

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS
REBEKAH BOLYARD
DAVID LENGEL
AIMEE PETERS

MATTHEW HAZI
SHANE NUGENT
ZACHARY RYAN
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
LYNN R. LONG, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. David Lengel, at 7:35 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 Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on January 26, 2026 and the Curriculum and Extracurricular Committee meeting on February 12, 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, Lengel, Peters, Hazi, Nugent and Ryan voted yes. Member Stotsky abstained.

Motion: Passed

PERSONNEL:

Hire:

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

Approved the following additional coaches for the 2026 season, pending clearances.

Walter "Jay" McNulty: Elementary Wrestling - Paid Coach

Buck Baldwin and Lilly Erwin: Softball – Volunteer Coaches

Bryce Kightlinger and Bill Mudrak: Track and Field – Volunteer Coaches

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2026 MEETING (Continued):

PERSONNEL (Continued):

Educational Staffing Solutions:

Granted 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.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Approved the Kindergarten class, approximately 62 students, to travel to OH Wow! Children's Museum, Youngstown, OH on May 13, 2026. Two buses are requested for transportation. The cost of student admission and bus transportation is being paid for by the PEP Association. There is no expense to the school district.

Approved Mr. Doug Schmid to accompany the Tech Ed Club to Tessy Automation on March 17, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Approved Mr. Bill Chess to accompany the students to the Mathfest at Youngstown State University on February 26, 2026. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and substitute for the day. (\$100)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved Mrs. Korina Yanak, Mrs. Lydia Sipe, and Ms. Kylie McElrath to attend the Mercer County Speech Round Table on Friday, April 10, 2026. There is no cost to the district. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

FACILITIES:

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

Approved the Mercer PeeWee and Midget Program to use the high school library on March 9 and March 16, 2026 to hold sign-ups. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Choral Boosters to use the Auditorium on March 7, 2026 to hold a fundraiser "Be a Wildcat" for elementary students who will learn a dance routine and participate at the elementary and at the final performance on Saturday. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

2026-27 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the 2026-27 Mercer Area School District calendar, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2026 MEETING (Continued):

LOCAL HOLIDAY DESIGNATIONS:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Derek Stotsky, through the authority of Act 30 of 1997, Section 1502, subsection (c), recommend that the Mercer Area School Board designate the following dates as local holidays: November 26, 27 & 30, December 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2025, and January 1, 2026; February 15; March 25, 26 & 29; and May 3 and 31, 2026. Schools may only be open on these dates in the event of weather emergency or natural disaster. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

E-RATE AGREEMENT FROM CSIU FOR 2026-27:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the E-Rate Services Agreement from CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) for 2026-27, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Amos, Bolyard, and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: Passed

BERKHEIMER ELECTRIC FUNDS TRANSFERS USING ACH:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved Berkheimer to initiate Electronic Funds Transfers, utilizing Automated Clearing House System (ACH), for Act 511 Tax Funds collected for Mercer Area School District. On a roll call vote, members Stotsky, Amos, Bolyard, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, and Ryan voted yes.

Motion: Passed

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved a resolution to request funding for Elementary & Middle-High School roof repairs through the Public-School Facility Improvement Grant program, in the amount of \$919,819.00. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Amos, Bolyard, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

MIU4 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the General Operating Budget for the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in the amount of \$4,552,816 for the 2026-27 school year. On a roll call vote, members Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Amos, Bolyard, Hazi, and Lengel voted yes.

Motion: Passed

PAOLETTA COUNSELING SERVICES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the attached Letter of Affiliation between Paoletta Counseling Services and Mercer Area School District, to ensure continuation of care and treatment of Mental Health services. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2026 MEETING (Continued):

K-12 GUIDANCE PLAN AND CURRICULUM:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the attached K-12 Guidance Plan and the K-12 Guidance Curriculum. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved of the Mercer Middle / High School Academic Handbook for the 2026-27 school year, as attached. (List of change included.) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Lynn R. Long, Confidential Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President