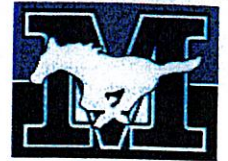




# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

February 17, 2025

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. Recommend approval of the following minutes:
  - Regular Board Meeting, January 27, 2025
  - Curricular and Extracurricular Committee Meeting, Feb. 13, 2025
3. Approve the Treasurer's report for January, all bills as listed, financial statements and the 2023-24 audit report as presented by Mr. Shawn Emerson at the January board meeting.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. Public comments.

8. **Personnel:**

Hire:

Recommend approval to hire the following additional coaches for the 2025 season, pending clearances.

*Asst. Volleyball coach* – Alaina Bowers (volunteer)

*Asst. Softball coaches* – Josh Pompeo (volunteer) and Hailey Wells (volunteer)

*Jr. High Baseball coaches* – Joe Polite (volunteer) and Bill Redmond (volunteer)

*Asst. Baseball coach **adjustment*** – Mike Julock (paid) from ½ time to full-time

Recommend approval of two Extended School Year (ESY) teachers for the summer of 2025. Mr. Andrew Burk for academic instruction and Miss Kylie McElrath for speech/language therapy, at a rate of \$31.50/hour.

Educational Staffing Solutions:

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

9. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Mr. Micah Wojnowski to accompany band students to Richland High School, Johnstown, PA on February 20 - 22, 2025 for Region Orchestra. The cost to the district is a substitute for two days (\$200) and lodging for two days. (approx. \$600) Transportation is being shared with Sharon and Hermitage School Districts.

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany approximately five (5) students to Grove City College on March 3 & 4, 2025, to compete in the Academic Games Tri-Bowl Tournament. One van is requested for transportation and one substitute teacher is requested for each day. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mr. Micah Wojnowski to accompany band students to Ambridge High School on March 6 – 8, 2025 for Region Band. The cost to the district is a substitute for two days (\$200), the use of a school van and lodging for two days (tbd)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the Chamber Choir students to Hickory High School on March 12, 2025 to see Seussical the Musical. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Anna Cook to accompany Anatomy students to the Penn State Shenango SynDaver lab on March 11, 2025. The only cost to the district is a sub for the day. (\$100)

**Student Travel (Continued):**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the Musical Cast to the elementary school for a performance on March 20, 2025. The only cost to the district is bus transportation.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the Musical Cast to Donna's Diner, Sharon, PA for a fundraiser on March 21, 2025. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mr. Marshall Nych, Mrs. Laura Nych, and Mr. David Urey to accompany approximately sixty (60) students to Cool Spring Creek and Munnell Run Farm, as part of the Trout in the Classroom program, on May 6, 2025. One bus is requested for transportation and is being provided by Trout in the Classroom. Three substitute teachers are requested for the day. (\$300)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Anna Cook to accompany Anatomy students to AHN Hospital in Pittsburgh to observe open heart surgery on May 7, 2025. The cost to the district is a sub for the day and the use of a school van. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the kindergarten class, approximately 60 students, to travel to Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, on May 20, 2025. Two buses are requested for transportation. The cost of transportation and the student program (\$3/student), will be covered by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

10. **Staff Development:**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Allyson Rust to travel to the Mercer County Career Center, on February 8, 2025, for a Mercer County Counselors meeting. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mr. Michael Morneweck and Mr. Eric Mausser to attend "Mental Health and Student-Athletes" on April 3, 2025 at PPG Paints Arena. The only cost to the district is a sub for the day. (\$100)

11. **Facilities:**

Recommend approval for the Mercer Band Boosters to use the middle/high school auditorium, gymnasium, and two (2) classrooms to host a Jazz Band Festival on April 16, 2025. All aspects of the district's facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Mercer Area Little League to use the high school cafeteria on April 26, 2025 for a Mother/Son dance. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Third-Grade class to participate in an in-district field trip on May 7, 2025. The Tamarack Wildlife Center will bring the program to the elementary school. The cost of the program is \$325.48 which will be covered by the PEP Association. There is no expense to the school district.

12. Recommend approval of Classified Salaries for the 2025-26 school year, as attached.
13. Recommend approval of the 2025–26 Mercer Area School District calendar, as attached.
14. Through the authority of Act 30 of 1997, Section 1502, subsection (c), recommend that the Mercer Area School Board designate the following dates as local holidays: November 27, 28, December 1, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, and 31, 2025, and January 1, 2: February 16; April 2, 3 and 6; and May 1 and 25, 2026. Schools may only be open on these dates in the event of weather emergency or natural disaster.
15. Recommend approval to accept the General Operating Budget for the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in the amount of \$4,442,185, for the 2025 – 2026 school year.
16. Recommend approval of the Adoption of Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds under federal regulations of 34 CFR PART 300<sup>1</sup> for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached.
17. Recommend approval of an agreement with JMI Consultants, the District’s natural gas and electricity consultant, for the Energy Efficiency Credit Program. If eligible for the credit, the district will receive a yearly credit on electric bills.
18. Recommend approval of the following bids. These bids are partially funded by the E-rate program. The district’s portion for the Star Tech bid will be \$30,036.60 (80%), and for Armstrong it will be \$357/month (70%):
  - Star Tech      \$175,183.00 – Network equipment
  - Armstrong     \$1,190.00 / month – Internet
19. Recommend approval of a 3% pay increase, for real estate tax collectors, beginning 2025-26 through 2028-29 as follows:
 

\$11,641.55	(\$339.07 increase)	Coolspring Township
\$8,193.20	(\$238.64 increase)	East Lackawannock
\$6,203.40	(\$180.68 increase)	Findley Township
\$8,684.05	(\$252.93 increase)	Jefferson Township
\$9,733.99	(\$283.51 increase)	Mercer Borough
20. Recommend approval of the Mercer Middle/High School Academic Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached.
21. Recommend approval of an agreement with Transfinder Software Systems for school district transportation software, as attached.

22. Recommend approval of the following revised and new policies, as presented as a first read, on January 27, 2025.

**\* 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

**\*New Policy Numbers:** 137.2, 137.3, 146.1, 216.1, 254, 830.1

23. Other business.

24. Adjournment.

**\*First Read** of the Comprehensive Plan (2025-2028) and accompanying state required reports for the Mercer Area School District.

**Reports:** Academic Standards & Assessment Requirements (Chapter 4)  
Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16)  
Student Services Assurances (Chapter 12)  
Induction Plan (Chapter 49)  
Professional Development Plan (Act 48)

**FYI:**

March	3	First Day of Spring Sports Practice (Permitted by PIAA)
March	9	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring ahead one hour)
March	13	School Board Committee Meetings, if needed
<b>March</b>	<b>17</b> 🍀	<b>Next School Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.</b>