

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING January 26, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS
MATTHEW HAZI
SHANE NUGENT
ZACHARY RYAN

REBEKAH BOLYARD
DAVID LENGEL
AIMEE PETERS
DEREK STOTSKY

MEMBERS ABSENT:

RODNEY BOBBY

OTHERS PRESENT:

DR. RONALD R. ROWE, JR, SUPERINTENDENT
DR. MICHAEL G. PIDDINGTON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
ERIC MAUSSER, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
CHARLES BIGELOW, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ASST. PRINCIPAL
GREGORY ACRE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
AMANDA SIMPSON, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
MICHELLE L. GOEHRING, BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS MANAGER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were eight (8) members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the minutes of the reorganization meeting on December 3, 2025 and the Building's and Grounds committee meeting on January 22, 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, 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, Bolyard, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, and Ryan voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

At this time Mrs. Goehring, Board Secretary, acknowledges January as School Director Recognition Month and presents certificates to each board members

PSBA LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE:

Matthew Hazi was appointed as the PSBA Legislative Policy Council Representative.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

PERSONNEL:

Retirement:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board accepted, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Wendy McClure as a physical education teacher, effective June 8, 2026.

Resignation:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, second by Arthur Amos the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. David Stoepfel as Head Girls Softball Coach. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hire:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the following hires. On a voice, all members present voted yes.

Hired Ms. Haley Wells as Head Girls Softball coach for the 2026 season.

Hired coaches for the Spring 2026 season, pending clearances, as attached.

Hired Mrs. Michelle L. Goehring as Food Service Director.

Hired the following volunteer elementary wrestling coaches, pending clearances

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

Hired 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

Hired Mr. Micah Wojnowski as a volunteer for the school musical, pending clearances.

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS):

Hires/Resignations:

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

FACILITIES:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following facilities requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

FACILITIES (Continued):

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

FACILITIES (Continued):

Granted 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.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

On a motion by David Lengel, second by Arthur Amos, the Board granted approval to add the following facility request. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Additional FACILITIES REQUEST:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Zachary Ryan, the Board granted approval for MAYSA to use the elementary gymnasium for soccer skill training on Sunday's in the months of January, February and March, pending gym availability. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the following staff development requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved Ms. Bridget Kniess 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)

Approved 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)

Approved 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.

Approved 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.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the following requests for student travel. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

STUDENT TRAVEL: (Continued)

Granted 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)

Granted approval for Mrs. 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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)

Granted 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.

CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY LINKAGE AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved 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 Carelton and The Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF MERCER COUNTY LINKAGE AGREE.:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

THIEL COLLEGE:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

GIRLS ON THE RUN AND / HEART AND SOUL FOR 2025-26:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

INTER-STATE STUDIO (Elem pictures):

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved Mrs. Michalee Christy to direct the musical "High School Musical" on the following days Thursday thru Saturday, April 8, 9 & 10, 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TAX INDEX RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Shane Nugent, the Board approved 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) On a roll call vote, members Bolyard, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, and Amos voted yes.

Motion: Passed

DICK'S FOUNDATION SPORTS GRANT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved receiving 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

BerkOne:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard and second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Act 80 Services from BerkOne for 2026, per the attached. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Amos and Bolyard voted yes.

Motion: Passed

RECORDER OF DEEDS 2% COMMISSION:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved of a 2% commission payable to the Recorder of Deeds, Dee Dee Zickar, for collecting Realty Transfer Taxes for 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Minutes from January 26, 2026 (Continued):

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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.*

Michelle L. Goehring, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President