



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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AGENDA
MARCH BOARD MEETING
March 17, 2025

7:30 PM

High School Library

Work Session (6:45 p.m.) – Contracts, Student Discipline, and Personnel (closed);
General information, Agenda questions (open).

Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 24, 2025.
3. Approve the Treasurer’s Report, all bills as listed and financial reports.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. Public comments.
8. **Personnel:**
Retirement:
Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Shirley Spiegel as Special Education Coordinator/Assistant Elementary School Principal, effective August 4, 2025.

Retirement (Continued):

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Miss Merrilynn Giles, social studies teacher, effective June 3, 2025.

Hires:

Recommend approval to hire Mrs. April Reid as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$ 65 /day, pending clearances.

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Bryan Dillon as a van driver at a rate of \$80/day, pending clearances.

Additional Spring Coach:

Recommend approval to add Mrs. Jennifer Mausser as a Jr. High Volunteer volleyball coach.

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. Dave Tomson, Mrs. Daina McAdams, and a personal LPN to accompany 2 middle-school and two elementary school students to the HOMES Bowling event on March 31, 2025, taking place at the MIU IV from 9:00-1:00 PM. Special van transportation is required for one student and is the only expense to the school district.

Recommend approval for Mr. Doug Schmid to accompany the Tech Ed Club to Tessy Automation, Meadville, PA and Schutte Woodworking, Erie, PA on March 27, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Meghan Glass to accompany Pottery students to attend a workshop at Grove City High School on March 27, 2025, which is being presented by Ido Ferber, a ceramicist artist from Japan. All participants will create a piece for special wood firing. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day (\$100) and the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Erin Ellis to accompany Envirothon students to Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, PA for Envirothon training and competition on April 2 and April 23, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for two days. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Erin Ellis and Mr. Doug Edney to accompany the Conservation Club to Neshannock Creek Fly Shop to participate in their Conservation day on April 7, 2025. The cost to the district is two substitute teachers (\$200) and the use of two school vans.

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for Mr. Bill Chess to accompany the Physics students to Ellwood Crankshaft Group's Wheatland and Sharon facilities on April 11, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day (\$100) and the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Marlena Priester to accompany Family Consumer Science students to Pittsburgh Creative Reuse and Construction Junction to tour their facility and learn about upcycling on April 15, 2025. The only cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for speech team CFL National qualifiers to travel to Chicago, IL for competition May 23 – 26, 2025. Two vans are requested for transportation, to be driven by coach Matthew Smeltzer and Jarod Hamilton.

Recommend approval for Miss Lisa Wishart to accompany three (3) students to the Academic Games Nationals Training Day at MIU4 on March 13, 2025. One van is requested for transportation. One substitute is requested for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Miss Lisa Wishart to accompany three (3) students to the Academic Games Nationals Tournament in Washington D.C. on April 25 – April 29, 2025. The cost for student registration is \$140/student (\$420) Students will be transported, lodged, and supervised by a family member. Approximate cost to the school district for Miss Wishart to attend include: lodging (\$820) food (\$250), transportation (\$651), registration (\$200), and one substitute teacher for three days (\$300). The estimated total cost of the district for this trip is \$2,425.00.

Recommend approval for the second-grade class (approximately 79 students) to travel to the New Castle Playhouse in New Castle, PA to watch a production of "Mary Poppins" on May 21, 2025. Two buses and one van are requested for transportation. Cost of tickets (\$7 per student), transportation, and snacks will be paid for by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Anna Cook and Mrs. Erin Ellis to accompany 7th grade Earth Science students and 8th grade Life Science students to the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA on May 27, 2025. Three buses and two substitute teachers (\$200) are requested for the day and are the only expenses to the district. The cost of the tickets will be paid for by a grant written by Mrs. Cook.

Recommend approval for speech NSDA National team qualifiers, to travel to Des Moines, IA for competition June 13 -21, 2025. Two vans are requested for transportation, to be driven by coach Matthew Smeltzer and Jarod Hamilton.

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for the sixth-grade class (approximately 84 students) to travel to the Meadville Cinema in Meadville, PA on May 28, 2025, to see *Lilo and Stitch*. Two buses are requested for transportation. Ticket bundles to the movie (admission, food, and drink at \$10/student) and transportation costs are all being paid by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for the sixth-grade class (approximately 84 students) to travel to Ten Pin Alley, Hermitage, PA on May 27, 2025 from 11:45 – 2:30 p.m. Two busses are requested for transportation. The admission fees, bowling, food and drink are \$11.95/student and the transportation expenses are all being paid by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for two students and one aide to attend the MIU IV STAPES (Social-Emotional, Technology, Advocacy, and Partnership Experiences at School) event on April 11, 2025 from 9:30-1:00. The only cost to the district is for the use of a school van.

10. **Facilities Requests:**

Recommend approval for the Mercer Ministerium to use the auditorium at Mercer Middle/High School, for bacalaureate services on May 28, 2025.

Recommend approval for Mercer Midget and Peewee Cheerleading to use the front grass area of the elementary school and the music wing restrooms July 20-25, 2025 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for cheer camp, and Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. between July 29 – October 16, 2025. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for KDS (Katies Dance Studio) to use the auditorium and two classrooms for their dance recital on June 9 & 10, 2025. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

11. **Professional Development:**

Recommend approval for Miss Emily Peffer to attend training on AP testing at MIU IV on March 20, 2025. There is no cost to the district.

12. Recommend approval of a renewal to the service agreement between Mercer Area School District and Combustion Service & Equipment Co., in the amount of \$12,600.00, for Boiler maintenance.

13. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Area School District and Smile Pennsylvania to provide preventive and restorative dental services to Mercer students eligible for Medicaid, CHIP or applicable private insurance coverage effective for one year beginning July 1, 2025. There is no cost to the school district.

14. Recommend approval to correct item #19 from the February 17, 2025 board meeting to:
Recommend approval of a 3% increase for real estate tax collectors beginning
January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

\$11,641.55	(\$339.07 increase)	Coolspring Twp
\$8,193.20	(\$238.64 increase)	East Lackawannock Twp
\$6,203.40	(\$180.68 increase)	Findley Twp
\$8,684.05	(\$252.93 increase)	Jefferson Twp
\$9,733.99	(\$283.51 increase)	Mercer Boro

15. Recommend approval of a Linkage Agreement between Sharon Regional Medical Center’s Partial Hospitalization Programs, Pathfinders and Kite Strings, as attached.
16. Recommend approval of an agreement and contract with Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 for Language Instructional Educational Program (LIEP) Services for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached.
17. Recommend approval to accept the 2025-2026 Mercer County Career Center Budget in the amount of **\$6,734,655**, as attached.
18. Recommend approval of a three-year agreement with Watson’s, Inc., effective July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2028, to provide transportation of public and special needs school students, as attached.
19. Recommend approval for the elementary library to receive the following book donations for student circulation. These titles were donated by the Mercer County Dairy Princess & Promotion Committee:
 -Milly Cow Gives Milk by Deborah Chancellor
 -Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck’s Ice Cream Wish by Viola Butler
20. Recommend approval to add the attached list of 2024 Schneider Family Award Books to the Anna & Friends Library at Mercer Elementary School.
21. Recommend approval of a Federal Programs Consortium Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, which will commence on July 1, 2025 and continue through the three-year fiscal cycle, ending September 30, 2027.
22. Recommend approval 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)

23. Establish a date for the budget meeting.
24. Other business.
25. Adjournment.

FYI:

March 21	Teacher In-service Day (No school for students)
March 24 - 28	Kindergarten Registration
March 24	4 th Quarter Begins
March 27-29	Musical – <i>Grease</i>
March 28	K-12 Report Cards
April 4 & 5	Speech Dessert Show @ 7:00 p.m. in HS auditorium
April 17-21	Spring Break
April 24	School Board Committee Meetings @ 6 p.m. <i>(if needed)</i>
April 28	Next School Board Meeting at 7:30