

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR APRIL 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS
REBEKAH BOLYARD
DAVID LENGEL
AIMEE PETERS
DEREK STOTSKY

RODNEY BOBBY
MATTHEW HAZI
SHANE NUGENT
ZACHARY RYAN

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 7:45 p.m. in the high school library. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. There were nine members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting on March 16, 2026 and the budget meeting on April 8, 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial reports. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

PERSONNEL:

Retirement:

A motion by David Lengel, second by Rodney Bobby was made to table the retirement of Dr. Ronald R. Rowe, Jr. Superintendent. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Resignation(s):

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, second by Arthur Amos, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of the following individuals. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Leah Graziani as Jr. High Cheerleading Coach, effective at the end of basketball season.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING (Continued):

PERSONNEL (Continued):

Approved, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Russell Chace, as a security officer, effective April 3, 2026.

Hires:

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

Granted approval for Mrs. Courtney Smithco to be hired as the Varsity Basketball Cheer Coach.

Granted approval for Miss Kiley Kennis to be hired as the Middle School Football and Basketball Cheer Coach, pending clearances.

Granted approval for Mrs. Jennifer Mausser to be a volunteer track and field coach.

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 Rebekah Bolyard, second by Arthur Amos, the Board approved the following student travel requests. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Approved Mrs. Meghan Glass to accompany art students to the Congressional Art Show at the Hope Center in Sharon, PA on April 24, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day and the use of a school van. (\$100)

Approved Mr. Bigelow to accompany four students to Law Day at the Mercer County Courthouse on April 30, 2026. The cost to the district is the use of a school van.

Approved Mrs. Meghan Glass to accompany the Art Club to the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh on May 4, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day. (\$100)

Approved Mrs. Marlena Priester to accompany the Culinary II students to the Strip District in Pittsburgh, May 11, 2026. The cost to the district is the use of a school van and a substitute for the day. (\$100)

Approved Anna Cook to accompany Anatomy and Physiology students to AHN in Pittsburgh to observe an open-heart surgery on May 13, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for the day and the use of a school van. (\$100)

FACILITIES REQUESTS:

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

MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING (Continued):**FACILITIES REQUESTS (Continued):**

Approved Mercer PeeWee and Midget Flag Football to use the practice field on Sundays and Wednesdays from April 22 through May 31, 2026, and to use the football field on May 17, for a game. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Aavidum Club to host a movie night in the auditorium on May 15, 2026. Common Grounds Mercer is paying for the copy rights for the movie. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Approved the Mercer Memorial Day 500 Committee and the America 250 parade committee to use the elementary school parking lot and the soccer field parking lot for the following community events:

- Memorial Day 500 Parade – Monday, May 25, 2026
- American 250 Parade Celebration – Saturday, July 4, 2026

EDUCATIONAL STAFFING SOLUTIONS (ESS) Addendum:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved of an addendum to the agreement with Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) for the 2026-2027 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

CSIU – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent second by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved of the agreement between Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) and Mercer Area School District for Financial Management Software and Support Services, which include Fund Accounting, Human Resources, and Payroll for the 2026-27 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

SMARTFUTURES:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved of an agreement with SmartFutures for a school district license that provides college & career readiness programming for students in grades K-12. Cost to the district is \$3,500.00. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Hazi, Ryan, Bobby, Amos, Peters, Bolyard, and Stotsky voted yes.

Motion: Passed

ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved a cooperative agreement between Saint Francis University and the Mercer Area School District for the “College in High School Program” for the 2026-2027 school year. St. Francis’ courses will include CHEM 113, FREN 112 & 201, SPAN 112 & 201, MATH 110, MATH 112, and PHYS 104. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING (Continued):

COMBUSTION SERVICE & EQUIPMENT CO.:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the renewal to the service agreement between Mercer Area School District and Combustion Service & Equipment Co., in the amount of \$12,600.00, for Boiler maintenance. (No increase from previous year) On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

GoGUARDIAN:

On a motion by Zachary Ryan, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved renewing the agreement with GoGuardian in the amount of \$8,075.00, to provide security software for student devices for the 2026-2027 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

GLADE RUN LUTHERAN SERVICES:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved an agreement between Glade Run Lutheran Services and Mercer Area School District for the 2026-27 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

PA SCHOOL-BASED ACCESS PROGRAM:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program for the 2026-27 school year. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY IU5 LIEP SERVICES:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, second by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved of an agreement and contract with Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 for Language Instructional Educational Program (LIEP) Services for the 2026-27 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

JMI CONSULTANTS, LLC TO NEXTERA ADVISORS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Zachary Bobby, the Board approved the change in agreement, owners from JMI Consultants, LLC to NextEra Advisors, LLC, as our energy consultant, as presented. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, second by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved extended school year (ESY) services in the summer of 2026 for students at the following out-of-district placements. The cost to the district is transportation of students and all associated programming costs. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- HOPE Center (Wexford) – 2 students
- St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy (Zelienople) – 2 students
- Wesley School (Grove City) – 2 students

MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING (Continued):

PSBA INSURANCE AND BUCS BASIC PROGRAM:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the Agreement between PSBA Insurance and Mercer Area School District, to participate in the Better Unemployment Compensation System BASIC Program (BUCS Basic). On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

PSBA DUES:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, second by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the PSBA dues for the 2026-27 school year, in the amount of \$8,605.13, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

CLASSIFIED SALARIES HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the Classified Salaries Handbook, as attached. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

PA ONE BOOK DONATION FOR ELEM LIBRARY:

On a motion by Arthur Amos, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the elementary library to receive the PA One Book donation for student circulation. This title was donated by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

- "The Great Cookie Kerfuffle" by Jessica Shaw

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved adding the following item to the agenda. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, second by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved Ms. Kelly Heffern to attend the PMEA State Conference on April 23 & 24, 2026. The cost to the district is a substitute teacher for two days (\$200), lodging (\$510), and the registration of (\$220). Total \$930

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional business, Rodney Bobby motioned to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Ryan seconded. On a voice vote, all members voted yes.

Michelle L. Goehring, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President