



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**AGENDA  
NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING  
November 18, 2024**

**\*\*\*High School Library\*\*\*  
7:30 p.m.**

**7:00 PM Executive Session:** *Student discipline, personnel, litigation (closed);  
Agenda items: Finances, facilities, and other business (open).*

**Agenda**

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of October 21, 2024 and the Committee Meeting of November 14, 2024.
3. Approve the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial statements.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. Public comments.
8. Recommend approval for an early dismissal for teachers, staff and students on December 20, 2024 at 11:35 a.m. for elementary and 11:50 a.m. for middle/high school students.

9. **Personnel:**

Hires:

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Robert Kish as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$65 per day, pending clearances.

Recommend approval to add the following *volunteer* coaches to the 2024-25 winter coach list, pending clearances.

Wrestling Volunteer - Brian Phillips

M/HS Girls Basketball Volunteer – Matthew Allen

Recommend approval to add Mr. Evan Daugherty as a volunteer assistant speech coach, pending clearances.

**EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):**

Hires/Resignations:

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

10. **Staff Development:**

Recommend approval of the following personnel to attend Safety Care Training at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV as follows. Mrs. Joni Kostelnik, recertification on Nov. 14, 2024 for a total of \$195 for registration and training. Ms. Amy Cubellis, initial certification on Nov. 19 & 20, 2024 for a total of \$175 for registration. Mrs. Allyson Rust, recertification on January 23, 2025 for a total of \$95 for registration.

11. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany band students to Grove City College to perform in the 2025 County Band Festival on January 7 & 8, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for two days (\$200) and bus transportation.

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany band students to the PMEA Honors Band Festival at Grove City College December 12 - 14, 2024. The cost to the district is a substitute for two days (\$200) and the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany band students to PMEA District 2/3/5 Orchestra Festival at Collegiate Academy in Erie, January 9 - 11, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute for two days (\$200), the use of a school van, and lodging.

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany the Jazz Band to Maplewood High School to perform in the Jazz Festival on March 12, 2025. The cost to the district is bus transportation.

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany Middle School Band students to North Catholic to perform in the Jr. District Band Festival on March 25, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day (\$100) and the use of a school van.

**Student Travel (Continued):**

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany the Jazz Band to Conneaut High School to perform in the Jazz Festival on April 5, 2025. The cost to the district is bus transportation.

Recommend approval for third grade, approximately 98 students to travel to the Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, PA on May 27, 2025. The PEP Association is covering \$3.00 per student as well as two buses (\$150 each) for transportation.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the show choir as follows:

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>COST TO THE SCHOOL</u></b> <b><u>DIST.</u></b>
Dec. 3, 2024	Quality of Live Services, Mercer	None
Dec. 3, 2024	Shenango on the Green, New Wilmington	Bus Transportation
Dec. 4, 2024	Lions Club, Fredonia	None
Dec. 6, 2024	TADA Studio for light up night, Mercer	None
Dec. 7, 2024	Cottage Gardens / Buhl Park, Shen. Valley	Bus Transportation
Dec. 10, 2024	Whispering Oaks, Hermitage	Bus Transportation
Dec. 13, 2024	Common Grounds, Mercer	None
Dec. 16, 2024	Court House and Avalon Springs, Mercer	½ Day Sub & Transportation
Dec. 16, 2024	Highland Church, New Castle, for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization	Bus Transportation
Dec. 17, 2024	Ridgewood Nursing Home, Hermitage	Bus Transportation
Dec. 18, 2024	The Lakes at Jefferson, Mercer	None
Dec. 20, 2024	Mercer Elem. School and Grove Manor, Grove City	Substitute for the day and Bus Transportation

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Jr. High chorus students to Greenville High School for Jr. High District Chorus January 31, 2025. Cost to the district is a substitute for the day (\$100) and the use of one school van.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Marlena Priester to accompany Family Consumer Science students and Culinary Arts students to the City County Building in Pittsburgh, PA, to see their gingerbread houses on display, December 17, 2024. The only cost to the district is for a substitute for one day (\$100) as the students are covering the cost of transportation.

**12. Facilities:**

Recommend approval for the wrestling boosters to host the Kevin Kubalic Wrestling Tournament on January 11, 2025. They will use the high school gym, cafeteria, and locker room. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Mercer Area Little League to use the elementary cafeteria for baseball practice, drill sessions, and open gym, between January 2025 – March 2025. The group requests the use of the batting cage net during these practices. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed. Availability of the facility will be determined and scheduled by the athletic director.

**Facilities (Continued):**

Recommend approval for Mercer Softball recreation league to use the Mercer Elementary new gym lobby on January 19, 2025 and January 26, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. for league registration.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Jessica Ingley to use the elementary school for Camp Invention June 9 – 13, 2025 from 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Twirling Angels to use the elementary gymnasium and cafeteria on Sunday, May 25, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for a baton recital. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

13. Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to direct the musical *Grease*, to be performed on March 27, 28, and 29, 2025 in the high school auditorium.
14. Recommend approval of a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release of Claims between Mercer Area School District and PA Leadership Charter School, regarding tuition from the 2018-19 school year.
15. Recommend approval of a two-year agreement with the Caring Foundation to provide grief support services, in concert with District staff, to students experiencing grief or loss of a person.
16. Recommend approval to direct the building principals to restrict cell phone usage to times outside of the instructional day, given the exceptions already listed in Policy# 237.
17. Recommend approval of a donated book from PSBA entitled “The Buddy Bench” by Patty Brozo, for the elementary library.
18. Other Business
19. Adjournment

**FYI:**

Nov. 27	Early Dismissal (1:00 & 1:15 p.m.)
Nov. 28-Dec. 2	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
Dec. 4	HS Band Winter Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Re-organization meeting @ 5:30 p.m. with National Blue Ribbon Schools Ceremony to follow at 6:00 p.m.-all in M/HS auditorium</b>
Dec. 7	Breakfast with Santa @ 9:00 a.m. high school café
Dec. 9	Meet the Mustangs @ 8:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium
Dec. 11	Elem Band/Chorus Holiday Concert @ 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 15	M/HS Choral Concert @ 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 19	Mercer Elementary Holiday Feast @ 5:00 p.m. elementary café.
Dec. 20	Christmas Staff Luncheon
Dec. 21 – Jan. 5, 2025	Christmas Break (No School)