



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

545 West Butler Street
Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137



Michael G. Piddington, Ed. D.

Assistant Superintendent
mpiddington@mercer.k12.pa.us

Central Office

724-662-5100

Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed. D.

Superintendent
rrowe@mercer.k12.pa.us

Fax Number

724-662-5109

Michael H. Stabile

Business Manager/Board Secretary
mstabile@mercer.k12.pa.us

Business Office

724-662-4120

AGENDA

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

August 18, 2025

High School Library

7:30 PM

Executive Session – **6:30 PM:**

Personnel, Litigation and Contracts (closed);

Review of agenda items, questions, and comments (open).

Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Mr. Jason Fleming will provide a summary on commercial drone flight and FAA rules.
3. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 21, 2025.
4. Approve the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial statements.
5. Communications.
6. Board committee reports.
7. Administrative reports.
8. Public Comments
9. **Personnel:**
Resignations:
Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Miss Emily Pepper, secondary Guidance Counselor, effective with the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

The Mercer Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, age, handicaps, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or employment policies.

Personnel (Continued):

Hires:

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Justin Reno as a special education teacher on Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary scale at \$55,550 with full benefits. This position begins with the 2025-26 school year, pending clearances.

Recommend approval for the following teachers to serve as mentors for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

- Mr. Justin Gadsby for Mr. Vito Pilosi
- Mr. Troy Morris for Miss Kaitlyn Schmidt

Recommend approval to add the following coaches to the fall sports list.

Mr. Brian Phillips, Jr. as a volunteer coach for football and Miss Kaitlyn Schmidt as a volunteer cheer coach, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, pending clearances.

Recommend approval for Mr. Jeffrey DeLorenzo, as a volunteer for the 5M band, pending clearances.

AmeriCorps:

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Jim Husband for the full time (1700 hours) AmeriCorps position at the elementary for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of \$16,000, pending clearances.

ESS:

Recommend the approval of all substitute teachers as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval of all aides/paraprofessionals as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Ruthie Hazlett, ESS employee, as an elementary door greeter, effective at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

10. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Ms. Kelly Heffern and Mrs. Courtney Smithco to accompany the 5M band and football cheerleaders to Commodore Perry High School for Meet the Panthers on August 19, 2025. The only cost to the district is for bus transportation and the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Ms. Kelly Heffern to accompany the 5M band to the following festivals.

- Oil City Band Festival on September 6, 2025
- Mercer County Band Festival on September 10, 2025 at Sharon High School
- Grove City College Band Festival on October 4, 2025

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for Mr. Eric Mausser or Miss Emily Pepper to accompany RYLA students to the Rotary luncheon on Sept.10, 2025 at Morelianos Restaurant, Mercer. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany Chamber Choir students to the following festivals:

- Honors Chorus Auditions at Westminster College on October 9, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)
- Honors Chorus Festival at Westminster College on November 6 – 8, 2025. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for two days. (\$200)
- District Chorus Festival at Hickory High School on January 8 – 10, 2026. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute teacher for two days. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany the Show Choir students to the following performances:

- December 3, 2025 Quality of Life Nursing Home and Spring Valley Golf Course The cost to the district is the use of a school van.
- December 5, 2025 Light up Night on the Square. There is no cost to the district.
- December 6, 2025 Light up Night at Buhl Park. The cost to the district is bus transportation.
- December 8, 2025 Shenango on the Green Nursing Home in New Wilmington. The cost to the district is bus transportation.
- December 13, 2025 Oak Grove Church and Cottage Gardens. The cost to the district is bus transportation.
- December 15, 2025 Court House and Avalon Nursing Home. The cost to the district is bus transportation and a sub for half a day. (\$50)
- December 18, 2025 Sing-a-grams. The cost to the district is the use of two school vans.
- December 19, 2025 Mercer Elementary School and The Lakes at Jefferson. The cost to the district is bus transportation and a sub for the day. (\$100)

11. **Staff Development:**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Amanda Simpson to attend, virtually, the PA School Study Council's Special Education Law Symposium on September 10, 2025. The only cost to the district is the registration fee of \$209.00.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Sara Kropp and Ms. Becky Wymer to attend Safety Care training at MIU4 at a date TBD. The cost to the district is \$185 per person.

Recommend approval for Ms. Ava Park and Mr. Justin Reno to attend the Writing IEPs training at MIU4 on September 23, 2025. The cost to the district is two substitute teachers (\$200).

Recommend approval for Mr. Doug Schmid and Miss Emily Pepper to accompany students to the Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo on September 19, 2025 in Canfield, Ohio. The cost to the district is bus transportation and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

12. **Facilities:**
Recommend approval for the Choir Boosters to use the cafeteria on the following dates. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.
 - Madrigal Dinner - November 14 and 15, 2025.
 - Breakfast with Santa - December 6, 2025.
13. Recommend approval of the attached roof inspection agreement with TMR Roofing for the 2025-26 school year. This agreement is for both buildings, in the total amount of \$6,200.
14. Recommend approval of an agreement between the Mercer Touchdown Club and the Mercer Area School District to install sign advertisements on the inside of the stadium complex fence as a booster fundraiser. This agreement is for four (4) years, ending June 30, 2029, per the attached agreement.
15. Recommend approval of an Agreement between Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission, Inc. and Mercer Area School District to provide services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) for the 2025-26 school year.
16. Recommend approval of an agreement with Mercer County Children & Youth Services (CYS) for transportation of students in foster care.
17. Recommend approval of an agreement between the Mercer Area School District and Wesley Schools to provide special education programming and services for three (3) elementary students the 2025-2026 school year, per the attached agreement.
18. Recommend approval for Mr. Jason Fleming to provide aerial pictures/video at Mercer School District events, given Mercer administrative approval. Mr. Fleming is an FAA certified remote pilot, has an active \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy, and will have all proper clearances on file in the District Central Office.
19. Recommend approval of board policy numbers 626, 626.1, and 827.
(First read was July 2025)
20. Other Business
21. Adjournment

FYI – Dates of interest

August 20	Meet the Mustangs at M/HS field @ 8:00 p.m. (Note time change)
August 25 & 26	Teacher In-Service Days
August 27	First day of school for students
August 28	Middle/High School Open House 5:30-7:15 pm
September 1	No School – Labor Day
September 15	Elementary Book Fair Begins
September 15	School Board Meeting