

MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

PERSONNEL (Continued):

Hires:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following hires. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approval hiring Mrs. April Reid as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$65 /day, pending clearances.

Approved hiring Mr. Bryan Dillon as a van driver at a rate of \$80/day, pending clearances.

Additional Spring Coach:

Approved adding Mrs. Jennifer Mausser as a Jr. High Volunteer volleyball coach.

Educational Staffing Solutions:

Granted 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.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

FACILITIES REQUESTS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following use of facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

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

Granted 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.

Granted approval for KDS (Katie's 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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved for Miss Emily Peffer to attend training on AP testing at MIU IV on March 20, 2025. There is no cost to the district. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

COMBUSTION SERVICE & EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the renewal of the service agreement between Mercer Area School District and Combustion Service & Equipment Co., in the amount of \$12,600.00, for Boiler maintenance. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, and Amos voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

SMILE PENNSYLVANIA MOU:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR CORRECTION FROM 2/17/25:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the correction to item #19 from the February 17, 2025 board meeting as follows. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes:

Granted 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

SHARON REGIONAL PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION LINKAGE AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the Linkage Agreement between Sharon Regional Medical Center’s Partial Hospitalization Programs, Pathfinders and Kite Strings, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY IU5 – LIEP SERVICES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MERCER COUNTY CAREER CENTER BUDGET FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the 2025-2026 Mercer County Career Center Budget in the amount of **\$6,734,655**, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

WATSON’S INC. TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

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

Motion: Passed

MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2025 BOARD MEETING CONTINUED:

MERCER COUNTY DAIRY PRINCESS/PROMO COMM. ELEM LIBRARY BOOK DONATION:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board granted approved 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: On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

-*Milly Cow Gives Milk* by Deborah Chancellor

-*Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish* by Viola Butler

2024 SCHNEIDER FAMILY AWARD BOOKS:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved adding the attached list of 2024 Schneider Family Award Books to the Anna & Friends Library at Mercer Elementary School. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS CONSORTION AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025-28:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the Comprehensive Plan (2025-2028) and accompanying state required reports for the Mercer Area School District. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

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)

**The budget meeting was set for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.*

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President