



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

February 26, 2024

High School Library

\*\*\*7:30 p.m. \*\*\*

### Work Session

\*\*\*7:00 p.m. \*\*\*

**Executive Session:** *Closed* – Personnel, litigation, and student discipline; *Open* – Agenda.

## Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Recommend approval of the following minutes:
  - Regular Board Meeting, January 22, 2024
  - Special Board Meeting, February 8, 2024
  - Curricular and Extracurricular Committee Meeting, Feb. 22, 2024
3. Approve the Treasurer's report for November and December, all bills as listed, financial statements and audit report that were tabled at the January board meeting.
4. Approve the Treasurer's report for January, all bills as listed and financial statements as presented.
5. Communications.
6. Board committee reports.
7. Administrative reports.
8. Public comments.

Ten minute recess

9. **Student Discipline:**

Recommend approval of student discipline as recommended by the discipline committee.

10. **Personnel:**

**Retirement(s):**

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Karen Handerhan, elementary teacher, effective June 7, 2024.

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Linda Ryan, 10-month secretary, effective June 18, 2024.

**Hire:**

Recommend approval to hire coaches for the spring 2024 season, pending clearances, as attached, tabled from the January 2024 board meeting.

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Timothy Coryea as Head Boys' Soccer Coach, effective immediately.

Recommend approval to add Mr. Chris Washil as a Track Volunteer Coach, pending clearances.

**Educational Staffing Solutions:**

Recommend approval 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.

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. David Foley as technology aide with ESS, effective February 28, 2024.

**Remove from coaching list:**

Recommend approval to remove the following previously approved coaches for the 2023-24 school year, as they did not coach during the season.

- Curtis Esquibel – Wrestling
- Donald "Tom" Swartz – Wrestling
- Zack Swartz – Wrestling
- Luke Rust – Wrestling
- Scott Garner – Wrestling
- Nicolas Campbell - Wrestling

11. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Ms. Merrilynn Giles to accompany the Junior Class Officers to Tiffany's Banquet Center in Brookfield, Ohio, to make prom plans on a Saturday in March 2024. (Date TBD). One van is requested for transportation. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Michalee Christy to accompany two students to Regional Chorus, March 6 – 8, 2024 at Mars High School. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for two and one half days (\$250), two hotel rooms for two days (\$550), and the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for the third-grade class (approximately 87 students) to travel to Youngstown Playhouse, Youngstown, Ohio on March 7, 2024, to watch a performance of "Shrek". Two busses and one van are requested for transportation. Cost of student tickets and transportation will be paid for by the PEP Association. *Note:* This is a reschedule of a previously approved trip on January 23, 2024, which was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany approximately four (4) students to Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on March 11, 2024 for Academic Games National Training Day activities. One van is requested for transportation. One substitute teacher is requested for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Courtney Brown to accompany eight members of the Aevium Club to attend "The Talk", a discussion on four characteristics of a healthy community, at Wilmington High School on April 5, 2024. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Michalee Christy to accompany the Theater Arts students to Hickory High School on March 13, 2024 to watch Fiddler on the Roof. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Doug Edney or Erin Ellis to accompany five students to Munnell Run Farm for the Envirothon training day on April 3, 2024. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mandy Oates to accompany the Spanish II and III students to Pittsburgh, PA on April 9, 2024 to watch cultural dances from Spain, Central America, and South America. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Anna Cook and Mr. Troy Morris to accompany approximately 21 students to the Spring Academic Immersive Experience at Robert Morris University on April 16, 2024. One (1) bus is requested for transportation. Cost to the district is transportation and two (2) substitute teachers for one (1) day. (\$200)



12. **Facilities:**

Recommend approval for the elementary Student Council and Positivity and Kindness Krew (PAKK) to host a Parent's Day Off student activity on Friday, March 15, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the elementary school. Cost for the students to participate in a variety of activities, is \$10.00, with proceeds being used for elementary field day.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Ference to host a STEM Night program at the elementary school LGI Room and Computer Lab on April 18, 2024 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The STEM program will be held in cooperation with students from Grove City College. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Mercer Midget Football to hold flag football practices on the practice field, located at back of middle/high school, March 4 - May 31, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Dance Center Studios to use the auditorium and three additional classrooms for their recital and practices June 10 – 14, 2024. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

13. Recommend approval of Classified Salaries for the 2024-25 school year, as attached.

14. Recommend approval of the 2024 – 2025 Mercer Area School District calendar, as attached.

15. Through the authority of Act 30 of 1997, Section 1502, subsection (c), recommend that the Mercer Area School Board designate the following dates as local holidays: November 28, 29, December 2, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, and 31, 2024, and January 1, 2, 3; February 17; April 17, 18 and 21; and May 2 and 26, 2025. Schools may only be open on these dates in the event of weather emergency or natural disaster.

16. Recommend approval to accept the General Operating Budget for the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in the amount of \$4,162.498, for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

17. Recommend approval of a linkage agreement between Mercer Area School District and Children's Aide Society of Mercer County for Family-Based Mental Health Services. This item was tabled at the January 2024 board meeting.

18. Recommend approval of the Adoption of Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds under federal regulations of 34 CFR PART 300<sup>1</sup> for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached.

19. Recommend approval of an agreement between the Mercer Area School District and MHY Services to provide special education services and programming to a student at Longmore Academy for the 2023-2024 school year.

20. Recommend approval of a Linkage Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Sharon Regional Medical Center's Partial Hospitalization Programs, Pathfinders and Kite Strings, as attached.
21. Recommend approval of a renewal agreement between Mercer Area School District and Combustion Service & Equipment Co., in the amount of \$12,600.00 for one year, beginning March 1, 2024.
22. Recommend approval to renew the agreement with GoGuardian in the amount of \$9,317.00 to provide security software for student devices for the 2024-2025 school year.
23. Request approval to waive the school districts portion of penalties and interest on Mr. Kevin Shaffer's delinquent 2016 local income tax return. Local income tax returns are processed by Berkheimer Tax Innovations for the District.
24. Recommend approval of the Mercer Middle/High School Academic Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached.
25. Recommend approval to sell the old Ricoh copiers, printers and ink.
26. Other business.
27. Adjournment.

**FYI:**

March	2	Conservation Club Game Dinner – HS Cafeteria
March	4	First Day of Spring Sports Practice (Permitted by PIAA)
March	10	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring ahead one hour)
March	14	<i>School Board Committee Meetings, if needed</i>
March	18	Kindergarten Registration begins
March	18	<i>Next School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.</i>