

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 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 7:50 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine (9) members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following minutes. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- The regular board meeting of May 20, 2024
- Finance Committee meeting of June 13, 2024

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 statements. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

PERSONNEL:

Hire:

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

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

PERSONNEL: (Continued)

Granted approval to hire Ms. Kylie McElrath as a ¾ time Speech & Language teacher on Step 2 of the Masters Scale \$ 42,484.50 (prorated), beginning with the 2024-25 school year, pending clearances. There are no benefits with this position.

Granted approval to hire Ms. Candice Vincent as a Chemistry teacher on Step 1 of the Masters scale at \$56,339 with full benefits, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, pending clearances.

Granted approval to hire Mrs. Jennifer Flockerzi as a 10-month administrative assistant in the amount of \$21,924.00 with full benefits, pending clearances. This is a 200-day position beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Granted approval to hire Mrs. Darla Roman as a webmaster on step 1 of the supplemental contract, beginning July 1, 2024.

Granted approval of the additional summer maintenance employees, pending clearances and paperwork, as attached.

Granted approval to hire Mr. Donald Cataldi as a substitute security officer beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Granted approval of Miss Pressly Washil as a volunteer girls' basketball coach, pending clearances.

Granted approval to receive applications for boys' head wrestling coach beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Approved the for the Junior Class (Class of 2026) to host the Jr.-Sr. Prom at Tiffany's Banquet Center, Brookfield, OH on May 9, 2025, chaperoned by Class Advisor Miss Merrilynn Giles. There is no cost to the district.

Approved the Junior Class trip to Cedar Point on Thursday, May 29, 2025. Chaperones are Mrs. Danielle Ross, Mr. Anthony Ross and Mrs. Erica Mild. Two substitutes are requested for the day (\$200). There is no other cost to the school district.

Approved the girls' volleyball team to use one (1) school van to travel to Campbell Memorial High School to participate in a team camp June 24 – 26, 2024.

Approved the girls' basketball team to use two (2) school vans to travel to the Fairview High School Shootout Team Camp June 20 & 21, 2024.

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

FACILITIES REQUEST:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved the girls' volleyball boosters to host summer league matches in the middle-high school gymnasium on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. All aspects of the district's facilities policy will be followed. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following professional development requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Doug Schmid to participate in CS-STEM Network & Robotics Academy virtual training through Carnegie Mellon University. Cost to the district is registration (\$299.00).

Approved Michael Piddington & Amanda Simpson to attend the Title IX Training provided by Knox Law at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on Friday, July 26, 2024. Cost to the district is registration for the training (\$1,500.00).

2023-24 BUDGETARY TRANSFER:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the business manager to make any final budgetary transfers necessary to close the books for the 2023-24 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

2024-25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the Mercer Area School District General Fund Budget of **\$19,977,910** for the 2024-25 school year. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, and Amos voted yes.

Motion: Passed

INSURANCE PACKAGE 2024-25:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the insurance package (General Liability, Automobile and Worker's Compensation) with Reinhardt's Insurance Agency, in the amount of \$147,300 for the 2024-25 school year. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

BANK DEPOSITORIES FOR 2024-25:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the following depositories for the 2024-25 fiscal year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

First National Bank – General Fund, Payroll, Revolving Account, Cafeteria Fund and Yearbook, Flexible Spending Account, Real Estate Tax and Escrow Tax, and Organization Fund

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

BANK DEPOSITORIES FOR 2024-25 CONTINUED:

Huntington – Vending Account

PLGIT – General Fund (Debt Service, Capital Projects, Employee Benefit and Cafeteria Accounts)

Black Rock – Capital Reserve Account

Mercer County State Bank – Revolving Account, Cafeteria Fund, Yearbook, Organization Fund and Mercer Area School District Foundation

AVI FOODSYSTEMS, INC. ONE YEAR AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a one-year renewal of the agreement between AVI Foodsystems, Inc. and Mercer Area School District for the 2024-25 school year to serve as the district’s food management company. This is the final year of the contract. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: Passed

PSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY:

A motion by David Lengel was made to nominate J. Jarrett Whalen as a representative of Mercer Area School District at the PSBA Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Rodney Bobby seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MOU WITH MERCER COUNTY HEAD START:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Area School District and Mercer County Head Start to describe the responsibilities of each agency and provide guidance for coordination and cooperation between said agencies, effective Oct. 1, 2024 through Sept. 30, 2025. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

TENURE:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved, in accordance with Section 1121 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, that the following teachers be granted tenure based on the successful completion of three years of satisfactory service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as recommended by the superintendent, Dr. Ronald R. Rowe, Jr. On a voice vote all members voted yes.

- ❖ Mr. Tyler Hile
- ❖ Mrs. Lexi Bourdeau
- ❖ Ms. Courtney Brown
- ❖ Mr. Andrew Burk

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

NEW SCHOOL NURSE AGREEMENT (EXTRA DAYS):

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved the school nurses to receive up to five (5) additional paid days in the summer months to complete state reports and codify state requirements for incoming students in the new school year, per the attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

2024-25 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RATES - CLASSIFIED SALARY SCALE:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the substitute teacher pay scales beginning with the 2024-25 school year. This is part of the classified salary schedule, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

ELEMENTARY MATH TEXTBOOK SERIES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the purchase of a new elementary math textbook series from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in the amount of \$161,722.07. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

DeSANTIS SOLUTIONS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the quote from DeSantis Solutions in the amount of \$6,316.00 for the refinishing of the elementary and middle-high school gymnasiums. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes.

Motion: Passed

GROWING WELLNESS LLC:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved an agreement with Growing Wellness, LLC to provide programming for students in grades 5-12 during the 2024-2025 school year. Cost for the programs is \$16,050.00 and will be paid for using ESSERS 7% Set Aside Funding. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, and Peters voted yes.

Motion: Passed

EVS (CUSTODIAL SERVICES WITH AVI)

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved EVS (AVI Foodsystems, Inc.) budget for custodial services for the 2024-25 school year, in the amount of \$412,463. On a roll call vote, members VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, and Stotsky voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

BOARDWORKS INC. (NEARPOD):

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved renewal of the subscription with Boardworks Inc. (Nearpod) in the amount of \$2,111.00 for interactive curriculum resources for the 2024-2025 school year. On a roll call vote, members Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

Motion: Passed

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY DUAL ENROLLMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the dual enrollment agreement with Robert Morris University for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached. Robert Morris courses will include BIOL 1210/1215 and STAT 2110. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MOU WITH MEA (INDUCTION PROGRAM):

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the MEA and Mercer Area School District regarding the Induction Program, beginning with the 2024-25 school year, as per the attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

KIDS OF STEEL:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the creation of a new club, *Kids of STEEL*, at the elementary school, effective during the 2024-25 school year. Kids of STEEL is a running program. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

2ND GRADE TUITION STUDENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved permitting one second grade student to attend Mercer Elementary School, as a tuition student at the rate of \$5,000.00 per year, for the 2024-2025 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

AWARDING BIDS:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board awarded the following bids. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Stotsky, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Peters abstained.

Motion: Passed

NAME	ITEM	PRICE
Ron Morrison	2009 Chevrolet van (#5)	\$1,201
Mercer Auto Wreckers	2007 Silverado Truck	\$ 800
The Copier & Toner Store	24 copiers and printers	\$6,000
The Copier & Toner Store	Toner for copiers and printers	\$1,000

MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2024: (Continued)

SLUG IN LOVE:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved including *Slug in Love* by Rachel Bright and Nadia Shireen, into the Mercer Elementary Library. This book was the 2024 Pennsylvania One Book selection and donated by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President