

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Continued):

PERSONNEL: (Continued)

Approved 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:

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

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Continued):

STUDENT TRAVEL: (Continued)

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved the following requests for staff development. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved 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.

Approved 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)

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted approval for 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Continued):

CLASSIFIED SALARIES FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved of Classified Salaries for the 2025-26 school year, as attached. On a roll call, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Peters, and VanWoert voted yes, members Nugent, Stotsky, and Amos abstained.

Motion: Passed

2025-26 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the 2025–26 Mercer Area School District calendar, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

HOLIDAYS FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Shane Nugent, 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MIU4 GEN. OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the General Operating Budget for the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in the amount of \$4,442,185, for the 2025 – 2026 school year. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Amos, and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MIU4 POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND USE OF FUNDS FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Adoption of Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds under federal regulations of 34 CFR PART 300¹ for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

JMI CONSULTANTS:

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

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Continued):

E-RATE BID WITH STAR-TECH AND ARMSTRONG:

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

Motion: Passed

- Star Tech \$175,183.00 – Network equipment
- Armstrong \$1,190.00 / month – Internet

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR INCREASE:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved a 3% pay increase, for real estate tax collectors, beginning with 2025-26 through 2028-29 school year as follows: On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes.

Member Peters abstained.

Motion: Passed

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

2025-26 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Mercer Middle/High School Academic Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TRANSFINDER SOFTWARE SYSTEMS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved of an agreement with Transfinder Software Systems for school district transportation software, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, and Peters voted yes.

Motion: Passed

***FIRST READ OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Matthew Hazi, granted approval of the following revised and new policies, as presented as a first read, on January 27, 2025. On a voice vote, all member present voted yes.

*** 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

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (Continued):

ADJOURNMENT:

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

***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)**

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President