



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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**AGENDA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 28, 2025**

7:30 PM

High School Library

Work Session (7:00): *Closed* – Personnel, litigation and student discipline
Open – Agenda, general

Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2025 and the budget meeting on April 15, 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. Recommend approval of student discipline as recommended by the discipline committee.

9. **PERSONNEL:**

Retirement:

Accept with regret, the retirement of Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff as Band Director, effective June 3, 2025.

Hires:

Recommend approval to hire Mrs. Amanda Simpson as Director of Special Education for 260 days, at an annual salary of \$95,000, effective July 1, 2025.

Recommend approval of Mr. Justin Haynie as a volunteer baseball coach effective immediately.

Recommend approval of Mr. Brent Gailey as a volunteer Jr. High Soccer Coach beginning with summer conditioning, pending clearances.

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.

Creation of position:

Recommend approval to create an elementary Dean of Students position, beginning with the 2025-26 school year. This position will work 15 additional days beyond the teacher's contract, and will be paid a stipend of \$7,500.00

10. **STUDENT TRAVEL:**

Recommend approval to add Mr. Andrew Burk as a chaperone for the Junior Class Trip to Cedar Point on May 29, 2025. (There is no additional cost to the school district)

Recommend approval for Mr. Jonathan Freidhoff to accompany Concert Band and Wind Ensemble students to Norwin High School on Monday, April 28th for their annual MPA evaluation. The cost to the district is bus transportation and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Miss Emily Peffer or Mr. Eric Mausser to accompany the RYLA students to the Rotary luncheon on April 30, 2025. The only cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Mrs. April Edney's and Mr. Kevin Reese's classes to participate in the Shenango Valley Special Games on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 for bowling at Ten Pin Alley (9:30-1:00) and Thursday, May 8, 2025 (9:00-1:00) for track and field events at Hickory High School. Special van transportation is needed. One substitute nurse at \$100.00 and transportation are the only cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Delaney Munnal to accompany six (6) students to the Mercer County Career Center on May 7, 2025 from 3:45 – 5:15 p.m., to participate in a United Way STEAM program event. One van is requested for transportation.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Meghan Glass to accompany the Art Club to the Mattress Factory and Randyland in Pittsburgh on Thursday, May 8, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):

Recommend approval for Mrs. Marlena Priester to accompany the Culinary II students to the Strip District in Pittsburgh, May 12, 2025 for the cultural foods project. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Erin Ellis and Mrs. Marlena Priester to accompany the Garden Club to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens on Thursday, May 15, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of two school vans and two substitute teachers for the day. (\$200)

Recommend approval for the fourth grade class (approximately 99 students) to travel to the New Castle Playhouse in New Castle, PA to watch a production of "Mary Poppins" on May 21, 2025. Two busses and one van are requested for transportation. The cost of tickets (\$7 per student), transportation, and snacks will be paid for by the PEP Association. (There is no cost to the district)

11. **FACILITIES REQUESTS:**

Recommend approval for Community Counseling Center to use Mercer School District's building for the summer months, June 1 – August 22, 2025, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Recommend approval for Mercer Midget Football program to use the back-practice field from April 29 through May 31, 2025 for flag football practice.

Recommend approval for Mercer Midget Football program to use the football field on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 11am to 3pm for flag football games. A rain makeup date of Saturday, May 31, 2025. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

12. Recommend approval of an addendum to the agreement with MHY Family Services for extended school year (ESY) services in the summer of 2025, as attached.
13. Recommend approval of an addendum to the agreement with Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) for the 2025-26 school year, as attached.
14. Recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Mercer Area School District and MIU IV for the 2025-26 school year, as attached.
15. Recommend approval of a dual enrollment agreement with Robert Morris University for the 2025-26 school year. Robert Morris courses will include BIOL 1210/1215 and STAT 2110.
16. Recommend approval of a cooperative agreement between Saint Francis University and the Mercer Area School District for the "College in High School Program" for the 2025-2026 school year. St. Francis' courses will include CHEM 113, FREN 112 & 201, SPAN 112 & 201, MATH 110, MATH 112, and PHYS 104.
17. Recommend approval of a Technical Support Services Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Star Tech, Inc., beginning August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2028, in the amount of \$79,800 annually, as attached.
18. Recommend approval to renew the agreement with GoGuardian in the amount of \$9,350.00 to provide security software for student devices for the 2025-2026 school year.

19. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mercer Education Association and Mercer Area School District for the collective bargaining agreement, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2028, as attached.
20. Recommend approval of the Agreement between PSBA Insurance and Mercer Area School District, to participate in the Better Unemployment Compensation System BASIC Program (BUCS Basic)
21. Recommend approval of a three-year contract, beginning July 1, 2025, with the following independent security contractors to provide armed school security, as scheduled by the District:

Marcus Kohan	Tony Moses
Mark Kasiorek	James Puskar
Russell Chase	Warren Whetzel
Donald Cataldi – substitute	

22. Recommend approval for Mercer Area School District to pay the remaining cost associated with baseball field improvements, approximately \$7,000.00, to be submitted by the Baseball Boosters.
23. Recommend approval of the PSBA dues for the 2025-26 school year, in the amount of \$7,821.77 as attached.
24. Recommend approval for the elementary library to receive the PA One Book donation for student circulation. This title was donated by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.
 - o *Arlo Draws and Octopus*, by Lori Mortensen
25. Recommend approval of an agreement with Michele McChesney to provide speech and language services at the elementary school from May 5 – May 28, 2025.
26. Recommend approval to participate in the 2025 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS), a state-funded, anonymous survey that provides essential data on student well-being for grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.
27. Recommend approval of a “Resolution Denouncing the Misuse of Taxpayer Funds in PA Cyber Charter School Funding and Urging Legislative Reform”, per the attached.
28. Other Business.

*Discussion concerning athletic ticket sales prices

*Discussion of the millage rate for the 2025-26 school year

**First read of Policy #915 – Booster/Parent Organizations*

29. Adjournment.

FYI:
April 29 NJHS/NHS/Mercer Hall of Fame Inductions @ 7:30 p.m. in HS auditorium
April 30 M/HS Spring Choral Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
May 5 Top Ten Dinner
May 8 National Teacher Day!
May 9 Prom at The Avalon
May 14 Band Concert and Art Show
May 16 Elem Spring Choral/Band Concert 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Elem LGI
May 19 Next School Board Meeting