

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF
August 19, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: ARTHUR AMOS RODNEY BOBBY
 MATTHEW HAZI DAVID LENGEL
 SHANE NUGENT AIMEE PETERS
 DEREK STOTSKY J. JARRETT WHALEN

MEMBERS ABSENT: STEVEN VanWOERT

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 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were eight members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on July 15, 2024 and the Transportation Committee Meeting from August 15, 2024. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

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 reports. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approval the student discipline as recommended by the discipline committee, per the attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

PERSONNEL:

Resignations:

On a motion by Amy Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board accepted, with regret, the following resignations. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Celeste Wilson as van driver, effective immediately.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Abby Shealy as a van driver, effective immediately.

Hires:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved hiring the following. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hired Ms. Becky Wymer as a van driver at \$80.00/day, pending clearances.

Hired the following teachers to serve as mentors for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

- Mrs. Kristen Cassano for Ms. Alexandra Rice
- Mrs. Andrea Crooks for Ms. Allison Thomas

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved hiring additional fall coaches for the 2024-25 school year, per the attached list, pending clearances. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes. Member Peters abstained.

Motion: Passed

ESS (EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS):

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the list of employees with Educational Staffing Solutions. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted approval of all substitute teachers as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

Granted approval of all aides/paraprofessionals as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):

Granted approval for Miss Lisa Wishart to accompany approximately 20-25 students to Academic Games competition events at Slippery Rock University on the following dates. One bus is requested for transportation for each event. One substitute is requested for each date. (\$100.00 per day.)

Onsets Tournament	October 16, 2024
Propaganda Tournament	November 13, 2024
LinguiSHTIKs Tournament	December 18, 2024
Presidents Tournament	January 8, 2025
Equations Tournament	February 5, 2025
World Events Tournament	February 19, 2025

Granted approval for Miss Emily Peffer to accompany two students to MIU IV for Extreme Leadership on September 26, December 5, 2024, February 27, March 27, and April 9, 2025. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Granted approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the Chamber Choir and Show Choir to the Benedum Center to attend the musical *Hamilton* on September 12, 2024. The only cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Granted approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Chamber Choir students to Westminster College for Honor Chorus auditions on October 3, 2024. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Granted approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Chamber Choir students to Westminster College for Honors Chorus Festival on October 24, 25 and 26, 2024. The only cost to the district is a sub for two days and the use of a school van. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Middle School Chorus members to Farrell High School for Junior High County Chorus on November 14, 2024. The only cost to the district is a substitute for the day and the use of a school van. (\$100)

Granted approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany senior high chorus members to Chicago and Notre Dame (Performance workshop) on April 24, 25 and 26, 2025. The only cost to the district is a substitute for two days. (\$200)

Granted approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany 8th grade Chorus students to Kennywood on May 27, 2025. The only cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):

Granted approval for Miss Emily Peffer to accompany 11th grade students to the college fair at Thiel College on October 3, 2024. The only cost to the district is for bus transportation.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

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

Granted approval for 18 paraprofessionals and two staff members (Mrs. Korina Yanak and Mr. Kevin Reese) to participate in the Safety Care Re-certification training provided by Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV at our elementary gymnasium on August 20, 2024 at a cost for training at \$500.00 for 20 participants.

Granted approval for Mrs. Kelli Sealand and Ms. Jessica Medvan to participate in the Initial Safety Care Training at MIUIV on August 27 & 28, 2024. Total cost to the district is \$350.00

Granted approval for Miss Courtney Brown to attend the Counselor Network Meetings at MIU IV on October 3, 2024, January 16 and March 20, 2025. There is no cost to the school district.

Granted approval for Miss Lisa Wishart to attend Academic Games coaches training sessions at Midwestern Intermediate Univ IV on the following dates. One substitute is requested for each of these days. (\$100 per day)

September 6 & 9, 2024
October 7, 2024
December 6, 2024
January 9, 2025
March 10 & 13, 2025
May 5, 2025

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following facility requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to host District Band in the middle/high school on January 25, 2025.

Approved the Mercer Community Band to use the middle/high school auditorium and cafeteria on Sunday, December 1, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to present their annual Christmas Concert. All aspects of the facility policy will be followed.

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

FACILITIES (Continued):

Approved the Track/Cross Country Boosters to use the elementary cross-country course at the high school for the elementary relays on September 25, 2024.

Approved the Band Boosters and the Cheerleaders to use the high school cafeteria on August 24, 2024, for their mattress sale fundraiser. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

ELEMENTARY BACKPACK PROGRAM:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved participation in the backpack program at Mercer Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year. This program is in conjunction with Trinity Presbyterian Church.

PURCHASE OF TWO (2) SCHOOL VANS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the purchase of two (2) 2020 school vans from Watson's Inc. in the amount of \$70,000.00. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and Whalen voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MERCER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMM. (SAP):

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by David Lengel, the Board approved an Agreement between Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission, Inc. and Mercer Area School District to provide services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) for the 2024-25 school year. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Whalen, and Amos voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

READING EGGS PROGRAM LICENSE:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the subscription renewal for the Reading Eggs Program license at the elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$2,234.40. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

LONGMORE ACADEMY (MHY):

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved 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 2024-2025 school year. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, Bobby and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: Passed

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

HUDL:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved an agreement with Hudl for athletic video equipment and access subscription in the amount of \$8,500.00 from September 27, 2024 through September 26, 2025. Multiple booster groups are covering \$7,600 of the total cost and the school district will pay \$900.00. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

PARENT BOOSTER GROUP, POLICY 915:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following Parent Booster/Support Organizations for the 2024- 25 school year, as they all meet the requirements set forth by the Mercer Area School Board in Policy 915, as follows. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

- Baseball Boosters

TC'S CUTTING EDGE LAWN CARE:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved using TC's Cutting Edge Lawn Care as a contractor for the maintenance and upkeep of the Lamor Road Soccer Field, pending proof of liability insurance. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

VAN DRIVERS, ROUTES AND SALARIES FOR 2024-25:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved all van routes, drivers and salaries for the 2024-25 school year, per attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

BUS DRIVERS AND ROUTES FOR 2024-25:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved all bus drivers and routes for the 2024-25 school year, per attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP):

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved setting the adult meal prices for the 2024-25 school year. This is required for participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This is a *revision* for breakfast from the July 15, 2024 board approval. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Breakfast:	Adults \$2.85
Lunch:	Adults \$4.75 (no change)

FACILITY RENTAL FEE:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved and updated facility rental fee schedule, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from August 19, 2024 Board Meeting (Continued):

BRANDY SPRINGS PARK-BRIDGE REPAIR:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved Mercer Area SD to reimburse Brandy Springs Park for materials that will be used to replace two (2) bridges within the park that are part of the cross-country course that is used by the elementary, middle school, & high school teams. Cost to the district is \$1,373.87, which is ½ of the cost for the project. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel and Nugent voted yes.

Motion: Passed

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved the following addition to the agenda, with no financial impact to the school district. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

VOLLEYBALL SLEEVES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the volleyball boosters request to install volleyball standard sleeves into the elementary school cafeteria floor. There is no cost to the school district and all required information has been turned in to the Business Office. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

**First Read of the following Policies:*

- Policy 103 – Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
- Policy 103 – Grievance Procedures
- Policy 103 – Discrimination Complaint Procedures
- Policy 103 – Confidentiality Template Letter
- Policy 104 – Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
- Policy 104 – Grievance Procedures
- Policy 104 – Discrimination Complaint Procedures
- Policy 104 – Report Form

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President