

# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2023 BOARD MEETING

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

ARTHUR AMOS  
MATTHEW HAZI  
SHANE NUGENT  
DEREK STOTSKY  
J. JARRETT WHALEN

RODNEY BOBBY  
DAVID LENGEL  
AIMEE PETERS  
STEVEN VanWOERT

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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**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

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:35 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 October 16, 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, Peters, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

***Motion:*** Passed

**EARLY DISMISSAL:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved an early dismissal for teachers, staff and students on December 19, 2023 at 11:35 a.m. for elementary and 11:50 a.m. for middle/high school students. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TUITION STUDENT (MAVA):**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved accepting one grade 12 tuition student to participate in two MAVA classes (cyber) at a cost of \$900.00, for the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**

**PERSONNEL:**

**Hires:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved hiring the following employees. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Mrs. Julianne Ryland as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$65 per day, pending clearances.

Approved Mrs. Cindy Green as a cafeteria monitor in the middle/high school at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, pending clearances.

Approved Mrs. Leah (Chamberlain) Graziani as middle school basketball cheer advisor, for the 2023-24 school year, pending clearances.

Approved adding the following *volunteer* coaches to the 2023-24 winter coach list, pending clearances.

<b><u>Elementary Wrestling Volunteers</u></b>		<b><u>Boys Basketball Volunteers</u></b>	
Doug Lumley	Zack Swartz	Ed Berti	
Curtis Esquibel	Jake Priester	<b><u>Elem. Girls Basketball Volunteers</u></b>	
Micah Wilpula	Matt Spragale	Erin Hallberg	
Tom Swartz	Alison Kelly	Aimee Peters	

Approved Dahlia Jacks to fill the Elementary AmeriCorps opening beginning November 21, 2023 at a cost of \$13,000.

**EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):**

**Hires/Resignations:**

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

**PERSONNEL:**

**Change in Status:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved changing the status of the following coaches, previously approved in October 2023. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- Rachael Algoe: From a paid position to volunteer status
- Shelah Guenther: From a volunteer position to paid status

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following requests for staff development. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Mrs. Dana Rowe to attend CCIU PIMS Workshop on November 14, 2023. Cost to the district is \$125.00.

Approved Mrs. Allyson Rust attending the Safety Care Recertification all-day training at the MIU IV on December 15, 2023 at a cost of \$65.00.

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**

**Staff Development (Continued):**

Approved Mrs. Jamie Heckman to attend the whole day Initial Safety Care two-day training on December 11 -12, 2023 provided through MIU IV at a cost of \$130.00.

**STUDENT TRAVEL:**

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

Approved third grade, approximately 65 students and 9 chaperones, to travel to the Mercer County Courthouse on December 7, 2023. The PEP Association is covering the cost of one bus for transportation. One handicap van is also requested which is the only cost to the school district.

Approved third grade, approximately 65 students and 9 chaperones, to travel to the Youngstown Playhouse on January 19, 2024 to view *Alice in Wonderland: The musical*. The PEP Association is covering \$5.00 per student as well as two buses for transportation. One handicap van is also requested which is the only cost to the school district.

Approved first grade, approximately 90 students and 10 chaperones, to travel to the Youngstown Playhouse on March 8, 2024 to view a performance of *Shrek: The Musical*. The PEP Association is covering \$5.00 per student as well as two buses for transportation. One handicap van is also requested and is the only cost to the school district.

Approved third grade, approximately 65 students and 12 chaperones, to travel to Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, PA on May 23, 2024. The PEP Association is covering \$3.00 per student as well as one bus for transportation. One handicap van and one substitute nurse are requested for the day, which is the only expenses to the school district. (\$100)

Approved Mr. Kevin Reese to accompany 8 to 10 students to Shenango High School on November 21, 2023 for a Special Olympics preview. The cost to the district is for two school vans for transportation.

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany five Wind Ensemble students to Slippery Rock University on December 7 through 9, 2023 to participate in Honors Band. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for two days. (\$200)

Approved Mrs. Marlena Priester to accompany approximately 40 culinary students on December 18, 2023 to the Historic City County Building in Pittsburgh, PA to see their gingerbread houses on display and to visit PPG Place for ice skating. One bus is requested for transportation which is being paid for by the culinary club and the students. One substitute teacher is needed, which is the only expense to the school district. (\$100)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany three band students to Hopewell High School on January 11 through 13, 2024 to participate in the PMEA District Band Festival. The cost to the district is the use of a school van for three days, a substitute for two days (\$200) and lodging for two days. (\$275)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany 20 band students to Grove City College on January 17 and 18, 2024 to participate in the Mercer County Band Festival. The only cost to the district is bussing for two days and a substitute teacher for two days. (\$200)

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**

**STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):**

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany one student to Hickory High School on February 7 through 9, 2024 to participate in the PMEA Orchestra Festival. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van for three days and a substitute teacher for three days. (\$300)

Approved Mrs. Danielle Ross to accompany two students to Youngtown State University on April 17, 2024 for the YSU English Festival to compete and attend writing seminars. The cost to the district is registration for the two students (\$20), a substitute teacher for the day (\$100), and the use of a school van.

Approved Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany approximately 50 choral students on April 25 through 27, 2024 to Williamsburg, VA to perform at Colonial Williamsburg. One substitute teacher is needed for two days (\$200), which is the only expense to the school district.

Approved the Teens2Career program (United Way) to attend a career day at Slippery Rock University on December 5, 2023. There's no cost to the school district.

**FACILITIES:**

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

Approved Mr. Doug Edney and the Conservation Club to use the High School Cafeteria on March 2, 2024 for the Game Dinner Fundraiser. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Twirling Angels to use the elementary gymnasium on Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for a baton recital. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

**Tabled (open) agenda item from October 2023 board meeting.**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved *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 roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**MUSICAL SELECTION:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the musical *Hello, Dolly!* to be held April 11 – 13, 2024. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the copier and printer bid from Toshiba Business Solutions for \$3,599.31/month. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**

**EICHENLAUB CO:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved an annual telescopic bleacher inspection performed by Eichenlaub Co., for both the elementary and middle/high school buildings, in the amount of \$1,750.00 per year. This is a three-year agreement. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIV.:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board accepted the attached Field Placement Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Youngstown State University. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TEN (10) PASSENGER VAN -BILL McCANDLESS FORD:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the purchase of a 10-passenger van from Bill McCandless Ford, Mercer, PA for \$59,898.00. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**STATE CONSTABLES-SECURITY/PEACEKEEPING:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved for the Superintendent to pursue an agreement with the State Constables to provide security/peacekeeping within Mercer Area School District, during school hours. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**POLICY# 823 NALOXONE:**

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Policy# 823, **Naloxone**. (The first read was October 2023.) On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

At this time there was a discussion to set the date and time of the re-organizational board meeting.

*Date:* Monday, December 4, 2023      *Time:* 7:30 p.m.

**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