



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
SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING
September 15, 2025
High School Library
7:30 PM

Executive Session (6:45 PM): Student discipline, personnel, litigation (closed);
Agenda items: Finances, facilities, safety and security, and other business (open).

AGENDA

1. Call to order and flag salute by President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2024 and the committee meeting for Curricular and Extracurricular Activities on September 11, 2025.
3. Approve the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial statements.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. Public comments.
8. **Personnel:**
Hire:
Recommend approval to hire Miss Melanie Zeitler as a secondary Guidance Counselor, prorated on step 1 of the Masters scale, pending clearances, effective September 22, 2025 with full benefits.

Recommend approval to hire advisors for the 2025-26 school year, as attached.

Personnel (Continued):

Hire(s): (Continued)

Recommend approval to hire Mrs. Tonya Vechnak as a van driver at a rate of \$80.00 per day to the Hope Center, Mars, PA, pending clearances.

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Michael Julock as a substitute van driver at a rate of \$80.00 per day, pending clearances.

Volunteer(s):

Recommend approval of the following Cross-Country volunteer coaches pending clearances. na

Eric Zimmerman

Jennifer Mausser

Jennifer Jewell

Recommend approval of Mr. Christopher Noble (from Commodore Perry) as a volunteer band announcer and chaperone, pending clearances.

FMLA:

Recommend approval for Mrs. Brittany Milliren to take a 10 - day family medical leave, beginning August 29, 2025 and returning September 15, 2025.

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):

Hires/Resignations:

Recommend approval to hire substitute teachers, aides & paraprofessionals and/or accept, with regret, the resignation of such employees submitted by Educational Staffing Solutions, as attached.

9. **Professional Development:**

Recommend approval for Ms. Kylie McElrath to attend Safety Care training at MIU4 on September 22 & 23, 2025. Total cost to the district is \$185.00

Recommend approval for Mrs. Allyson Rust to attend the Mercer County Counselors meeting on October 17, 2025. This professional development network will be held at Penn State Shenango. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Maggie Ference and Mrs. Andrea Crooks to attend School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Regional Coaches Days on October 23, 2025 and February 19, 2026. Two substitutes are requested for two days. (\$400)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Korina Yanak, Mrs. Lydia Sipe and Miss Kylie McElrath to attend the Speech Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings on October 28, 2025, February 12, 2026 and April 15, 2026. There is no cost to the district.

10. **Facilities Request:**

Recommend approval for Sankey Financial to use the middle/high school auditorium on Saturday, November 15, 2025 for a workshop on PSERS pension systems. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Facilities Request: (Continued)

Recommend approval for the Mercer Community Band to use the high school auditorium and cafeteria on Sunday, November 30, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. for their annual Christmas concert.

Recommend approval for the Mercer Elementary Student Council and the Positivity and Kindness Krew (PAKK) to host a holiday feast dinner for elementary families in the elementary cafeteria, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

11. Student Travel:

Recommend approval for Miss Emily Peffer and Mrs. Danielle Ross to accompany students to college and Career Fair at Thiel College on Thursday, October 2, 2025. The cost to the district is transportation and a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Courtney Smithco to accompany members of the AEVIDUM club to attend the Youth Leadership Conference through Mercer County BHC on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sharon. The only cost to the district is transportation.

Recommend approval for Ms. Kelly Heffern to accompany band students on the following dates:

- Honors band auditions – October 28, 2025 at Westminster College. Cost to the district is transportation and a substitute for the day. (\$100)
- Honors band – December 11-13, 2025 at Westminster College. Cost to the district is transportation and a substitute for two (2) days. (\$200)
- District Orchestra - Jan. 22-24, 2026 at Indiana Area HS. Cost to the district is transportation, a substitute for two days, and lodging for two days. (Based on # qualified)
- District Band - Feb. 4-6, 2026 at Sharon HS. Cost to the district is transportation and a substitute for two days. (\$200)
- Region Orchestra - March 5-7, 2026 at Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh. Cost to the district is transportation, a substitute for two days, and lodging for two days. (Based on # qualified)
- Region Band - March 19-21, 2026 at Upper St. Clair. Cost to the district is transportation, a substitute for one day, and lodging for two days. (base on # qualified)
- Junior High District Band - March 24, 2026 at Blackhawk. Cost to the district is transportation and a substitute for the day.

Recommend approval for Mr. Dan Heckman and Mr. Eric Mausser to accompany student/athletes to the District 10 Sportsmanship/Leadership program on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at Grove City High School. The only cost to the district is for transportation.

Recommend approval for the Ms. Kelly Heffern and Mrs. Courtney Smithco to accompany members of the 5M band, cheerleaders and homecoming court to the elementary school on Friday, September 26, 2025 for an assembly. The only cost to the district is transportation.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Amy Neugebauer to accompany five (5) students to the Middle Schooler Civics Summit at Penn State Shenango on November 21, 2025. This experience is tied to the Mercer County America250PA program. One van is requested for transportation. One substitute is requested for the day and is the only expense to the school district. (\$100)

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart and Mrs. Nicole Walzer to accompany students to the following Academic Games Tournaments at Slippery Rock University. One bus is requested for each of these days for transportation. One substitute is requested for each date. (\$200/day)

October 25, 2025	On-Sets Tournament
November 12, 2025	Propaganda Tournament
December 17, 2025	LinguiSHTIKs Tournament
January 7, 2026	Presidents Tournament
February 4, 2026	Equations Tournament
February 18, 2026	World Events Tournament

Recommend approval for the fourth-grade class (approximately 95 students) to travel to Oil Creek State Park, Oil City, PA on October 8, 2025. Two busses are requested for transportation. Transportation costs will be paid for by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Maggie Ference to accompany four (4) elementary student council members to the Student Leadership Summit at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on October 3, 2025. One van is requested for transportation. One substitute is requested for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the First-grade class (approximately 54 students) to travel to Irons Mill Farmstead, New Wilmington, on October 17, 2025. Two buses are requested for transportation. Cost of admission and transportation will be paid by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

12. Recommend approval for the following teacher to serve as mentor for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

Mrs. Joni Kostelnik for Mr. Justin Reno

13. Recommend approval to participate in the Mercer Backpack Program at Mercer Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year. This backpack program is in conjunction with numerous local churches.
14. Recommend approval of an Engagement Agreement between The Reschini Group and Mercer Area School District to fulfill reporting requirements mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Internal Revenue Service for 2025.
15. Recommend approval to accept bids for the sale of the Newman S248 wood shop planer.
16. Recommend approval to permit one ninth grade student to attend Mercer High School as a tuition student at the rate of \$5,000.00 per year for the 2025-2026 school year.
17. Recommend approval of an agreement with Erdos Transport Services, Inc. to transport two (2) students to Longmore Academy for the 2025-26 school year, as attached.

18. Recommend approval of an agreement between the Mercer Area School District and Hope Academy to provide special education services and programming to two (2) students for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached.
19. Recommend approval of a request by Mercer Touchdown Club to allow pee wee, midgets and junior high football players free admission into a football game, if wearing their team jersey. The date of the game to be approved and coordinated between the Athletic Director and Mercer administration.
20. Recommend approval of the following list of candidates for PSBA, all nominees are running unopposed.
 - 2026 President-Elect (one-year term)..... Holly Arnold, Tunkhannock Area School District
 - 2026 Vice President (one-year term) Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District
 - PSBA Insurance Trustee (three-year term) Kathy K. Swope, Roberta M. Marcus
 - (Choose up to two)*
21. Recommend approval of the concession stand rights for boys' basketball games to be split evenly between the boys' basketball boosters and the band boosters for the 2025-26 school year. The boys' basketball boosters will have concession stand rights for all boys' basketball games in the 2026-27 school year.
22. Other Business
23. Adjournment.

FYI:

- Sept. 15-26 Elementary Book Fair
- Sept. 18 Elementary Open House 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 26 Homecoming Assembly / Homecoming Football Game at 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 27 Homecoming Dance 7-10 pm
- Oct. 9 & 10 Early Dismissal for all **Students** (Elementary Conferences)
- Oct. 13 No School (Columbus Day)
- Oct. 16 Committee Meetings @ 6 pm (tentative)
- Oct. 20 School Board Meeting**