



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



545 West Butler Street
Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137

Michael G. Piddington, Ed. D.

Assistant Superintendent
mpiddington@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Central Office

724-662-5100

Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed. D.

Superintendent
rrowe@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Fax Number

724-662-5109

Michelle L. Goehring

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

Business Office

724-662-4120

AGENDA
MARCH BOARD MEETING
March 16, 2026

7:30 PM

High School Library

Work Session (6:45 p.m.) –

Contracts, Student Discipline, and Personnel (closed);
General information, Agenda questions (open).

Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Presentation by Shawn Emerson from McGill, Power, Bell and Associates regarding the internal audit report.
3. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 16, 2026 and the Board Committee Meetings from March 12, 2026, for Building and Grounds and Curriculum & Extra Curricular Committees.
4. Approve the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial reports.
5. Communications.
6. Board committee reports.
7. Administrative reports.
8. Public comments.

9. **Personnel:**

Retirement:

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mr. Charles Mathias as an elementary teacher, effective June 8, 2026.

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Lynn Long as Confidential Secretary/Office Manager, effective August 31, 2026.

Resignation:

Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Jill McCracken as varsity boys' basketball cheerleading advisor, effective immediately.

Hires:

Recommend approval to add Justine Meyer as a volunteer Jr. High softball coach, effective with the 2026 season, pending clearances.

FMLA:

Recommend approval for Mrs. Marlena Priester to take a Family Medical Leave beginning August 21, 2026 for 60 days.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Recommend approval for Mrs. Marlena Priester to take a Leave of Absence, following the conclusion of her FMLA, for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.

Educational Staffing Solutions:

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

10. **Student Travel:**

Recommend approval for Miss Lisa Wishart to accompany five (5) students to the Academic Games Nationals Tournament in Charlotte, NC April 23 – April 28, 2026. The cost for student registration is \$140/student (\$700) Students will be transported, lodged, and supervised by a family member. Approximate cost to the school district for Miss Wishart to attend include: lodging (\$1,125) food (\$300), transportation (\$620), registration (\$140), and one substitute teacher for four days (\$400). The estimated total cost of the district for this trip is \$3,285.00.

Recommend approval for Mr. Doug Schmid to accompany Tech Ed students to Acutec Precision Aerospace on March 17, 2026, in conjunction with previously approved trip to Tessy Automation. The cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for Mrs. Courtney Smithco and Mr. Charles Bigelow to accompany 9th grade students to the Mercer County Business and Industry Career Fair at The Park Inn in West Middlesex, PA on March 26, 2026. The only cost to the district is for transportation.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Erin Ellis and Ms. Candace Vincent to accompany students to Envirothon training on April 1, 2026 and Envirothon competition on April 22, 2026 at Munnell Run Farm. The cost to the district is two substitute teachers for two days and the use of two school vans. (\$400)

Recommend approval for Mr. Justin Gadsby to accompany three students to "Senator for a Day" at Thiel College on April 14, 2026. Van transportation is requested as well as one substitute for the day which is the only cost to the district. (\$100.00)

Recommend approval for Mrs. Kelly Heffern to accompany the Jazz Band to Lakeview for the Jazz Festival on April 17, 2026. The only cost to the district is bus transportation.

Recommend approval for the third-grade class (approximately 75 students) to travel to Coolspring Creek as part of the Trout in the Classroom program on May 5, 2026. The program will take place from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. One bus is requested for transportation. Cost of transportation will be provided by Trout Unlimited. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for the third-grade class (approximately 75 students) to attend a presentation by Tamarack Wildlife on May 6, 2026. The Tamarack Wildlife Center will bring the program to the elementary school. The cost of the program is \$179.40 and will be paid for by the PEP Association. There is no expense to the school district.

Recommend approval for students in our Life Skills program and appropriate faculty and staff, to participate in the Shenango Valley Special Games on May 6, 2026 for bowling at Ten Pin Alley (9:30-1:00) and Thursday, May 7 for track and field events at Hickory High School (9:00-1:00). Van transportation is requested. One substitute nurse at \$100.00 and transportation are the only cost to the district.

Recommend approval for the fourth-grade class (approximately 97 students) to travel to Shenango River Lake in Hermitage, PA on May 8, 2026. Two buses are requested for transportation, which is being paid for by the PEP Association. One substitute nurse is requested for the day, which is the only expense to the school district. (\$100)

Recommend approval for the sixth-grade class (approximately 79 students) to travel to Meadville Cinema to see a private showing of *The Sheep Detectives* in Meadville, PA on May 26, 2026. Two buses are requested for transportation. The cost of the movie tickets and concessions (\$10 per student), as well as transportation, will be paid for by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Student Travel (Continued):

Recommend approval for the third-grade class (approximately 75 students) to travel to Munnell Run Farm in Mercer on May 27, 2026. One bus is requested for transportation and is being paid for by the PEP Association as well as the educational program. There is no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for the sixth-grade class (approximately 79 students) to travel to Ten Pin Alley, Hermitage, PA on June 2, 2026. Two busses are requested for transportation. The admission fees, bowling, and transportation are being paid for by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for the second-grade class (approximately 73 students) to travel to the Golden Star Theaters – Shenango Valley Cinema in Hermitage, PA on June 2, 2026. Two buses are requested for transportation. Cost of tickets and snacks (\$14.25/student and \$17.25 per adult) along with transportation are being covered by the PEP Association. There is no cost to the district.

11. **Facilities Requests:**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Wendy McClure and Mrs. Maggie Ference to host a Parents Day Out fundraiser at the elementary facility on April 24, 2026. This fundraiser will take place from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the elementary school. The cost for participation will be \$10 per student and open only to Mercer students in grades K-6. Proceeds from this event will be allocated towards Field Day.

Recommend approval for Mercer Touchdown Club to use the football field on June 19 and 20, 2026 to host Mercer Football Future Mustangs Kids Camp. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

12. **Professional Development:**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Allyson Rust, Mr. Eric Mausser, Mrs. Courtney Smithco, Mrs. Jennifer Mausser, and Miss Melanie Zeitler to attend the SAP County Coordination Meeting at Mercer County Behavioral Health in Mercer on March 27, 2026 from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. There is no cost to the school district.

Recommend approval for Mr. Eric Mausser and Mr. Dan Heckman to attend UPMC Mental Health and Student Athletes on April 15, 2026 at PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh, PA. There's no cost to the district.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Marlena Priester to attend a Personal Finance Professional Development workshop @ Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026. Cost to the district is one (1) substitute teacher for one (1) day (\$100.00).

13. Recommend approval of the Classified Salaries for the 2026-27 school year, as attached.

14. Recommend approval of the Supplemental Contract Pay Scale, beginning with the 2026-27 through 2030-31 school year, as attached.

15. Recommend approval of three-year Act 93 contracts for the following administrators and a three-year contract with the Business Manager, effective July 1, 2026, with the following beginning salaries, as attached:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Eric Mausser	Middle/High School Principal	\$107,000
Charles Bigelow	Asst. Middle/High School Principal	\$91,500
Gregory Acre	Elementary Principal	\$106,800
Amanda Simpson	Director of Special Education	\$98,500
Michelle Goehring	Business Manager	\$94,700

16. Recommend approval for Mrs. Allyson Rust to complete her K-12 principal internship at Mercer Elementary during the Fall 2026 semester, in accordance with the internship guidelines through Westminster College. Mr. Acre will serve as the supervising administrator for the internship.
17. Recommend approval of Extended School Year (ESY) teachers for the summer of 2026. Mr. Andrew Burk and Ms. Bridget Kniess for academic instruction and Mrs. Korina Yanak for speech/language therapy, at a rate based on the Classified Salary schedule.
18. Recommend approval of the Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds for the 2026-27 school year with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV.
19. Recommend approval of the agreement between William Penn Academy and Mercer Area School District to provide comprehensive educational service, school disciplines and selected elective courses, in grades 9-12.
20. Recommend approval of a Transportation Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Grove City Area School District. Mercer will provide transportation, to be paid by Grove City School District, at a rate of \$60 per day in which students are transported, beginning March 2, 2026 and commencing June 30, 2026, as attached.
21. Recommend approval to accept the 2026-2027 Mercer County Career Center Budget in the amount of **\$6,969,611**, as attached.
22. Recommend approval of a Settlement Agreement between Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) and Mercer Area School District regarding tuition from the 2023-24 school year. CCA will refund \$3,914.75 to Mercer Area School District.
23. Recommend approval of a Resolution nominating Mr. Rodney Bobby for consideration as an MIU4 Board Member. (Mr. Bobby currently serves and represents the Mercer Area School District on the MIU4 Board of Directors).
24. Recommend approval of a dual enrollment agreement with Robert Morris University for the 2026-2027 school year. Robert Morris courses will include BIOL 1210/1215 and STAT 2110.

25. Recommend approval of a Federal Programs Consortium Agreement between Mercer Area School District and Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, which will commence on July 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2028.
26. Recommend approval of the budgetary/COBRA renewal rates for our Dental and Vision Plans, through CM Regent, for the 2026-27 school year as follows:

Rate Tier / Classification	Dental Amount	Rate Tier / Classification	Vision Amount
Employee Only	\$29.67	Single	\$4.36
Employee & Spouse	\$59.33	Employee +1	\$7.70
Employee & Child	\$62.30	---	---
Employee & Children	\$61.93	Employee + 2 or more	\$13.05
Employee & Family	\$89.00	---	---

27. Recommend approval to allow the Mercer Midget Football Program to replace the previously approved shed, with a new similar size shed on school property. The midget football staff will coordinate with the districts' facilities director.
28. Recommend approval to include new uniform purchases for the following groups in the 2026-27 athletic budget. (Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Volleyball, and Golf). The 2026-27 athletic budget will be presented to the school board for consideration, prior to the annual budget workshop.
29. Recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Mercer Area School District and MIU IV for the 2026-27 school year, as attached.
30. **Establish a date for the budget meeting.**
31. Other business.
32. Adjournment.

March 20	Weather Make-up Day (School in Session)
March 23 - 27	Kindergarten Registration
March 31	4 th Quarter Begins
April 2	In-Service Day Teachers (Weather Make-up Day) No school for students <i>only</i>
April 2 – 6	Spring Break (Students)
April 3 – 6	Spring Break (All Teachers & Staff)
April 8	K-12 Report Cards
April 9 - 11	Musical – <i>High School Musical</i>
April 16	School Board Committee Meetings @ 6 p.m. <i>(if needed)</i>
April 17 & 18	Speech Dessert Show @ 7:00 p.m. in HS auditorium
April 20	Next School Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.