

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF
JANUARY 22, 2024 BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS
MATTHEW HAZI
DEREK STOTSKY

RODNEY BOBBY
SHANE NUGENT

MEMBERS ABSENT:

DAVID LENGEL
STEVEN VanWOERT

AIMEE PETERS
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

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Mr. Shane Nugent, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were five members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the minutes of the regular/reorganization board meeting of December 4, 2023, the special meeting on December 19, 2023, the special meeting on January 2, 2024, and the curriculum & extracurricular committee meeting on January 18, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed, and financial reports were all *tabled until the February 2024 board meeting.*

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

There was no student discipline at this time.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2024 BOARD MEETING (Continued):

PERSONNEL:

Hire:

The list of coaches for the spring 2024 season were *tabled until the February 2024 board meeting*.

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

Approved Ms. Alishia Tan as a substitute cafeteria monitor at the elementary school, pending clearances.

Approved the following paid positions, to assist Mrs. Michalee Christy with the school musical, pending clearances, as follows:

Mrs. Katie Greig (pianist)	\$1,000.00
Ms. Rachel Henry	\$ 500.00
Mrs. Jessica Nemeth	\$ 500.00

Approved Mr. Micah Wojnowski as a volunteer to assist Mrs. Michalee Christy with the school musical, pending clearances.

Family Medical Leave:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a Family Medical Leave for Mrs. Lexi Bourdeau, beginning approximately April 26, 2024. Lexi will utilize all available sick days prior to her unpaid leave. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Leave of Absence:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved an anticipated unpaid medical leave for Mrs. Alexis Cannon, beginning approximately March 1, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):

Hires/Resignations:

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following requests for staff development. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT (Continued):

Approved Miss Courtney Brown to attend a counseling training at MIU4 in Grove City on March 21, 2024. There's no cost to the district.

Approved Mrs. Beth Weller to attend the PMEA Annual Conference at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA on April 18 and 19, 2024. Registration cost for the conference (\$175) and a substitute teacher for two days (\$200) is requested and are the only expenses to the school district.

Approved the following staff members, Mrs. Kelsey Rose, Mrs. Korina Yanak and Mrs. Lydia Sipe, to attend an all-day Speech/Language Round Table training at the Shenango Valley Library on March 20, 2024. There is no cost to the district.

Approved Mr. Michael Stabile to attend the PASBO Annual Conference at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA on March 5-8, 2024. PASBO will cover the costs of registration and lodging since Mr. Stabile is a PASBO Director.

Approved Miss Samantha Hong to attend Chemical Management and Safety Training at Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Pittsburgh, PA on February 1, 2024. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved for the Mercer Lady M's Softball Boosters to use the high school cafeteria on Saturday, February 10, 2024 for a Father Daughter Dance. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Mercer Girls Fastpitch to use the elementary cafeteria/gymnasium for softball practice between January 2024 – March 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed. Availability of the facility will be determined and scheduled by the athletic director.

Approved Mr. Buck Baldwin to use the Mercer Elementary Gymnasium and the Mercer Area Middle/High School gym to host the 14U and 17U Mercer Club Volleyball practices, scrimmages, and open gym sessions for Mercer Elementary, Middle, JV, and Varsity players between January – March 2024. Availability will be determined by the athletic director.

Approved the Mercer Softball recreation league to use the Mercer Elementary main entrance lobby on January 28 and February 4, 2024 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. for league registration.

Approved cheerleading advisors Miss Courtney Brown (football) and Mrs. Jill McCracken (basketball) to host a fundraising youth cheer clinic, open to all Mercer County Youth, on March 2, 2024, in the high school gymnasium. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

FACILITIES (Continued):

Approved the Mercer Band Boosters to use the auditorium, gym, and two classrooms to host a Jazz Fest Fundraiser on April 24, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved for Mrs. Jessica Ingley to use the elementary school for Camp Invention June 10 - 14, 2024 from 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Mercer Community Band to use the high school auditorium for rehearsal, and if needed, a performance facility, on the following dates:

Rehearsal dates:

June 20, 27, July 11, 18, & 25, 2024 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday Concert dates (if inclement weather):

June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 2024 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Approved the Mercer Band Boosters to host a LMBA Marching Band competition on October 5, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Approved Mr. Doug Schmid to accompany the Tech Ed. Club to JB Mill & Fabricating, New Castle, PA and East Coast Chair and Barstool, Mercer, PA on February 22, 2024. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day (\$100) and the use of a school van.

Approved Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany approximately six (6) students to the Academic Games Tri-Bowl State Tournament at Grove City College on February 26 & 27, 2024. One substitute teacher is requested for two days (\$200) and one van is requested for transportation each day.

Approved Mr. William Chess to accompany approximately 9 AP Calculus students to Mathfest at YSU, Youngstown, OH on February 29, 2024. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany approximately 24 Jazz Band students to the Maplewood Jazz Festival on March 13, 2024 at Maplewood Elementary. One bus (\$150) and one substitute teacher for one half day (\$50) are the only expenses to the school district.

STUDENT TRAVEL: (Continued)

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany approximately eight (8) middle school students to the PMEA Junior Honors Band Festival at Seneca Valley on March 26, 2024. One van is requested for transportation and one substitute teacher (\$100) for the day which are the only expenses to the school district.

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany approximately 24 Jazz Band students to participate in the Tri-C Jazz Festival, and get feedback from the legendary Count Basie Orchestra, on March 27, 2024. One bus (\$150) and one substitute teacher (\$100) is requested for the day, and are the only expenses to the school district.

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany approximately 40 concert band and wind ensemble students to participate in the PMEA performance assessment at Norwin High School on April 29, 2024. One bus (\$250) and one substitute teacher (\$100) are requested for the day.

Approved the Fifth Grade, approximately 87 students, to travel to Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA on May 9, 2024. Two buses are requested for transportation (\$400) and the student admission fee of \$15 per student are all being paid for by the PEP Association. One substitute nurse is requested for the day (\$100) and is the only expense to the school district.

Approved the Fourth Grade, approximately 84 students, to travel to Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA on May 21, 2024. Two buses are requested for transportation (\$400) and the student admission fee of \$15 per student are all being paid for by the PEP Association.

Approved the Kindergarten class, approximately 85 students, to travel to Keystone Safari, Grove City, PA on May 23, 2024. Two buses are requested for transportation. Cost for park admission and transportation will be paid for the by PEP Association. One substitute nurse is requested for the day (\$100) and is the only expense to the school district.

MOU WITH MEA:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Area School District and the Mercer Education Association; Article X, Section 1, Clause G, per the attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

ARP ESSER HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the updated ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan and Emergency Instructional Time Study for the 2023-24 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

E-RATE SERVICE AGREEMENT FROM CSIU:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the E-Rate Services Agreement from CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) for 2024-25, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Nugent voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

BERKONE – ACT 80 SERVICE:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2024, per the attached. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Nugent and Stotsky voted yes.

Motion: Passed

LINKAGE AGREE. CHILDREN’S AIDE SOCIETY:

The linkage agreement between Mercer Area School District and Children’s Aide Society of Mercer County for Family-Based Mental Health Services was *tabled until the February 2024 board meeting*.

LINKAGE AGREEMENT WITH FAMILY CONNECTIONS (CCCMC):

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved a two-year linkage agreement between Mercer Area School District and Family Connections, A Division of Community Counseling Center of Mercer County, for Family-Based Mental Health Services. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

RECORDER OF DEEDS COMMISSION:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MIUIV IDEA - SECTION 611, PASS THROUGH FUNDS:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved an agreement between Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV and Mercer Area School District, for the use, reporting, and audit of Pass Through Funds, associated with IDEA-B Section 611, in the amount of \$281,137.87. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Nugent and Stotsky voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MIUIV IDEA – SECTION 619:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved an agreement between Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV and Mercer Area School District, for IDEA-Section 619, in the amount of \$3,073.00 for the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

JUDICIAL TAX SALE – JAMES NEVANT:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the Judicial Tax Sale for property located at 137 North Otter Street, Mercer, PA No. 2023-3053, in Mercer Borough. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Nugent, Stotsky and Amos voted yes.

Motion: Passed

AUDIT REPORT:

At this time, Sean Emerson from McGill, Power Bell and Associates presented the results for the internal audit. Approval of the audit was *tabled until the February board meeting*.

**Review the rough draft of the tentative 2024-2025 Mercer Area School District calendar, as presented.*

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

Shane Nugent, Board Vice-President