

**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* on Wednesday, **October 16, 2024** at 6:30 PM.

Prior to Roll Call, President Bill Smock opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Smock, Balmer, Nelson, Wagner, Yates and Lower.

A quorum was present.

Absent: Monson.

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

Also in Attendance: Dustin Murray, Amanda Heinrichs, Miranda Nimrick, Michelle Swanson, Shelly and Jason Snyder, Becky Hyett, Angie King, Sam King, Tina Matlick, Caleb King, Kyle Matlick, Austin Hyett, Julie Romani, Brian Dillie, Kelli Chaffer, Chad Sedam, Shannon Sedam, Derek King, Tanner Matlick, Haley and Nathan Anderson, Dallas Morford, Toph Hedrick, Kimi King, Matt and Alli Dawson, Dennis and Ashley Clark, Angie Gillespie, Les and Tammy David, Tim King, Julia Baker, Angie Dillie, Hannah Callahan, numerous high school students, Recording Secretary Leanne McDermott and live-streaming student.

Reporters: Jim and Ty Taylor of WRMJ and WQAD.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7	No. 8	No. 9	No. 10	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE	VOICE
Lower	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE									
Monson	-	-	-	-	-									
Nelson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY									
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE									
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE									
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE									

	No. 15	No. 16	No. 17	No. 18	No. 19	No. 20
Balmer	VOICE	VOICE	AYE	VOICE	AYE	AYE
Lower			AYE		-	-
Monson			-		AYE	AYE
Nelson			AYE		AYE	AYE
Smock			AYE		AYE	AYE
Wagner			AYE		ABSTAIN	AYE
Smock			AYE		AYE	AYE

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Lower to approve the following items on the consent agenda.
 - 1.1 Hearing Minutes - [Special Meeting Minutes](#) September 18, 2024
 - 1.2 Hearing Minutes - [FY25 Budget Hearing and Meeting Minutes](#) September 18, 2024
 - 1.3 [Bill List](#) and [Bill List Addition](#)
 - 1.4 [Treasurer's Report](#)

1.5 [Financial Report](#)

1.6 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ISBE MAINTENANCE GRANT

2. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Yates, to approve the ISBE Maintenance Grant Application to obtain walk-in coolers at Apollo Elementary School.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

SCHOOL BUS BID

3. There was a motion by Lower, seconded by Wagner, to accept the Central State Bus bid with the cameras as a negotiation.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

SCHOOL BONDS ON REFERENDUM FOR VOTING

4. There was a motion by Nelson, seconded by Wagner to write a referendum to be place on April 25, 2024 ballot which asks citizen in Mercer County School District to vote on the question of spending an estimated \$25 million on additions and improvements to Mercer County High School, based on architect drawings by Bray Architecture.

Roll Call: 3 Ayes, 3 Nays. Motion failed.

SCHOOL BONDS ON REFERENDUM

5. There was a motion by Lower, seconded by Balmer to authorize the issuance of general obligation school bonds of the District, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000.000 for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school facilities and improving school sites, including but not limited to additions and renovations to the high school building.

Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

DELEGATE FOR JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

6. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer to approve Julie Wagner as Mercer County School District's delegate at the November 21, 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly and Annual Business Meeting. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

IASB COMMITTEE REPORT NEW RESOLUTIONS

7. Regarding the new resolution on dual language, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

8. Regarding the new resolution on EBF authorized charter school funding, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

9. Regarding the new resolution on tax increment financing accountability, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

10. Regarding the new resolution on Faith's law having a centralized state agency for EHRs, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

11. Regarding the new resolution on health care coverage, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
12. Regarding the new resolution on polling places, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
13. Regarding the new resolution on cellphone usage, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do not adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
14. Regarding the new resolution on the Office of Inspector General, members agree with the Resolutions Committee recommendation "do not adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
15. Regarding the new resolution on Faith's Law-EHRs for current employees, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do not adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
16. Regarding the new resolution on criminal background check, members agree with the Resolutions Committee's recommendation "do adopt".
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

17. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Lower to go into Closed Session.

Roll Call: 6 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. 5 ILCS

120/2(c)(1)

Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)

OPEN SESSION

18. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Balmer to come out of closed session at 11:15 PM.
Voice: Majority of Ayes. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT

19. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to approve the following new and re-hires:

District Paraprofessional -Pam Spangler

District Custodian-Brooke Maish (transfer from cook)

District Custodian-Jeanette Lange

Freshman Boys Basketball Coach-Isaak Bigham

District Paraprofessional-Kimberly Ayers

District Cook - Missy Esp

Spring Sport Coaching Re-Hires:

Girls Track Head Coach: Lara Swanson

Girls Track Assistant Coach: Fred Lucas

Boys Track Head Coach: Emily Malinsky (Baldwin)

Boys Track Assistant Coach: Jason Kenney
Boys Baseball Head Coach: Jacob Harrison
Boys Baseball Assistant Coach: Ryan Garrett
Boys Baseball Head JV Coach: Conner Sharp
Boys Baseball Volunteer Assistant: Peter Nelson
Girls Softball Head Coach: Dustin Murray
Girls Softball Assistant Coach: Kay Hucke
Girls Softball Head JV Coach: Kylie Olson (Stineman)
Girls Softball Volunteer Assistant: Hannah Baker
Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

20. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Balmer, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 PM.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: 1. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 2. Julia Baker, Kyle Matlick, Julie Ramoni, Angie Dille, Derek King and Tanner Matlick spoke regarding the recent head football coach suspension.

CORRESPONDENCE: 3. None.

BOARD COMMENTS: 4. None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 5. Written reports were submitted.

FOIA REQUESTS: 6. None.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE: 7. Mr. Farquer and Mr. Doug Giles discussed the plan with a December 1st deadline. Some improvements have been completed.

DISTRICT DESIGN TEAM UPDATE: 8. The next meeting is October 28, 2024.

TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION MOBILE EXHIBIT: 9. Mrs. Wagner passed out a handout with information on the 9/11 mobile exhibit. She proposed the district pursue having the exhibit in 2025. The total cost is \$18,500 to obtain the exhibit, but there are many options available. Mrs. Wagner is working with the community and seeking private donations. She proposed the Board pledge up to \$10,000 to pledge towards the exhibit, possibly \$5,000 this fiscal year and \$5,000 the next fiscal year.

EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS REBATES: 10. Mr. Farquer asked the Board to pursue going forward with the awareness letter. This is an opportunity Mr. Farquer and Johannes are open to engage in.

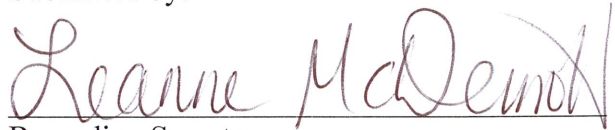
BEAD FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: 11. Mr. Farquer stated Viola Fiber is to obtain fiber to New Boston. Funding is available and the expense for grant writing is included. Mr. Farquer recommends the Board split up to \$20,000 for this funding, if needed. This would include the New Boston and Joy area.

SCHOOL BUS BID: 12. Mr. Farquer stated eleven bus leases are up for renewal June 30, 2025. Central States Bus Sales was awarded the best bid at \$37,500 per bus, per year for a two-year lease. Two used buses are \$99,900 each. Mr. Farquer recommends the Board consider the option of without air conditioning which would save \$5,000. Full external cameras are another option which would cost approximately \$2,000. The Board agreed to keep the air conditioning option and only negotiate on the external cameras.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS: 13. Mr. Tim King with Kings Financial Consulting stated the district can change the aggregate principal amount to less than

\$25,000,000. Mrs. Nelson stated her concerns and wants the community to have a voice. She stated if the Board passes the bonds, the community has the opportunity to fight the referendum with the required number of signatures needed.

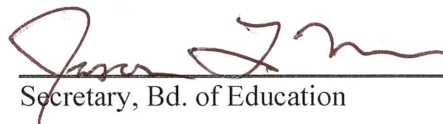
Submitted by:



Recording Secretary



President, Bd. of Education



Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved:

NOV 20 2024

