

**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 6th Street, Aledo, IL* **Wednesday, May 21, 2025** at 6:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Smock, Nelson, Frick, Lower, Yates and Monson. A quorum was present. Balmer arrived at 6:31 p.m. Frick left closed session at 8:53 p.m.

Absent: None.

Administrators present: Superintendent Tim Farquer, Principals Ibouhouten, McPeck, Robertson, Sedam and Assistant Principal Brandy Dornon.

Also in Attendance: Amanda Heinrichs, Chris Leng, Natalie Nelson, Karli Stineman, Julianne Smet, Hannah Lindstrom, Tara Guidinger, Ashley Stice, Rhiannon Puckett, Michelle Swanson, Ronda Linder, Tami Hains, Taylor Gibbs, HS FFA students: Elsie Cook & Addison Monson, Leanne McDermott, Recording Secretary and one live-streaming student.

Reporters: None.

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	V O I C E	AYE	V O I C E
Lower	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	
Monson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	
Nelson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	
Frick	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		-	
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates to approve the following items on the consent agenda:
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes April 16, 2025

- b. Special Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025
- c. Bill List addition
- d. Treasurer's Report
- e. Imprest Report
- f. P-Card Report
- g. Property Casualty Liability Insurance Policy Renewal
- h. Workers Compensation Insurance Policy Renewal

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

AWARD FY26 MILK BID

2. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to approve the FY26 Milk Bid with Prairie Farms.

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

AWARD FY26 FUEL BID

3. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to approve the FY26 Fuel bid with Halcomb Oil.

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

CLOSED SESSION

4. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Frick to go into Closed Session at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. 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 Yates 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:

Resignations of:

Beth Brasmer - Full-time Special Education Teacher
Keegan Bryant - Full-time Maintenance Technician
Andrea Cooper - Full-time HS Principal
Mark Friese - Full-time HS Math Teacher
Ty Goben - Full-time Middle School Teacher
Sam Jones - Full-time Elementary Teacher

Mark Reick - Apollo Paraprofessional
Cynthia Simpson - Junior Class Sponsor
Sharon Simpson - Junior Class Sponsor / Prom Sponsor
Megan Sywassink - JV Volleyball Coach
Staci Taylor - Full-time Cook

Hire:

Krissy Dixon - Full-time School Nurse
Amanda Miller - Full-time School Nurse/Paraprofessional
JV Girls Volleyball Coach - Karli Stineman

Re-hire for winter sports":

Varsity Boys Basketball - Tim Sedam
JV Boys Basketball - Morgan Braucht
Varsity Girls Basketball - Brandon Hofmann
JV Girls Basketball - Brian Fearman
Wrestling Head Coach - Jeremy Finch
Wrestling Assistant Coach - Dallas Morford
Wrestling Assistant Coach - Tristen Finch
Cheer Coach - Ashley Clark
Dance Coach - April Phlor
Flags Coach - Rhiannon Puckett
Majorettes Coach - Brooklyn (Newswander) Greene

Approval of:

Joel Zaiser - HS Principal Contract
Brandy Dornon - HS Assistant Principal Contract
Lori Tatro - Intent to retire at the end of the 2028-2029 school year
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

7. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.
Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1. None.

BOARD COMMENTS: 2. None.

CORRESPONDENCE: 3. None.

FOIA REQUESTS: 4. There was a request for FY26 bakery, fuel and milk specifications.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLANNING UPDATE: 5. End-of-year IAR, STAR, & MAP testing is complete. A team is being assembled and organized to conduct a full K-12 Math curriculum review for fall 2026 district-wide adoption. In the fall, the district will utilize an updated version of the Amplify curriculum, expand our utilization of Renaissance Learning platform and an IT Pathway will launch for students with help from a \$31,000 Looser Flake grant.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE: 6. Improvements are planned at the following: ELC-HVAC & domestic water downsizing; Apollo-security, kitchen, small scale concrete, exterior lighting, landscaping; New Boston Elementary-building demo, PREK classrooms, parking lot, playground; MCJH - security, small scale concrete, exterior lighting, landscaping, parking lot sealing, potential HVAC controls; MCHS-vocational HVAC.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CARBON FREE ASSESSMENT REPORT: 7. Mr. Farquer shared the results from Ameren's report on fuel, electricity and natural gas. Electricity continues to rise and this report shows how much is spent. Subcontractors have analyzed data and some lights have been replaced with LED.

FY25 BUDGET UPDATE: 8. Mr. Farquer showed a portion of year-to-date, budget and remaining funds for the FY25 budget. Some items are reimbursable so it may be slightly over budget. Regardless, the district is still at the 110,000 threshold of the budget.

FY26 REGISTRATION PRICES AND FEES: 9. Mr. Farquer proposes registration prices decrease slightly per student, the HS food class fee be waived, a slight increase in PE uniform fees due to rising costs, slight increase in adult breakfast & lunch fees, leaving an estimated \$10,000 impact.

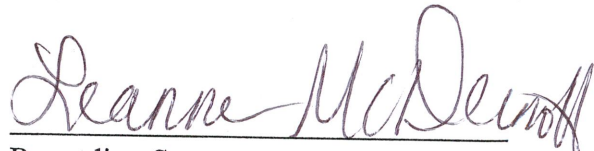
FY26 BOARD OF EDUCATION GOAL SETTING: 10. Next week, Mr. Farquer plans to release a district-wide Google form asking for feedback on setting goals for FY26 including, ranking FY25 goals in order of importance and an opportunity to share goal ideas.

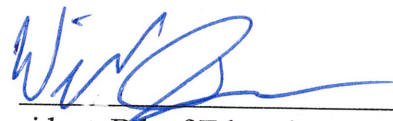
FY26 MILK, BREAD AND FUEL BIDS: 11. No bids were received for bread. The district will continue to purchase through Kohl's. Prairie Farms was the only bid for milk at 0.37 - \$0.40 per carton. Halcomb Oil and Blick and Blick both had bids with Halcomb prices lower in winter blends & DEF fluid.


FFA CHAPTER REPORT: 12. High school students, Elsie Cook and Addison Monson thanked the board for supporting all aspects of FFA along with FFA teacher, Hannah Lindstrom.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS: 13. Ms. Brandy Dornon stated high school graduation was well attended and went smoothly. Mrs. Becky McPeck stated the ELC's graduation went well. Additionally, there are upcoming screenings scheduled. Field days are happening at Apollo and New Boston. The junior high students participated in "The Real World" activity where they were in charge of their own finances, etc.

Submitted by:


Recording Secretary


President, Bd. of Education


Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved:

6-25-25

