

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING JULY 20, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: RODNEY BOBBY SHANE NUGENT
 REBEKAH BOLYARD AIMEE PETERS
 MATTHEW HAZI ZACHARY RYAN
 DAVID LENGEL DEREK STOTSKY

MEMBERS ABSENT: ARTHUR AMOS

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
 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 eight (8) members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 15, 2026, the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 16, 2026, the Curricular and Extra Curricular Meeting held on July 16, 2026 and the Transportation Committee Meeting held on July 16, 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and the financial reports. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the correction to the May 18, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes under the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion to reflect the correct credit amount of \$299.09. The minutes incorrectly listed the amount as \$299.78. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

PERSONNEL:

Resignation:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the following resignations. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Tammy Cantella as a long-term Family Consumer Science substitute, effective June 24, 2026.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Renee Titus as elementary cafeteria monitor.

On a motion by Aimee Peters, seconded by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the removal of the appointment of Ms. Laney Weaver as a long-term Family Consumer Science substitute from the agenda. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hires:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the following hires. One a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted approval of the Fall 2026 Coaches List, as attached.

Granted approval for the following teachers to serve as mentors for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years:

Mr. Nathan Crooks for Ms. Ava Delvaux
Mrs. Courtney Shepherd-Conner for Ms. Maya Price
Mrs. Maggie Ference for Ms. Kiley Kennis

Granted approval for the following 5M band advisors/personnel for the 2026-27 school year, pending clearances:

Mrs. Samantha Daniels – Assistant Band Director
Ms. Maysen Stewart – Flag Line Advisor
Ms. Amelia Taylor – Dance Line Advisor
Ms. Lacey Weaver – Majorette Advisor
Mr. Micah Wojnowski – Percussion Instructor
Mr. Jeff DeLorenzo - 5M Trailer Driver

Granted approval to adjust Mrs. Rebecca Adams from daily cafeteria monitor to substitute cafeteria monitor beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

Granted approval to adjust Ms. Alisha Tan from substitute cafeteria monitor to daily cafeteria monitor beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

Granted approval to hire Ms. Maggie Jacks as daily cafeteria monitor for the 2026-27 school year.

FACILITIES REQUEST:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, seconded by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the following facilities request. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted approval for the Mercer PeeWee and Midget Football Program to use the practice fields from July 21, 2026, through November 20, 2026, and the football field for up to two game dates, with scheduling to be coordinated through the Athletic Director.

Granted approval for TADA dance studio to use the Auditorium, LGI, Choir room, and Band room for their recital on April 29, April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2027. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, second by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the following staff development requests. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted approval for Dr. Michael Piddington to attend ALICE Active Shooter Response Instructor Training on August 17-18, 2026 at the Mercer Elementary School. There is no cost to the school district.

Granted approval for Dr. Michael Piddington to attend the workshop series “How to Become a Transformational Leader” at MIU IV during the 2026-27 school year on the dates listed below. The cost to the district is \$400.00 for registration.

September 29, 2026	January 12, 2027
October 20, 2026	February 17, 2027
November 17, 2026	March 18, 2027
December 15, 2026	

Granted approval for Mr. Greg Acre, Mrs. Kristen Sansone, and Mrs. Amanda Simpson to attend Safety-Care Training at MIU4 on August 4–5, 2026, and for Mrs. Korrin Thomas to attend on August 19–20, 2026, at a cost of \$185 per person.

STUDENT TRAVEL:

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

Granted approval for Kelly Heffern to accompany the 5M band to Kennywood on August 11, 2026 for the Fall Fantasy parade. The cost to the district is bus transportation.

Granted approval for the Girls Soccer team to use school vans on Sunday, August 16, 2026 to go to Waldameer Park. The cost to the district is the use of school vans.

LEADER SERVICES:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved to accept the agreement between Mercer Area School District and LDP, Inc, referred to as Leader Services,

which will provide Pennsylvania Medicaid Direct Services web applications and support services. This agreement is from July 1, 2026 –June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$4,670.00, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Bobby, Bolyard, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan and Stotsky voted yes.

Motion: Passed

PARENT BOOSTER/SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the following Parent Booster/Support Organization(s) for the 2026-27 school year, as they meet the requirements set forth by the Mercer Area School Board in Policy 915, as follows. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Tech Ed Booster Club	Mercer Area Soccer Helpers
Speech Boosters	Mercer High School Choral Boosters
Mercer Golf Boosters	Mercer Volleyball Boosters
Mercer Boys Basketball Boosters	Mercer Band Boosters
Mercer Girls Basketball Boosters	Mercer Softball Boosters
Elementary Cross-Country Boosters	Mercer Boys Baseball Boosters

REINHARDTS INSURANCE:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the insurance package, with Reinhardt's Insurance Agency, for 2026-27 as follows. On a roll call vote, members Bolyard, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky and Bobby voted yes.

Motion: Passed

Educators Professional Liability	\$ 11,955
Property Insurance with CM Regent	\$138,411
Workers Compensation with Encova	<u>\$ 51,826</u>
Subtotal:	\$202,192
Cyber Insurance with Chubb	<u>\$ 5,344</u>
Grand total:	\$207,536

GIRLS ON THE RUN:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the School Service Agreement for the Girls on the Run (GOTR) and Heart & Sole programs for the 2026–27 school year. The Girls on the Run program will be coached by Mrs. Allyson Rust and Mrs. Korina Yanak, and the Heart & Sole program will be coached by Mrs. Alexandra Sniezek and Ms. Bridget Kniess. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement between the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County and Mercer Area School District from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

HEAD START:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the Head Start Agreement between Community Action Partnership of Mercer County and Mercer Area School District from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mercer Area School District and Mercer County Head Start from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

STUDENT TUITION:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved one (1) fifth-grade student to attend Mercer Area Elementary School as a tuition student at the rate of \$5,000 per year for the 2026-27 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

WILLIAM PENN ACADEMY:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the School Partnership Agreement between the Mercer Area School District and William Penn Academy for the 2026–27 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN SERVICES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Mathew Hazi, the Board approved the Linkage Agreement between the Mercer Area School District and Bethesda Lutheran Services for a period of one (1) year from the date of signing, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

SCHOOL NURSE AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Shane Nugent, the Board approved the School Nurse Agreement between the Mercer Area School District and the Mercer County Career Center for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the Contract for the Transportation of School Pupils between the Mercer Area School District and the Reynolds School District from August 2026 to June 30, 2027 at an estimated rate of \$60 per day for the transportation of three (3) students, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

EVENT SECURITY:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the Event Security Contractor Agreement between the Mercer Area School District and the PA State Constables Association for security services at various school activities from July 21, 2026, through June 30, 2029, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Bobby and Bolyard voted yes.

Motion: Passed

ATHLETIC TRAINING AGREEMENT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the athletic training services agreement between UPMC Sports Medicine and the Mercer Area School District for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, as attached. On a roll call vote, members Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan, Stotsky, Bobby, Bolyard and Hazi voted yes.

Motion: Passed

DISTRICT WIDE COMMUNICATIONS APP:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, seconded by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the resolution authorizing the adoption of a district-wide student communication application for extracurricular and athletic groups, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

DONATION FROM MERCER GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved to accept the donation of a basketball shooting machine from the Mercer Girls Basketball Boosters and the Mercer Boys Basketball Boosters. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 VAN DRIVERS AND ROUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Mercer Area School District van routes and drivers for the 2026-27 school year, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 BUS DRIVERS AND ROUTES:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Derek Stotsky, the Board approved Watsons, Inc. bus routes and drivers for the 2026-27 school, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Elementary School Student Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. (List of changes included) On a voice note, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 ELEMENTARY STAFF HANDBOOK FOR 2026-27:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved the 2026-27 Elementary Staff Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. (List of changes included) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PARENT HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the Middle-High School Student/Parent Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. (List of changes included) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL STAFF HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Recommend approval of the Middle/High School Staff Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. (List of changes included) On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 1:1 HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved Recommend approval of the Mercer Area School District 1:1 handbook for the 2026-27 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

2026-27 MERCER AREA VIRTUAL ACADEMY (MAVA) HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved Recommend approval of the Mercer Area Virtual Academy (MAVA) Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

POLICY NUMBERS:

First read of the following polices: 102, 103, 103.1, 104, 105, 105.2, 122, 122.1, 123, 140, 204, 209.2, 218.1, 221, 234, 236.1, 317, 320, 325, 332, 610, 611, 619, 716, 718, 805.1, 805.2, 810 and 816.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michelle L. Goehring, Board Secretary

David R. Lengel, Board President