

MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING AUGUST 17, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ARTHUR AMOS	SHANE NUGENT
RODNEY BOBBY	AIMEE PETERS
REBEKAH BOLYARD	ZACHARY RYAN
MATTHEW HAZI	DEREK STOTSKY
DAVID LENGEL	

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 (9) members present.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 20, 2026 and the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting held on August 13, 2026. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report, all bills as listed and the financial reports. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

PERSONNEL:

Resignation:

On a motion by Matthew Hazi, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Vito Pilosi as a part-time Social Studies teacher. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Hires:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following hires. One a voice vote, Amos, Bobby, Hazi, Lengel, Nugent, Peters, Ryan and Stotsky voted yes. Member Bolyard abstained.

Granted 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.

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

AmeriCorps:

Granted 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:

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

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

STUDENT TRAVEL:

On a motion by Derek Stotsky, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved the following student travel. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

Granted 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

Granted 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).

Granted 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.

Granted 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).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

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

Granted 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.

Granted 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.

FACILITIES REQUESTS:

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.

Granted 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. The fee was waived by the Board President, Dave Lengel. All aspects of the facilities policy will be followed.

Granted 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.

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

Granted 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.

MERCER MIDGET AND PEE WEE FOOTBALL:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Aimee Peters, the Board approved 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.

PARENT BOOSTER/SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard 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.

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

MCGILL, POWER AND BELL ASSOCIATES:

On a motion by Shane Nugent, seconded by Rodney bobby, the Board approved the engagement letter with McGill, Power, bell & Associates for the June 30, 2026 audit, as attached. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

PUBLIC SALE OF STOCK METAL:

On a motion by Rebekah Bolyard, seconded by Rodney Bobby, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MERCER AREA ATHLETIC HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Aimee Peters, seconded by Rebekah Bolyard, the Board approved the the Mercer Area Athletic Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

MERCER BACKPACK PROGRAM:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Matthew Hazi, the Board approved 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

HOPE ACADEMY:

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

MERCER AREA SOCCER HELPERS:

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

MUSTANG TOUCHDOWN CLUB:

On a motion by Rodney Bobby, seconded by Zachary Ryan, the Board approved the Mustang Touchdown Club to purchase and install a new sound system at the Mercer 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. On a voice vote, all members present voted yes.

POLICY NUMBERS:

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

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