



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

545 West Butler Street  
Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137

**Michael G. Piddington, Ed. D.**

Assistant Superintendent  
mpiddington@mercer.k12.pa.us

Central Office

724-662-5100

**Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed. D.**

Superintendent  
rrowe@mercer.k12.pa.us

Fax Number

724-622-5109

**Michael H. Stabile**

Business Manager/Board Secretary  
mstable@mercer.k12.pa.us

Business Office

724-662-4120

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING

January 22, 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. Presentation from McGill, Power, Bell and Associates regarding the internal audit report.
3. Approve 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.
4. Approve the Treasurer's report for November and December, all bills as listed, the financial statements and audit report as presented.
5. Communications.
6. Board committee reports.
7. Administrative reports.
8. The Board Secretary acknowledges January as School Director Recognition Month.
9. Public comments.

Ten minute recess

10. Approval of student discipline as recommended by the discipline committee.

11. **Personnel:**

**Hire:**

Recommend approval to hire coaches for the spring 2024 season, pending clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval to hire Ms. Alishia Tan as a substitute cafeteria monitor at the elementary school, pending clearances.

Recommend approval of 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

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

**Family Medical Leave:**

Recommend approval of 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.

**Leave of Absence:**

Recommend approval of an anticipated unpaid medical leave for Mrs. Alexis Cannon, beginning approximately March 1, 2024.

**EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):**

**Hires/Resignations:**

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

12. **Staff Development:**

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

Recommend approval for 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.



**Staff Development (Continued):**

Recommend 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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 for the day. (\$100)

13. **Facilities:**

Recommend approval 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval 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.

**Facilities (Continued):**

Recommend approval for 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.

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

14. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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 is requested for two days (\$200) and one van is requested for transportation each day.

Recommend approval for 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 for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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 (\$100) is requested for the day, and is the only expense to the school district.



**Student Travel (Continued):**

Recommend approval for 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 (\$100) are requested for the day.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

Recommend approval for 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.

15. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Area School District and the Mercer Education Association; Article X, Section 1, Clause G, per the attached.
16. Recommend approval of the updated ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan and Emergency Instructional Time Study for the 2023-24 school year, as attached.
17. Recommend approval of the E-Rate Services Agreement from CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) for 2024-25, as attached.
18. Recommend approval of Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2024, per the attached.
19. 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.
20. Recommend approval of 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.
21. Recommend approval of a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2024.

22. Recommend approval of 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.
23. Recommend approval of 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.
24. Recommend approval of a Judicial Tax Sale for property located at 137 North Otter Street, Mercer, PA No. 2023-3053, in Mercer Borough.
25. Other Business
26. Adjournment.

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

**FYI:**

January	22	Elementary Book Fair Begins
January	23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Begins
January	25	Book Fair/Talk @ 5:30 p.m. – Elementary LGI
January	26	District Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m. – M/HS Auditorium
January	29	K-12 Report Cards
February	3	Middle School Dance – MHS Cafeteria
February	14	Don't forget your Valentine
February	16	In-service Day for Teachers / No school for students (Senior Exit Interviews)
February	18	High School Dance – MHS Cafeteria
February	19	No School – Presidents' Day
February	22	School Board Committee Meetings ( <i>Tentative</i> )
<b>February</b>	<b>26</b>	<b><i>School Board Meeting</i></b>