



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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AGENDA

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2026

High School Library

7:30 PM

7:00 PM – *Work session:* Agenda review, questions and comments (Open).
Personnel, Litigation, and Contracts (Closed).

Agenda

1. Call to order and flag salute by the President.
2. Approve the minutes of the following meetings:
Regular meeting from July 20, 2026
Building and Grounds Committee meeting on August 13, 2026
3. Approve the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and financial statements.
4. Communications.
5. Board committee reports.
6. Administrative reports.
7. Public Comments.
8. **PERSONNEL:**
Resignation(s):
Recommend approval to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Vito Pilosi as a part-time Social Studies teacher.

The Mercer Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, age, handicaps, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or employment policies.

Hire(s):

Recommend approval to hire Mrs. Ariana Ritchey as a long-term Family Consumer Science substitute for the entirety of the 2026-27 school year at a salary of \$56,750, with no benefits, pending clearances.

Recommend approval of Ms. Shelah Guenther as a volunteer girls' basketball coach for the 2026-2027 school year, pending clearances.

AmeriCorps:

Recommend approval to hire Miss Avery Ellis for the full time (1,700-hour) AmeriCorps position at the Elementary School for the 2026-2027 school year, pending clearances.

ESS:

Recommend the approval of all substitute teachers as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

Recommend approval of all aides/paraprofessionals as provided by Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS), pending paperwork and clearances, as attached.

9. STUDENT TRAVEL:

Recommend approval for Ms. Lisa Wishart and Mrs. Nicole Walzer to accompany students to the following Academic Games Tournaments at Slippery Rock University. One bus is requested for transportation to each tournament. One substitute is requested at a rate of \$100 per day for each day.

October 14, 2026	On-Sets Tournament
November 18, 2026	Propaganda Tournament
December 14, 2026	LinguiSHTIKs Tournament
January 13, 2027	Presidents Tournament
February 3, 2027	Equations Tournament
February 10, 2027	World Events Tournament

Recommend approval for Mrs. Melanie Nelson and Mrs. Danielle Ross to accompany the Junior Class to Thiel College for the Career and College Fair on October 1, 2026. The cost to the District will be bus transportation and a substitute teacher for half day (\$50).

Recommend approval for Mrs. Melanie Nelson to accompany students to Extreme Leadership at MIU IV on November 6, 2026, January 21, 2027, March 4, 2027 and April 14, 2027. The cost to the District will be the use of a school van.

Recommend approval for Mrs. Michalee Christy to accompany members of the Chamber Choir to PNC Park to sing the National Anthem on September 22, 2026. The cost to the District will be a substitute teacher for half a day (\$50).

10. **STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

Recommend approval for Mrs. Allyson Rust to attend the MIU IV School Counselors Meetings in Grove City from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 10, 2026, and March 2, 2027. There is no cost to the District.

Recommend approval for Miss Madison Link and Ms. Danielle Kocher to attend Safety Care training at MIU4 on September 23 and 24, 2026. The cost to the district is \$185 per person.

11. **FACILITIES REQUEST:**

Recommend approval for the Mercer Borough Police Department to use the Mercer High School wrestling room on August 25, 2026 from 5pm to 8pm for control tactics training. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Shenango Valley Chapter of Wrestling Officials to use the Mercer High School LGI on the following dates: November 1, 2026, December 6, 2026, December 20, 2026, January 10, 2027, January 24, 2027, and February 7, 2027. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Mercer Band Boosters to host a Band Show on September 19, 2026. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Recommend approval for the Mercer Midget and PeeWee teams to play a third game on the football field on October 10, 2026. All aspects of the Facilities Policy will be followed.

12. Recommend approval for all Mercer Midget and PeeWee football players to be admitted free of charge to home varsity football games when wearing their game jersey and accompanied by a parent/guardian who has a valid pass or has paid admission to the game.

13. Recommend approval of the following Parent Booster/Support Organizations for the 2026-27 school year, as each organization meets the requirements set forth by the Mercer Area School Board Policy 915:

Mercer Touchdown Club
Mercer Wrestling Boosters
PEP (Partners in the Educational Process)

14. Recommend approval of the engagement letter with McGill, Power, Bell & Associates for the June 30, 2026 audit, as attached.
15. Recommend approval to advertise for the public sale, via sealed bid, of stock metal from the High School Industrial Arts shop. Proceeds from the sale will be used to offset the cost of new shop equipment.
16. Recommend approval of the Mercer Area Athletic Handbook for the 2026-27 school year.

17. Recommend approval to allow various local Mercer-area churches to conduct a backpack program for the Elementary students experiencing food insecurities during the 2026-27 school year.
18. Recommend approval of an agreement between Mercer Area School District and Hope Academy to provide special education services and programming for the 2026-27 school year, as attached.
19. Recommend approval for the Mercer Area Soccer Helpers to purchase and install a netting system on the Lamor Road Soccer Field. All installation and required documentation will be coordinated with the District Facilities Director, Arthur Amos, and Business Manager, Michelle Goehring.
20. Recommend approval for the Mustang Touchdown Club to purchase and install a new sound system at the Mercer High School Stadium. The Mustang Touchdown Club will solicit for donations to fund this project. A list of donors will be recognized on a 4 x 6 banner located on the back of the home bleachers for 4 years. All installation and required documentation will be coordinated with the District Facilities Director, Arthur Amos, and Business Manager, Michelle Goehring.
21. Recommend approval of Board Policies 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, 816. First read was July 2026.
22. Other Business
23. Adjournment

Upcoming Dates

- August 21 & 24 – Teacher In-Service Days
- August 21 – Kindergarten Orientation, 4:00–5:45 p.m.
- August 25 – **First Day for Students**
- August 26 – Middle School/High School Open House, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- August 26 – Meet the Mustangs, 8:00 p.m.
- September 3 – Elementary Open House, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- September 7 – Labor Day, No School
- September 21 – **School Board Meeting**