



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

Michelle L. Goehring

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

Business Office

724-662-4120

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2026

High School Library

***7:30 p.m. ***

Work Session

***7:00 p.m. ***

Executive Session: *Closed* – Personnel, litigation, and student discipline; *Open* – Agenda.

Agenda

Meeting 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular/reorganization board meeting of December 3, 2025, the building and grounds committee meeting on January 22, 2026.
3. Approve the Treasurer's report for November and December, all bills as listed, and the financial statements.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. The Board Secretary acknowledges January as School Director Recognition Month.
8. Public comments.
9. Appoint the PSBA Legislative Policy Council Representative. _____
(Previously Mr. Whalen)

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.

9. **Personnel:**

Retirement:

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Wendy McClure, physical education teacher, effective June 8, 2026.

Resignation:

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. David Stoepfel as Head Girls Softball Coach.

Hire:

Recommend approval to hire Ms. Haley Wells as Head Girls Softball coach for the 2026 season.

Recommend approval to hire coaches for the spring 2026 season, pending clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval to hire Mrs. Michelle Goehring as Food Service Director.

Recommend approval to hire the following volunteer elementary wrestling coaches, pending clearances.

Zane O'Brien	Corey Green
David Caryl	Brian Cales
Daryl King	

Recommend approval of the following paid positions, to assist Mrs. Michalee Christy with the school musical, pending clearances, as follows:

Mrs. Katie Greig (Rehearsal accompanist and pit pianist)	\$1,000.00
Ms. Rachel Henry (Assistant)	\$ 500.00
Mrs. Jessica Nemeth (Choreographer)	\$ 500.00

Recommend approval to hire Mr. Micah Wojnowski as a volunteer for the school musical, pending clearances.

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.

10. **Facilities:**

Recommend approval for the Wrestling Boosters to use the high school gym and cafeteria on Sunday, February 1, 2026 to host the Area VI futures tournament. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

10. **Facilities (Continued):**

Recommend approval for Mr. Buck Baldwin to use the elementary school cafeteria and/or gymnasium to host an adult volleyball league on Saturday evenings, tentatively at 6:30 p.m., between January 2026 – April 2026. The cost for league participants would be \$5.00 per person / \$70.00 per team each week. This would be a fundraiser event for the Mercer High School Volleyball Boosters. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Softball Boosters to use the high school cafeteria on Saturday, February 14, 2026 for their annual Father Daughter Dance. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Mr. Buck Baldwin to use the elementary school cafeteria and gymnasium to host a middle school volleyball tournament fundraiser for the Mercer High School Volleyball Boosters on March 7 & 8, 2026. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Mr. Buck Baldwin to use the elementary school cafeteria and gymnasium to host a 14U and 15U MVP Club Tournament fundraiser for the Mercer High School Volleyball Boosters on March 14 & 15, 2026. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Student Council to use the track and to create a 5k course around the school for a Color Run fundraiser on April 12, 2026. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for Mr. Buck Baldwin to use the elementary school cafeteria and gymnasium to host a summer league fundraiser for the Mercer High School Volleyball Boosters between May 2026 – August 2026. Specific dates and times of these activities will be determined by availability through the athletic director. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Mercer Vocal Department to use the auditorium and Choir room to host a Music Performance Assessment through PMEA on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The schools that would attend are Hickory, Wilmington, Grove City and Mercer. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the Twirling Angels to use the elementary gymnasium and cafeteria on Sunday, May 31, 2026 from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. for a baton recital. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

10. **Facilities (Continued)**
Recommend approval for Mercer Community Band to use the high school auditorium for rehearsal, and if needed, a performance facility, on the following dates:

Rehearsal dates:

June 26 and July 2, 16, 23, & 30, 2026 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday Concert dates (if inclement weather):

June 27, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 2026 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

11. **Staff Development:**

Recommend approval for Ms. Bridget Knies to attend Girls on the Run / Heart & Sole National coaches training, January 13, 2026. There is no cost to the district for the training. The only cost to the district is for one substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Kerry VanWoert and Miss Lacey Weaver, to attend the STEP with Engineering by Design Workshop at Grove City College on March 3 & 4, 2026. This is a MIU4 program that focuses on STEELS (Science) standards and there is no cost to attend the workshop. Two substitute teachers are requested for each day. (\$400)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michelle Goehring to attend the PASBO Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on March 24 – 27, 2026. Total cost to the district is \$1,400.00 which includes conference fees, travel and lodging.

Recommend approval for Mr. Greg Acre to attend IXL Live – Administrator Training on Wednesday April 1, 2026, at the Pittsburgh Marriot North, Cranberry Twp. from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The cost to the school district is \$179 for training.

12. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany approximately six (6) elementary students to Grove City College on March 2 & 3, 2026 to compete in the Academic Games Tri-Bowl Tournament. One van is requested for transportation and one substitute teacher is requested for each day. (\$200)

Recommend approval for Michalee Christy to accompany Chorus and Musical students to Hickory High School to watch the musical “Anything Goes” on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart to accompany four (4) students to the Academic Games Nationals Training Day at MIU4 on March 12, 2026. One van is requested for transportation and one substitute is requested for the day. (\$100)

12. **Student Travel (Continued):**
Recommend approval for Mrs. Mandy Oates to accompany Spanish II – IV students to Franklin Regional High School for the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. The only cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the Fifth Grade, approximately 70 students, to travel to Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA on June 3, 2026. Two buses and one van are requested for transportation. The cost of student admission and bus transportation are being paid for by the PEP Association. One substitute nurse is requested for the day (\$100) and is the only expense to the school district.
13. Recommend approval of the linkage agreement between Children’s Aid Society of Mercer County and Mercer Area School District. This program provides Family-Based Mental Health Services through Carelon and The Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission.
14. Recommend approval of the linkage agreement between Family Connections, a division of Community Counseling Center of Mercer County, and Mercer Area School District to ensure a collaborative effort of service delivery on behalf of jointly served students. This agreement is renewed every two years.
15. Recommend approval of an Affiliation Agreement to allow Thiel College’s students, pursuing a Bachelor’s in Nursing, to participate in a clinical experience with Mercer Area School District school nurses.
16. Recommend approval of the attached School Service Agreement for Girls on the Run and Heart and Soul for 2025-26. The Girls on the Run Program will be coached by Mrs. Allyson Rust and Mrs. Karina Yanak. The Heart and Soul Program by Mrs. Ally Sneizek and Ms. Bridget Kniess.
17. Recommend approval of a one (1) year renewal of the agreement between Inter-State Studio and Mercer Area Elementary School for the 2026-27 school year. Inter-State Studio would be responsible for the fall and spring student pictures, as well as the elementary yearbook. This is the current provider of the elementary yearbook and pictures.
18. Recommend approval for Michalee Christy to direct the musical “High School Musical” on the following days Thursday thru Saturday, April 8, 9 & 10, 2026.
19. Recommend approval of a resolution indicating Mercer Area School Directors will not raise the rate of any tax for the **2026-27** fiscal year, by more than the index established by the Dept. of Education, of **4.6%**. (3.16 mills)
20. Recommend approval to receive a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from Dick’s Sporting Goods as part of their Dick’s Foundation Sports Matter Grant Program. Funds will be used to upgrade/replace the Fitness Center equipment.

21. Recommend approval of Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2026, per the attached.
22. Recommend approval of a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2026.
23. Other Business.
24. Adjournment.

Due to the make-up day scheduled for February 16th, the **February monthly meeting will be held on February 16, 2026, the third Monday of the month.*

**Review the rough draft for the tentative 2026-2027 Mercer Area School District calendar, as presented.*

FYI:

January	26-30	Elementary Book Fair continues
January	28	K – 12 Report Cards
February	4	100 th Day of School!
February	6	In-service Day for Teachers / No school for students (Senior Exit Interviews)
February	12	School Board Committee Meetings (Tentative)
February	14	Father/Daughter Dance
February	16	Make-up day (1/20/26) School in session
February	16	Next School Board Meeting, as school is in session that day to makeup Jan. 20