and one bus is requested for transportation, and is the expense to the school district. (This trip will include 10 Chamber Choir students)
- Dec. 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. – Big Brothers, Big Sisters, at First Presbyterian Church, New Castle, PA. No substitute teacher requested. One bus is requested for transportation and is the only expense to the school district.
- Dec. 19, 2023 at 7:45 a.m. – Mercer Elementary School. One substitute teacher is requested (\$100) and is the only expense to the school district. No transportation is needed.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved *The Chapel at Mercer* to use the elementary school on Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., for worship service and to have a meal to celebrate their mortgage payoff. Use of the LGI, cafeteria/old gym, kitchen, projector, tables and chairs are requested. All aspects of the facility agreement and fees will be applicable.

Approved Mercer Midget Football to use the high school cafeteria for their banquet on November 13, 2023.

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Arthur Amos, The Board tabled the request from *The Chapel at Mercer* to use the elementary LGI, entrance, hallway, cafeteria/old gym and a projector, to conduct worship service during their sanctuary roof and wall repairs. This request is for every Sunday beginning January 7 through March 31, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All aspects of the facility agreement and fees will be applicable. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TUITION STUDENT FOR ELEMENTARY:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved accepting one fourth grade tuition student to Mercer Elementary School, at a rate of \$5000.00 per year, which will be pro-rated for the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved Mercer Area School District to participate as plaintiffs in a nationwide multidistrict litigation against social media companies in federal court in the Northern District of California. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION DOCUMENTS:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Shane Nugent, the Board authorized Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, to sign any fee agreement related to the multidistrict litigation against social media companies. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE DELEGATES:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the attached 2024 TCC (Tax Collection Committee) Delegate Appointment Resolution, effective January 1, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY BOOK PURCHASE:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved purchasing books for the elementary library, per the attached list. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

WOODRING DETECTIVE AGENCY & SECURITY SERVICE LLC.:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved a contract between Mercer Area School District and Woodring Detective Agency & Security Service LLC., Guys Mills, PA, for school security for the remainder of 2023. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky and VanWoert voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

MERCER BOROUGH POLICE AGREEMENT:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved terminating the Police Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Mercer Borough, effective immediately. All agreement termination requirements have been met. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky and VanWoert voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

MAINTENANCE TRUCK BID:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the maintenance truck bid from McCandless Ford, Mercer, PA in the amount of \$45,375.00, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky and VanWoert voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

GIRLS' WRESTLING TEAM CO-OP:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved a cooperative agreement between Mercer Area School District and Hermitage School District to form a girls' wrestling team. Mercer girls would wrestle for Hermitage. The cost of the co-op to Mercer would be the cost associated with van transportation of the team to scheduled meets/tournaments. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

****First read of Policy# 823 - Naloxone***

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President