

# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 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  
AMANDA SIMPSON, MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
SHIRLEY SPIEGEL, ASSISTANT ELEM. PRINCIPAL/SPEC. EDUC. COORD.  
MICHAEL STABILE, BUSINESS MANAGER/BOARD SECRETARY

### ***Work Session 7:00 P.M.:***

Closed – Personnel, litigation and student discipline

Open – Agenda, general questions and comments

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:40 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

### **MINUTES:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the minutes as follows. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- The regular board meeting of May 19, 2025
- Community Relations Committee meeting on June 12, 2025
- Curricular and Extra Curricular Committee meeting on June 12, 2025

### **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, Peters, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

***Motion:*** Passed

### **PERSONNEL:**

#### **Resignation:**

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Shane Nugent, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Dalton Stoops as Asst. Band Director, effective immediately. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2025 (Continued):**

**PERSONNEL (Continued):**

**Hire:**

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved the following hires. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Hired Mrs. Kristen Sansone for the supplemental position of Dean of Students, in the elementary school. This position will pay the amount of \$7,500 for 15 additional days, beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Hired Miss Kaitlyn Schmidt as a full-time mathematics teacher on step 1 of the Bachelor's scale, in the amount of \$55,550, with full benefits, pending clearances.

Hired Mr. Charles Bigelow as a full time Assistant Middle/High School Principal. This is a 260-day position with a salary of \$88,000 and full benefits, beginning July 1, 2025, pending clearances.

Granted approval to hire coaches on the attached list for fall 2025, pending clearances.

Approved the hiring for the following band advisors, pending clearances.

- Amelia Taylor – Dance Line
- Lacey Weaver – Majorettes
- Samantha Daniels – Assistant Director

Approved the additional summer maintenance employees, pending clearances and paperwork, as attached.

Logan Nugent	Jayden Amos
Hailey Doolin	Derrick King
Makayla Crossland	Daphne Fox

Granted approval of Mr. Dustin Snyder as a volunteer Girls Basketball Coach beginning with summer conditioning, pending clearances.

**FMLA:**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved of an unpaid 30-day family medical leave for Mrs. Erica Mild beginning August 27, 2025 through October 8, 2025. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**STUDENT TRAVEL:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following requests for student travel. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Mr. Jeff Lockard and his staff to use 3 to 4 vans to transport football players to Slippery Rock High School for 7 on 7 and linemen competitions on July 15, 2025.

**MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2025 (Continued):**

**STUDENT TRAVEL (Continued):**

Approved the Junior Class (Class of 2027) to host the Jr.-Sr. Prom at The Avalon at Buhl, on May 8, 2026. There is no cost to the district.

Approved Mrs. Erin Ellis and Mrs. Anna Cook to accompany the junior class to Cedar Point on June 4, 2026. The only cost to the district is two substitutes for the day. (\$200)

Approved Ms. Kelly Heffern to accompany the 5M band to Kennywood on August 9, 2025 to march in the Fall Fantasy Parade. The only cost to the school district is transportation.

Approved Miss Emily Peffer to accompany two students to participate in Extreme Leadership at MIU IV on September 29 and December 2, 2025, February 24 and April 8, 2026.

Approved Mr. Nate Crooks to use a school van to accompany golfers to Mount Hope Golf Course in Guys Mills. Dates and times to be determined.

**FACILITIES REQUEST:**

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

Granted approval for Mercer Midget and PeeWee Youth Football to use the practice field from June 17, 2025 through November 15, 2025. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Granted approval for Mercer Midget and PeeWee Youth Football to use the Football Field for two home games. The game dates will be coordinated with the Athletic Director based on field availability.

Granted approval for The Academy of Dance Anatomy (TADA) to use the auditorium for their dance recital on May 1, 2, and 3, 2026. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved Mrs. Meghan Glass to attend - *The 2025 Pennsylvania Art Education Association Conference* on October 10 and 11, 2025. The cost to the district is a substitute for one day (\$100) and registration fee (\$185). On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**2024-25 BUDGETARY TRANSFERS:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the business manager to make any final budgetary transfers necessary to close the books for the 2024-25 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2025-26:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the Mercer Area School District General Fund Budget of **\$21,008,086** for the 2025-2026 school year. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, and Amos voted yes. **Motion:** Passed

**MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2025 (Continued):**

**AVI FOOD SYSTEMS, INC. – FOOD SERVICE MGT CO.:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board awarded the food service management company bid to AVI Food Systems, Inc. with Mercer Area School District beginning with the 2025-26 school year. This is a one (1) year agreement with four (4) – one year renewals. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, and Bobby voted yes.

**Motion:** Passed

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR 2025-26:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following depositories for the 2025-26 fiscal year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**First National Bank** – General Fund, Payroll, Revolving Account, Cafeteria Fund and Yearbook, Flexible Spending Account, Real Estate Tax and Escrow Tax, and Organization Fund

**Huntington** – Vending Account

**PLGIT** – General Fund (Debt Service, Capital Projects, Employee Benefit and Cafeteria Accounts)

**Black Rock** – Capital Reserve Account

**Mercer County State Bank** – Revolving Account, Cafeteria Fund, Yearbook, Organization Fund and Mercer Area School District Foundation

**MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY (BETHANY CHURCH):**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Mercer County Food Bank and Bethany Church to establish a food pantry for students at the middle-high school. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**PSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY FOR 2025:**

A motion by David Lengel, second by Shane Nugent, was made to appoint J. Jarrett Whalen as the PSBA delegate and Matthew Hazi as an alternate at the 2025 PSBA Delegate Assembly on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**TENURE - SECTION 1121 OF THE PA SCHOOL CODE OF 1949:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved, in accordance with Section 1121 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, that the following teachers be granted tenure based on the successful completion of three years of satisfactory service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as recommended by the superintendent, Dr. Ronald R. Rowe, Jr. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- ❖ Mrs. Anna Cook
- ❖ Mrs. Erin Ellis
- ❖ Mrs. Cassie Washil

**MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2025 (Continued):**

**CUSTOM COMPUTER SPECIALISTS (INFINITE CAMPUS SIS):**

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved a renewal of the agreement with Custom Computer Specialists for the use of Infinite Campus as the school district's student information system for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**NWEA RENEWAL:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved a renewal with NWEA in the amount of \$14,440 for diagnostic assessment software for the 2025-2026 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**CHARACTERSTRONG:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved a renewal with CharacterStrong in the amount of \$8,588.60 for a three (3) year subscription for social emotional (SEL) curriculum. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**SAVVAS – SCIENCE CURRICULUM GRADES 5-8:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved purchasing a new science curriculum series from SAVVAS for grades 5-8 in the amount of \$90,874.55. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby and Hazi voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**EVS (AVI FOODSYSTEMS, INC) CUSTODIAL SERVICES:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved EVS (AVI Foodsystems, Inc.) budget for custodial services for the 2025-26 school year, in the amount of \$417,869. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES EFFECTIVE 2025-26:**

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following athletic ticket prices beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Adults (all sports) \$5.00. Students (all sports) \$3.00. Attached, please find discounted season pass information. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Stotsky, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, and Hazi voted yes. Members VanWoert and Lengel voted no.

***Motion:*** Passed

**PARENT BOOSTER/SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS 2025-26:**

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board granted approval of the following Parent Booster/Support Organization(s) for the 2025-26 school year, as they meet the requirements set forth by the Mercer Area School Board in Policy 915, as follows. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Football Boosters  
Elementary Cross-Country Boosters

**MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2025 (Continued):**

**CHROMEBOOK/TABLET BID – FORD OFFICE:**

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved awarding the Chromebook and Tablet bid to Ford Office Technologies, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Nugent voted yes.

***Motion:*** Passed

**JUDICIAL TAX SALE:**

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved of a Judicial Tax Sale for property located at 8 Clintonville Road, Mercer PA, Map No. 2025- 1559, in Findley Twp. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no additional business, Shane Nugent motioned to adjourn the meeting, Rodney Bobby 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