

# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 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 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

Mr. Chris Garbin, Vice-President School Division of AVI, introduced himself and spoke about student programs.

### **MINUTES:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on August 19, 2024, and the committee meeting for Curricular and Extracurricular Activities on September 12, 2024. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial reports. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

***Motion:*** Passed

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE:**

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the student discipline as requested by the discipline committee. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 (CONTINUED):

**PERSONNEL:**

Hire:

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

Granted approval to hire advisors for the 2024-25 school year, as attached.

Granted approval to hire Mr. Nicholas Sicilian as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$65.00 per day, pending clearances.

Volunteer(s):

Granted approval for volunteer, Mr. Rick Miller, to assist students at Mercer Elementary School for selected hours during the week, pending clearances.

Granted approval of the following volunteer coaches for the elementary boys' basketball program to begin October 2024, pending clearances.

Amy Neugebauer

Jeff Hoban

Brad Guthrie

Kristi Rager

**EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):**

Hires/Resignations:

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

**FMLA:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Mrs. Lydia Sipe to take a 30 day family medical leave, to run concurrently with 30 sick days, beginning approximately October 15, 2024 and returning on or about November 26, 2024. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**Professional Development:**

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

Approved the following staff members to attend STEELS Science Standard Curriculum Mapping & Review Workshops on the following dates. Cost to the district is a substitute teacher (\$100.00) for each teacher when they attend their designated workshop (\$1,000.00 total)

- Tuesday, September 10th: Greg Acre, Tammy Bright, Marcy Dadich, Michael Piddington, Caleb Ritenour
- Tuesday, November 19th: Greg Acre, Savannah Colteryahn, Emilie Mulneix, Amy Murray, Michael Piddington, & Kerry VanWoert
- Wednesday, February 5th: Kristen Cassano, Anna Cook, Erin Ellis, Michael Piddington, & Amanda Simpson

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 (CONTINUED):

**Professional Development (Continued):**

Granted approval for Mrs. Macey Hamilton to attend the Stock Market Game Workshop on September 24, 2024 at Butler County Community College. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Approved Mrs. Allyson Rust to attend the 2024-25 School Counselor Network at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the following dates. Oct. 3, 2024, January 16, and March 20, 2025. There is no cost to the school district.

Approved the following staff members to attend PASA DLM Training for the 2024-2025 school year at the MIU IV on September 12, 2024 from 8:30-3:30. Mrs. Shirley Spiegel, Mrs. April Edney and Mr. Kevin Reese. There is no cost for this required annual training. The total cost to the district is for two substitutes. (\$200.00)

Approved Mrs. Renee Masson to attend IEP Writer Fall Focus Group on October 10, 2024 at MIU IV from 9:30-12:00. There is no cost to the district.

Approved Mrs. Andrea Crooks and Mrs. Maggie Ference to attend the School Wide Positive Behavior Primary Coaches Day at MIU4 on October 24, 2024 and February 1, 2025. Two substitute teachers are requested for each day. (\$400)

Approved Mrs. Korina Yanak, Mrs. Lydia Sipe and Miss Kylie McElrath to attend the Speech Professional Learning Community (PLC) at the MIU IV on the following days: October 29, 2024, February 12, and April 11, 2025. The training is from 9:00- 3:00 each day. No substitute coverage is needed and there is no cost to the district.

**Facilities:**

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

Approved the United Way to use the middle/high school library for the Teens 2 Career after school program or Mercer students in grades 9-12.

Approved Sankey Financial to use the middle/high school auditorium on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 9:30am to 11:30am for a workshop on PSERS pension systems. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

**Student Travel:**

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

Granted approval for Mrs. Nicole Walzer to accompany the academic game students to Slippery Rock University on the following dates October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Grove City College on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for each day and the use of a school van. (\$800)

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 (CONTINUED):

**Student Travel (Continued):**

Granted approval for Mr. Dan Heckman or Mr. Eric Mausser to accompany 8 student-athletes to the District 10 Leadership/Sportsmanship Program on October 9, 2024. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Granted approval for the First-grade class (approximately 80 students) to travel to Irons Mill Farmstead on October 11, 2024. Two buses are requested for transportation. Cost of admission (\$10 per student) and transportation will be covered by the PEP Association.

Granted approval for the Fourth-grade class, approximately 69 students, to travel to Oil Creek State Park on October 18, 2024. Two buses (\$250 each) are requested for transportation and is being paid for by the PEP Association. The only cost to the school district is for the use of one van.

Granted approval for Mrs. Maggie Ference to accompany eight (8) students to the PBIS Student Summit at MIU4 on January 30, 2025 and February 21, 2025. The summit will take place from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. One van is requested for transportation. One substitute is requested for the day (\$100)

**SPONSOR AGREE. WITH COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MERCER CNTY:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Community Action Partnership of Mercer County from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as attached.

**PHEAA-PA STUDENT TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the Participation Agreement in the PA Student Teacher Support Program, through PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), effective with the 2024-25 award year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**MERCER COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved an agreement with Mercer County Children & Youth Services (CYS) for transportation of students in foster care. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**RESCHINI GROUP ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved of an Engagement Agreement between The Reschini Group and Mercer Area School District to fulfill reporting requirements mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Internal Revenue Service for 2024. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 (CONTINUED):

**PSBA NOMINEES:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following list of candidates for PSBA, all nominees are running unopposed. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- 2025 President-Elect (one-year term)..... Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area School Dist.
- 2025 Vice President (one-year term) ..... Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District
- 2025-2026 Western Zone Rep (two-year term) ... Kristy Bolte, Northwestern School District
- PSBA Insurance Trustee (three-year term) ..... Nathan G. Mains  
(Choose up to three) Richard Frerichs  
William S. LaCoff
- Forum Steering Committee (two-year term)..... Betsy Gates, Dauphin County Tech. School  
(Choose up to two) Mary Dougherty, Montgomery County IU 23

**MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the list of books for the middle-high school library, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Shane Nugent, the Board granted approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for garbage collection. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**PCCD 24-25 SCHOOL SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH GRANT:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the PCCD 2024-2025 School Safety & Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$119,676.00. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TITLE IX POLICIES #103 & 104:**

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following revisions to Title IX Policies 103/104 and relevant attachments. (First read was August 19, 2024 board meeting) On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Hazi, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert and Whalen voted yes, members Bobby, Nugent, and Amos voted no.

***Motion:*** Passed.

- \*Policy 103 - Title IX Policy 2024
- \*Policy 103 & 104 – Grievance Procedures
- \*Policy 103 & 104 – Non-Title IX Discrimination Complaint Procedures
- \*Policy 104 – Knox Edits 2024
- \*Policy 104 – Title IX Discrimination Report Form

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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David R. Lengel, Board President

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Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary