

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF March 18, 2024 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:

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 7:55 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 Arthur Amos, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on February 26, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, 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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the discipline as recommended by the discipline committee. On a roll call vote, members VanWoert, Whalen Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, and Peters voted yes. Member Stotsky voted no.

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

PERSONNEL:

Hires:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Steven Van Woert, the board accepted the following recommendations. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved the hiring of Ms. Sharilynn Jones as a 12-month Administrative Assistance at \$28,000, prorated, beginning March 7, 2024.

Approved the hiring of Mr. Daniel Heckman as Athletic Director at a supplemental contract pay of \$9,000 annually, prorated for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

Approved adding the following coaches to the spring coaches list, pending clearances.

- Mr. Jeffrey Lockard – volunteer junior high baseball coach

Position Change:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved moving Mr. Rick Whenry from volunteer status to a paid position for junior high boys' baseball. This position will be split with Mr. Gary Hartman. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Remove from coaching list:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved removing Mr. Alex Dupuis from the junior high boys' baseball coach list. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Educational Staffing Solutions:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved to hire substitute teachers and/or aides & paraprofessionals and/or accept, with regret, the resignation of such employees submitted by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Approved Mr. Doug Edney to accompany the Conservation Club to stock trout with the Fish and Game Commission on March 28, 2024. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Approved Ms. Emily Peffer and two additional chaperones to accompany the 9th grade class to the Business and Industry Fair on April 4, 2024 at the Park Inn by Radisson Sharon, West Middlesex, PA. The cost to the district is for transportation.

Approved Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany two (2) students to the Academic Games – Nationals Tournament in Atlanta, GA on April 19 – April 23, 2024. The cost for student registration is \$130/student (\$260). Students will be transported, lodged and supervised by a family member.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

STUDENT TRAVEL (CONTINUED):

Approximate cost to the district for Ms. Wishart to attend include: Lodging (\$760), food (\$250), transportation (\$590), registration (\$130) and one substitute teacher for three days (\$300.00). The estimated total cost to the district for this trip is \$2,290.00.

Approved the second-grade class (approximately 96 students) to travel to the New Castle Playhouse in New Castle, PA on May 7, 2024 to watch a performance of *High School Musical*. Two buses are requested for transportation. Cost of the transportation, food/snacks, and show admission will be paid for through the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Approved the sixth-grade class (approximately 69 students) to travel to the Meadville Cinema in Meadville, PA on May 29, 2024 from 8:30 – 12:00 p.m., to see the PG rated movie “**IF**”. Two buses are requested for transportation. Ticket bundles to the movie (admission, food, and drink at \$10/student) and transportation costs are all being paid by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Approved the sixth-grade class (approximately 69 students) to travel to Ten Pin Alley, Hermitage, PA on June 4, 2024 from 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. Two buses are requested for transportation. The admission fees, bowling, food and drink are \$11.95/student and the transportation expenses are all being paid by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to attend the PMEA All State Conference, as a chaperone, on April 18 and 19, 2024. The only cost to the district is a substitute for two days. (\$200) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

FACILITIES REQUESTS:

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

Approved Mercer Midget and Peewee Cheerleading to use the entrance lobby of the elementary school on April 9 & 18, 2024 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for registration. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved Mercer Midget and Peewee Cheerleading to use the front grass area of the elementary school and the music wing restrooms on July 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2024, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for cheer camp. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved Mercer Midget and Peewee Cheerleading to use the front grass area of the elementary school and the music wing restrooms on Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. between July 29 – October 10, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

FACILITIES REQUESTS (CONTINUED):

Approved the Pennsylvania Dance Company to use the middle/high school auditorium and three additional rooms for their dance recital on May 17 and 18, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

JMI CONSULTANTS:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the agreement with JMI Consultants to enroll the District's utility accounts into a Demand Response Portfolio for participation in Demand Response Programs and Demand Response Services. (JMI is the District's consultant for the Electric and Natural Gas Consortiums). On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, and Amos voted yes.

Motion: Passed

UPMC SPORTS MEDICINE-ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved of a two-year agreement between UPMC Sports Medicine and the Mercer Area School District, for athletic training services. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MIU4 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the 2024-25 Intergovernmental Agreement between Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV and Mercer Area School District. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

RUCKUS COMMSCOPE:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved a five (5) year renewal agreement with Ruckus Commscope for software support & management of access points & switches in the amount of \$13,819.00. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: Passed

CM REGENT/UNITED CONCORDIA/NATIONAL VISION ADMINS:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved CM Regent Solutions along with United Concordia and National Vision Administrators to continue to serve as the dental and vision plan administrators for Mercer Area School District. This agreement will be in effect July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, per the attachments. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA IU13:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the agreement between Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) and Mercer Area School District for Financial Management Software and Support Services, which include Fund Accounting, Human Resources, and Payroll for the 2024-25 school year, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2024 BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

2024-25 MERCER COUNTY CAREER CENTER BUDGET:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board accepted the 2024-2025 Mercer County Career Center Budget in the amount of \$6,425,022, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes.

Motion: Passed

BEAVER VALLEY IU AND NEW HORIZONS NORTH FACILITY:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved an agreement between the Mercer Area School District and Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide special education services and programming to students at the New Horizon North facility for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

ROOF REPAIRS

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the elementary and middle/high school roof repairs bid from Ramp Construction Company, Inc., for \$876,500, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent and Peters voted yes.

Motion: Passed

CO-OP AGREEMENT WITH COMMODORE PERRY SD.:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a cooperative agreement between the Mercer Area School District and the Commodore Perry School District for football, marching band, and football cheerleading for a four (4) year period (2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28). On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the attached list of books for the middle/high school. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- * Established the date for the budget meeting of April 17, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
- * First read of Special Education Plan (2024-27)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President