

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF
JULY 21, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS
MATTHEW HAZI
AIMEE PETERS
STEVEN VanWOERT

RODNEY BOBBY
DAVID LENGEL
DEREK STOTSKY
J. JARRETT WHALEN

MEMBERS ABSENT:

SHANE NUGENT

OTHERS PRESENT:

DR. RONALD R. ROWE, JR, SUPERINTENDENT
DR. MICHAEL G. PIDDINGTON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
AMANDA SIMPSON, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
ERIC MAUSSER, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
GREGORY ACRE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
CHARLES BIGELOW, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ASST. PRINCIPAL
LYNN R. LONG, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:50 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were eight members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on June 16, 2025, the Curricular & Extracurricular Committee meeting and the Transportation Committee meeting, both held on July 17, 2025. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Treasurer’s Report, all bills as listed and financial reports. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Peters, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

PERSONNEL:

Resignation(s):

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board accepted, with regret, the following resignations. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2025 MEETING (CONTINUED):

PERSONNEL (Continued):

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Macey Hamilton as a middle/high school math teacher, effective with the 2025-26 school year.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Jennifer Beach as a kindergarten teacher, effective with the 2025-26 school year.

Hire(s):

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Steven VanWoert, the Board approved hiring the following positions. On a roll call vote, members Whalen, Stotsky, Lengel, Bobby, VanWoert, Hazi, and Amos voted yes. Member Peters abstained.

Motion: Passed

Granted approval to hire the following coaches for fall supplemental contracts in 2025-26, pending clearances.

Doug Lumley	PAID football coach (Was listed as volunteer on original list)
James Osborne	Paid football coach
Mike Sherman	Volunteer soccer coach for middle school
Aimee Peters	Volunteer soccer coach for middle school
Stephen Morimando	Volunteer soccer coach for boys' soccer

Granted approval to hire additional summer maintenance employees, pending clearances and paperwork, at a rate of \$9.00/hour, pending clearances.

Elsie Kropp
Lila Reckhart
Rose Irion

Granted approval for Mr. Ryan Shaw to be a volunteer percussion instructor for the 5M band for the 2025-26 school year, pending clearances.

AmeriCorps:

Granted approval for a full-time (1700 Hour) Elementary School AmeriCorps position for the 2025-26 school year, at a cost of \$16,000 to the district.

FACILITIES REQUEST:

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

Granted approval for The Chapel at Mercer to use the elementary LGI, entrance, hallway and a projector to conduct worship service during their sanctuary repair. This request is for July 27, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All aspects of the facility agreement and fees will be applicable.

MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2025 MEETING (CONTINUED):

FACILITIES (Continued):

Granted approval for the Mercer Elementary Cross-Country Boosters to use the elementary cross-country course and football field/track to host the elementary relays on Saturday, September 27, 2025. All aspects of the facilities will be followed.

Granted approval for United Way of Mercer County to host an after-school program in the middle-high school library for the 2025-26 school year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by J. Jarrett Whalen, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved Mrs. Allyson Rust to attend Safety Care Recertification on July 29, 2025 at MIU IV from 8:30 – 3:30 at a cost of \$100.00 for the training. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved Mrs. Kelly Heffern to accompany the 5M band to Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, to participate in the parade, from November 30 to December 5, 2025. The only cost to the school district is a substitute for four (4) days. (\$400) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

LDP-LEADER SERVICES, INC.:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the agreement between Mercer Area School District and LDP, Inc, referred to as Leader Services, which will provide Pennsylvania Medicaid Direct Services web applications and support services. This agreement is from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$4,800.00, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

IXL LEARNING:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the three (3) year agreement with IXL Learning for a K-12 Math and English/Language Arts software site license. Cost to the district is \$50,006.25. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, and Peters voted yes.

Motion: Passed

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP):

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved setting the adult meal prices for the 2025-26 school year. This is required for participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Breakfast: Adults \$2.95
Lunch: Adults \$4.85

MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2025 MEETING (CONTINUED):

PARENT BOOSTER/SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following Parent Booster/Support Organizations for the 2025-26 school year, as they all meet the requirements set forth by the Mercer Area School Board in Policy 915, as follows. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

PEP (Partners in the Educ. Process)	Girls Basketball Boosters	Speech Boosters
Mercer Band Boosters	Golf Boosters	Track & Cross-Country Boosters
Boys Basketball Boosters	Mercer Area Soccer Helpers	Girls Volleyball Boosters
Choral Boosters	Softball Boosters	Wrestling Boosters Club
Baseball Boosters	Tech-Ed Booster Club	

REINHARDT’S INSURANCE AGENCY:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the insurance package, with Reinhardt’s Insurance Agency, for 2025-26 as follows: On a roll call vote, members Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, Whalen, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

Property Insurance with CM Regent	\$140,460
Workers Compensation with Encova	<u>\$ 47,630</u>
<i>subtotal</i>	<i>\$188,090</i>
Cyber Insurance with Chubb	<u>\$ 5,618</u>
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>\$193,708</i>

NISSLEY TREE SERVICE:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved for Nissley Tree Service to complete tree trimming work at the high school stadium. Cost for the project is \$7,200.00. On a roll call vote, members Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Peters, Stotsky, VanWoert, and Whalen voted yes.

Motion: Passed

VAN ROUTES AND DRIVERS FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved of the Mercer Area School District van routes and drivers, for the 2025-26 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

WATSON’S INC. BUS DRIVERS AND ROUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Watsons, Inc. bus drivers and routes for the 2025-26 school, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2025 MEETING (CONTINUED):

2025-26 ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Steven VanWoert, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the 2025-26 elementary school student handbook, as attached. (List of changes included). On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2025-26 ELEMENTARY STAFF HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the 2025-26 elementary staff handbook, as attached. (List of changes included). On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2025-26 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved the 2025-26 middle/high school student handbook, as attached. (List of changes included). On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2025-26 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STAFF HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the 2025-26 middle/high school staff handbook, as attached. (List of changed included). On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2025-26 MASD 1:1 HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the 2025-26 Mercer Area School District 1:1 handbook, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE MODIFICATION:

A motion was made by David Lengel to modify previous student discipline. J. Jarrett Whalen seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

On a motion by David Lengel, second by J. Jarrett Whalen, the Board approved Student #1's permanent expulsion be modified to, *expulsion for the remainder of 2024-25 school year*, pending an in-lieu agreement with the student's parent. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

***First read:** Policy numbers 626, 626.1, and 827

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Lynn R. Long, Confidential Sec.

David R. Lengel, Board President