

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404,  
MERCER, HENDERSON, & ROCK ISLAND COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.**

The Board of Education of Mercer County School District #404, Mercer, Henderson, & Rock Island Counties, Illinois, convened at a regular meeting at *the Mercer County Junior High School Music Room, 1002 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Aledo, IL* **Wednesday, March 12, 2025** at 6:31 PM.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board members present upon roll call:** Smock, Nelson, Wagner, Lower, Balmer, Yates and Monson. A quorum was present.

**Absent:** None.

**Administrators present:** Superintendent Tim Farquer, Principals Robertson, Cooper, Ibouhouten, McPeck, and Sedam.

**Also in Attendance:** Amanda Heinrichs, Tara Guidinger, Kristen Reick, Leanne McDermott, Recording Secretary and two live-streaming students.

**Reporters:** None.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7
<b>Balmer</b>	AYE	AYE	V O I C E	V O I C E	V O I C E	AYE	V O I C E
<b>Lower</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	
<b>Monson</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	
<b>Nelson</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	
<b>Smock</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	
<b>Wagner</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	
<b>Yates</b>	AYE	AYE				AYE	

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer to approve the following items on the consent agenda:
  - a. Regular Meeting Minutes March 12, 2025
  - c. Bill List
  - d. Treasurer's Report
  - e. Imprest Report
  - f. P-Card Report
  - g. BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement

Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**FSS INC APOLLO AND MCJH SECURITY UPGRADES**

2. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Lower, to approve the FSS Inc security upgrades at Apollo and Mercer County Junior High in the total amount of \$114,917.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

## 2025-2026 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

3. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates, to approve the 2025-2026 public school calendar.  
Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

## CLOSED SESSION

4. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates to go into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.

Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

### Personnel

*The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.*

## OPEN SESSION

5. There was a motion by Balmer, seconded by Monson to come out of closed session.  
Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

## PERSONNEL REPORT

6. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve the Personnel Report as presented:

resignation of Dennis Clark - JH Track Coach

2028-2029 Intent to Retire - Kathy Olson

Maternity Leave - Kylie Olson

Administrative Contract Renewal - Katie Dengler

Hire HS Mathematics Teacher - Lynn Selking

Hire Bass Fishing Coach - Brenton Collins

Hire JH Track Coach - Sam Salmon

### Probationary Teachers

4th Year: Andrea Gatton-Special Education; Hannah Lindstrom-Ag; Fred Lucas-Industrial Arts

3rd Year: Barbara Bryant-Special Education; Lindsay Fearman-3rd Grade; Ty Goblen-5th Grade; Aleeka Holmes-Special Education; Alexandra Johnson-Special Education; Conner Sharp-PE/Health; Kylie Olson-Early Childhood

2nd Year: Brooke Heath-2nd Grade; Erin O'Donnel-Kindergarten; Katherine Lower-3rd Grade Dani Ganpat-Math; Catherine Staker-Counselor; Angie Gillespie-Special Education; Dennis Sabel-Special Education

1st Year: Megan Ward-Science; Caitlyn Norris-SLP; Mark Friese-Math; Amanda Leng-Early Child. Teacher

Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

## ADJOURN

7. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

## **OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

BOARD COMMENTS: 2. Mrs. Wagner reminded members to register for the upcoming Illinois Association of School Board conference on March 27, 2025. Mr. Monson attended the FFA Banquet and was pleased and proud of the students and staff's hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE: 3. Several acknowledgements from elementary students regarding the symphony they were able to attend at the Adler Theater were shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 4. Written reports were submitted.

FOIA REQUESTS: 6. None.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLANNING UPDATE: 7. ELC teachers met with their instructional coach and a nearby veteran teacher. Apollo continues using Intervention Blocks in grades 3-5 to inspire growth and acceleration. After school tutoring opportunities are offered as well. KAGAN strategies are being used in the classrooms to increase student participation, social skills, and learner agency. There is continued planning & prepping for spring assessment season. At the high school, we continue to see fewer failing grades, with 19% fewer F's for the week as compared to the same week last year.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING UPDATE: 8. The summer 2025 project plans are: ELC - HVAC & domestic water downsizing; Apollo - security, kitchen, small scale concrete, exterior lighting, landscaping; NBE - building demo, PREK classrooms, parking lot, playground; MCJH - security, small scale concrete, exterior lighting, landscaping, parking lot sealing, potential HVAC controls; MCHS - vocational HVAC, potential house move.

DISTRICT DESIGN TEAM UPDATE: 9. Exterior design and landscaping planning was the targeted activity at the latest meeting. Highlights include: April 22 Earth Day, native plant focal point, supporting pollinators, student support for landscaping with JH plants class and potential HS horticulture class, private partnerships potential.

2024-2025 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR EMERGENCY DAYS: 10. Mr. Farquer set up a poll regarding the "make-up" day option. 71.9% preferred having school April 21, May 23, May 27 with Teacher's Institute May 28 and additional emergency days May 29 and May 30 (if needed).

REFERENDUM INFORMATION: 11. Mr. Farquer presented information to Exchange Club, community information sessions at the Eliza Community Center and New Boston Elementary. Social media information sharing & reminders have been done along with updating the referendum webpage and email address set up. A newsletter is scheduled to hit mailboxes next week. The Last Community Info session is 7 pm March 20th at the HS.

SHORT TERM EMERGENCY HOUSING & MERCER COUNTY BETTER TOGETHER: 12. A project concept was received from Mercer County Better Together with the property located at 1401 SE 2nd Avenue, Aledo. This draft budget is approximately \$100,000. Mr. Farquer recommends the board

continue to explore options and possible partnership. An addition to the draft budget as stated from an email received from Kyle McEwen, Mercer County Better Together, stated an estimate of \$10,000 per block traveled to move the home due to Ameren for power line safety.

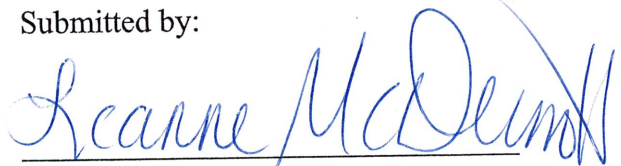
FSS INC SECURITY UPGRADES FOR APOLLO AND MCJH: 13. Mr. Farquer recommended to approve the following estimates: \$82,263 - Apollo Cameras & Servers Upgrades, \$17,271 - Apollo Door Security Upgrades, \$9607 - Apollo Door Security Controller, \$1480 - Apollo Office Security, \$42,496 - JH Camera software & door strikes.

2025-2026 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR: 14. The calendar committee met March 3rd and it was collectively decided that a poll regarding May 1, 2026 be available. 297 responses were received and the overall response was to use May 1, 2026 as an emergency day if three days or less are used.

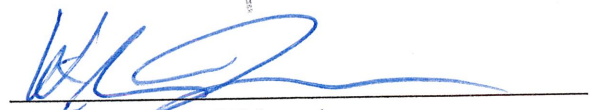
MCHS VOCATIONAL HVAC AGREEMENT: 15. No update on this agreement with Northwest Mechanical. Terms are continuously being developed.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS: 16. Mrs. Ibohouten reported New Boston has a Family Night event March 13th. Mr. Robertson reported Apollo's Fine Arts event is April 14th. Mrs. McPeck stated they have upcoming dates for screening. Mrs. Cooper stated students did an excellent performance in the musical "Matilda" with great collaboration with the MC Art Collective. The FFA Banquet was also well attended. Mr. Sedam stated the 8th grade volleyball team participated in the regional quarterfinals and junior high wrestlers won the regional championship, finishing 2nd overall in the sectional.

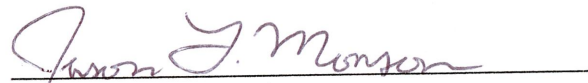
Submitted by:



Recording Secretary



President, Bd. of Education



Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved:

APR 16 2025