



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
724-662-5109

Michael H. Stabile

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

Business Office
724-662-4120

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

January 27, 2025

High School Library

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

Work Session

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

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

7:20 p.m.

Presentation by McGill, Power, Bell and Associates regarding the internal audit report.

Agenda

Meeting 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular/reorganization board meeting of December 5, 2024, the special meetings on December 20, 2024 and January 9, 2025, and the policy and planning committee meeting on January 23, 2025.
3. Approve the Treasurer's report for November and December, all bills as listed, the financial statements and audit report as presented.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. The Board Secretary acknowledges January as School Director Recognition Month.
8. Public comments.

The Mercer Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, age, handicaps, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or employment policies.

9. **Personnel:**

Resignation:

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff as the stage crew advisor.

Hire:

Recommend approval to hire coaches for the spring 2025 season, pending clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Dalton Stoops as the Jazz Band Advisor for the 2024-25 Academic Year for 25% of the band director stipend in the amount of \$1,803.

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Keith McCoy as a van driver at \$85 per day, 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 (Rehearsal accompanist and pit pianist)	\$1,000.00
Ms. Rachel Henry (Assistant)	\$ 500.00

Recommend approval for Mrs. Jessica Nemeth and Mr. Micah Wojnowski as volunteers for the school musical, pending clearances.

Recommend approval of Mrs. Michalee Christy and Mr. Micah Wojnowski as stage crew advisors.

Recommend approval of Mr. Mike Hamilton as a volunteer wrestling coach, pending clearances.

Recommend approval of Mr. Rodney Bobby as a volunteer record keeper for the varsity boys' basketball team, 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 submitted by Educational Staffing Solutions, as attached.

10. **Facilities:**

Recommend approval for the Mercer Fastpitch Boosters to use the high school cafeteria on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for a Father Daughter Dance. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for Miss Merrilynn Giles to accompany the Junior Class Officers to Avalon at Buhl on a Saturday in the spring, date TBA, to make prom arrangements. The only expense to the district is the use of one van.

Recommend approval of a request from the Junior Class (Class of 2026) to host the Jr.-Sr. Prom at Avalon at Buhl, Sharon, PA on May 9, 2025, chaperoned by Class Advisor Miss Merrilynn Giles. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Chamber Choir students to District Chorus February 5-7, 2025 at Rochester Area High School. The cost to the district is for the use on one school van and a substitute for two days. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mr. William Chess to accompany Calculus and Precalculus students to Mathfest at YSU, Youngstown, OH on February 27, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the Fifth Grade, approximately 84 students, to travel to Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA on May 27, 2025. Two buses and one van are requested for transportation. The cost of student admission and bus transportation are 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 Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany chorus students to New York City to watch a Broadway Musical and to sing at the Statue of Liberty on April 21 - 23, 2025. The cost to the district is one substitute teacher for two days. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Mandy Oates to accompany Spanish II – IV students to Franklin Regional High School for the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet on Monday, March 24, 2025. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

13. Recommend approval of a School Based ACCESS Program Billing Agreement between Northwest Tri-County IU 5 and Mercer Area School District effective February 20, 2024, as attached. IU5 does ACCESS billing for Mercer students attending IU5 classes. This agreement was prepared after IU5 completed the 2021-2022 ACCESS reconciliation report for all Districts that had students attending IU5 classes.
14. Recommend approval of a resolution indicating Mercer Area School Directors will not raise the rate of any tax for the **2025-26** fiscal year, by more than the index established by the Dept. of Education, for the district, of **5.3%**. (Or 3.59 mills)
15. Recommend approval of the E-Rate Services Agreement from CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) for 2025-26, as attached.
16. Recommend approval of Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2025, per the attached.

17. Recommend approval of a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2025.
18. Recommend approval of a Judicial Tax Sale for property located on Mercer-Grove City Road, (Findley Twp.) Map# 06 191 017; No. 2024-3163.
19. Other Business
20. Adjournment.

***First Read of Revised Policy Numbers:** 006, 011, 137, 137.1, 200, 202, 217, 218, 218.1, 218.2, 222, 227, 251, 323, 351, 800, 801, 803, 805, 805.1, 805.2, 806, 815, 815.1, 830, 904, 909

***First Read of New Policy Numbers:** 137.2, 137.3, 146.1, 216.1, 254, 830.1

***Review the rough draft of the tentative 2025-2026 Mercer Area School District calendar, as presented.**

FYI:

January	27 - 31	Elementary Book Fair
January	27 - Feb. 6	Elementary Student Council Food Drive
January	29	Talent Show @ 7:00 p.m. – M/HS Auditorium
February	7	In-service Day for Teachers / No school for students (Senior Exit Interviews)
February	8	Father/Daughter Dance
February	17	Make-up day (1/22/25) School in session
February	17	Next School Board Meeting, as school is in session that day to makeup Jan. 22.
February	19	Elementary Spring Pictures
February	20	School Board Committee Meetings (<i>Tentative</i>)
February	22	Middle School Dance