

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2025 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, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
GREGORY ACRE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
AMANDA SIMPSON, MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
SHIRLEY SPIEGEL, ASSISTANT ELEM. PRINCIPAL/SPEC. EDUC. COORD.
MICHAEL STABILE, BUSINESS MANAGER/BOARD SECRETARY

Shawn Emerson from McGill, Power, Bell and Associates presented the internal audit report.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:40 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, 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

SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH:

Michael Stabile, Board Secretary, acknowledges January as School Director Recognition Month and presented each Board member with a certificate.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

PERSONNEL:

Resignation:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff as the stage crew advisor. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Hire:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following hire requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

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

Granted 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.

Granted approval to hire Mr. Keith McCoy as a van driver at \$85 per day, pending clearances.

Granted 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

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

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

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

Granted approval of Mr. Rodney Bobby as a volunteer record keeper for the varsity boys' basketball team, pending clearances.

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):

Hires/Resignations:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board 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. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

FMLA:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a Family Medical Leave for Mrs. Dana Rowe, beginning January 17, 2025. The leave will last no longer than April 14, 2025. Mrs. Rowe will use sick days concurrently to her medical leave. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Mathew Hazi, the Board granted approved for the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Granted approval for Mrs. Anna Cook to accompany students enrolled in Mercer's Physiology Course and Mercer's Statistics Course to Robert Morris University on March 10, 2025 to participate in the Academic Immersion Experience Program. One (1) bus and one (1) substitute teacher (\$100) are requested for the day and are the only expenses to the district.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

SCHOOL BASED ACCESS BILLING AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved 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. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

2025-26 TAX RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved 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) On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

E-RATE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CSIU:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved of the E-Rate Services Agreement from CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) for 2025-26, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

BERKONE ACT 80 SERVICES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2025, per the attached. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

RECORDER OF DEEDS COMMISSION:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved of a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2025. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

JUDICIAL TAX SALE – James Nevant Esq.

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved a Judicial Tax Sale for property located on Mercer-Grove City Road, (Findley Twp.) Map# 06 191 017; No. 2024-3163. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, and Peters voted yes.

Motion: *Passed*

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

****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.***

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President