

# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF MAY 19, 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

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

### **MINUTES:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on April 28, 2025. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, 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, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

***Motion:*** Passed

### **PERSONNEL:**

#### ***Hires:***

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

**MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2025 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**

**Personnel (Continued):**

**Hires:**

Approved Ms. Kelly Heffern as an instrumental music teacher on Step 3 of the Masters salary scale, \$58,153, with full benefits, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, pending clearances.

Approved Mr. Vito Pilosi IV as a part-time (1/2 time) social studies teacher on Step 1 of the Bachelors salary scale, \$27,775, with no benefits, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, pending clearances.

Approved the hiring of summer maintenance employee Pressley Washil at \$9.25/hour, pending clearances. There are no benefits with this position.

**Promotion:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the promotion of Mrs. Cassie Washil to a full time secondary social studies teacher, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, on Step 4 of the Master's salary scale, \$58,460, with full benefits. (Mrs. Washil is currently a ½ time teacher). On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**JR. CLASS CEDAR POINT TRIP CHAPERONES:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved adding Mrs. Erin Ellis and Mrs. Anna Cook as substitute chaperones (only if needed) for the Junior Class trip to Cedar Point on May 29, 2025. Total additional cost to the district is \$100.00 for one sub. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**BOARD TREASURER:**

A motion to nominate Arthur Amos, as Board Treasurer for the 2025-26 fiscal year, was made by David Lengel, second by J. Jarrett Whalen. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025-26:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the *proposed final budget* for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of **\$21,008,086**. On a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

**2025 MERCER HS SENIOR GRADUATES:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approve the list of 2025 Mercer Area Senior High School graduates pending satisfactory completion of required courses, number of credits, and the high school principal's approval (list attached). On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**PER CAPITA TAX FOR 2025-26:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following Per Capita and Act 511 Taxes be re-enacted for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- \$5.00 Per Capita under Section 679 of the School Code of 1949
- \$5.00 Per Capita under Act 511
- One percent (1%) Earned Income Tax\*
- \$5.00 Occupation Privilege Tax
- One Percent (1%) Real Estate Transfer Tax
- \*Shared with municipalities

**MERCER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL GYM:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the costars bid from SportFloors to sand, repaint, and finish the Middle/High School gym floor for \$40,630. The contracted work will take place in the summer of 2025. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, and Amos voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**KNOX LAW – SOLICITOR FOR 2025-2026:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett, P.C. (Knox Law) to continue as the Mercer Area School District solicitor for the 2025-26 school year, at billing rates specified on the attached rate schedule. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**SACHEL PULSE (SEL SCREENING):**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved a three (3) year subscription, June 1, 2025-June 30, 2028, with Satchel Pulse for social emotional learning (SEL) screening software. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Bobby, David Lengel voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**LONGMORE ACADEMY:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the agreement between the Mercer Area School District and MHY Services to provide special education services and programming for two (2) students at Longmore Academy for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members yes.

**GLADE RUN LUTHERAN SERVICES:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved of an agreement between Glade Run Lutheran Services and Mercer Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TUITION STUDENT AT ELEMENTARY:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved permitted one fourth grade student to attend Mercer Elementary as a tuition student at the rate of \$5000.00 per year for 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**WAIVE PENALTIES & INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT TAXES:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent second by Arthur Amos, the Board granted approval to waive penalties and interest due for delinquent school taxes associated with the following tax parcels. (Previously Mercer Forge Properties) On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby and Hazi voted yes. Member Lengel voted no.

**Motion:** Passed

Control Numbers:	65-2530	65-8120
	65-4130	65-607577
	65-5110	65-607625
	65-5910	

**MAINTENANCE SUPPLY BID:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the following maintenance supplies bids for the 2025-26 school year as follows: On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi and Lengel voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

DeSantis Janitor Supply Co.	\$ 35.00
The Hearn Paper Co.	1,290.00
Mon-D-Aid Cleanit Co.	8,941.60
United Sales USA Corp.	<u>154.76</u>
Total	<b>\$10,421.36</b>

**COAL BID:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board awarded the coal bid for the 2025-26 school year to Penn Keystone Coal Co., LLC in the amount of \$169.80 per delivered ton. This is a one (1) year agreement with two (2), one-year renewals. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel and Nugent voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**SEALCOATING BID:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved to award the sealcoating bid for the 2025-26 school year to J & T Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$24,723.00 for sealcoating at Mercer Elementary and crack sealing at both buildings. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent and Peters voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**SERVPRO:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved two (2) agreements with SERVPRO for emergency response & mitigation services and for the cleaning of football and all other athletic uniforms for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES:**

A motion to table for further discussion was made by Steven VanWoert, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, regarding athletic ticket prices beginning in the 2025-26 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**MILLAGE FOR 2025-2026:**

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved setting the millage for the 2025-26 year at **68.75**. (*The current millage is 67.75*) On a roll call vote, members VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel and Stotsky voted yes. Members Nugent and Peters voted No.

**Motion:** Passed

**HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD RESOLUTION:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved the 2025 Homestead and Farmstead exclusion resolution, and setting of the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion credit amount of \$289.78. On a roll call vote, members Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, and VanWoert voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL BOOKS:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved purchasing books for the middle/high school library, per the attached list. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**POLICY 915:** (Booster/ Parent organization)

Recommend approval of Policy# 915 (*Booster/Parent Organization*), as presented at the April 28, 2025 board meeting. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Michael H. Stabile, Board Secretary

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David R. Lengel, Board President