

**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 Intermediate School Music Room*, on **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM.**

Prior to Roll Call, Pastor Dietmeier opened with a brief prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance led by President Julie Wagner.

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	No. 01	No. 02	No. 03	No. 04	No. 05	No. 06	No. 07	No. 08	No. 09	No. 10
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Balmer (zoom), Bieri, Bowns, Dillavou (zoom), Smock(zoom), and Wagner.

Absent: Yates arrived at 6:20 PM.

Administrators present: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Day, Sedam, Koresko (zoom), Bush (zoom) and Fleurette (zoom).

Also in Attendance: Andrew Hofer, Pastor Dietmeier, Stacey Parkinson, and Secretary Angie Baker.

Also in attendance via zoom: Cody Ruggles, Kate Cuellar, Amber Norton, Amanda Heinrichs, Dustin Murray, Shelly Reusch, and Lisa Schwartzkopf

Reporters: Jim Taylor (zoom)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Bowns, seconded by Bieri, to approve the following items on the consent agenda as presented.
 - 1.1 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2020
 - 1.2 Bill List
 - 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
 - 1.4 Financial Report
 - 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement
 - 1.6 Resignation of Temporary District Custodian Lonnie Maynard

1.7 Resignation of Bus Driver Herb Bowker
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2020 WELLNESS
POLICY

2. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bowns, to approve the 2020 Wellness Policy as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

COMMERCIAL
INSURANCE

3. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to approve the Resolution giving notice to withdrawal from Prairie State Insurance Cooperative at the end of the fiscal year.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

SUBSTITUTE SALARIES

4. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bowns, to approve the Substitute Salaries due to the minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2021 as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

IHSA WINTER SPORTS

5. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Dillavou, to resume winter season sports practices and competitions immediately upon entering Tier 2 IDPH status in our county.
Roll Call: 3 Ayes, 4 Nays. Motion Failed.

CLOSED SESSION

6. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bowns, to go into Closed Session for Personnel discussion at 7:16PM.

6.1 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)

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

OPEN SESSION

7. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Yates, to return to open session at 8:25PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

HIRE LONG TERM SUB
APOLLO PARA

8. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to hire Jessy Huston as Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional at Apollo Elementary.
Roll Call: 7Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE TEMPORARY
DISTRICT CUSTODIAN

9. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to hire Douglas Campbell as Temporary District Custodian.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE 5TH/6TH GRADE
TEACHER

10. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to hire Amanda DeFauw as teacher at Mercer County Intermediate School.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE VOCATIONAL
TEACHER

11. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bieri, to hire Fred Lucas as Vocational Teacher with a 15-day extended contract.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE VOCATIONAL
TEACHER

12. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bieri, to hire Hannah Libby as Vocational Teacher.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE VOCATIONAL
TEACHER

13. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bieri, to hire Brandon Livingston as Vocation Teacher.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

14. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Dillavou, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. 6.7 Resignation of Bus Driver Herb Bowker

PUBLIC COMMENT 2. Stacey Parkinson addressed the board asking for support of the 2020-2021 Basketball Season. Lisa Schwartzkopf joined via zoom with concerns regarding the overflow classrooms at Apollo. Amanda Heinrichs joined via zoom asking for a new plan with in person learning at the Intermediate Building. She would like to see more in person instruction rather than the recorded lessons from each teacher.

BOARD COMMENTS 3. Mike Bowns spoke briefly regarding the 2020-2021 Basketball Season, acknowledging what the parents and our athletes are missing out on during this time.

Tyson Dillavou would like to see some adjustments made with the in person learning now that we have had some time to see how things are working.

Julie Wagner spoke about all of the opportunities our students, parents, and community are missing with the regulations during the COVID 19 pandemic.

CORRESPONDENCE 4. A thank you card was received from the family of Nancy Sloan.

- COMMITTEE REPORTS 5. No additional comments were made regarding the Finance and Wellness minutes that were provided in the board packet. Don Yates gave a brief update about the Building and Grounds meeting.
- FOIA REQUESTS 6. We responded to a FOIA request from Smart Procure.
- COMMERCIAL INSURANCE 7. Mr. Petrie discussed the option of rebidding our commercial insurance provider. Due to an increase in premiums, he is recommending we go out for bids this year. Letters of termination must be sent by December 31st to Prairie State Insurance Cooperative and Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Trust.
- SUBSTITUTE SALARIES 8. Due to the minimum wage increase, substitute secretaries, cooks, custodians, paras, and summer workers were increased to \$11/hr effective January 1, 2021. Substitute Nurse rates were also increased.
- IHSA WINTER SPORTS 9. Mr. Petrie discussed the Tier 3 Mitigations effective November 20, 2020 for all 11 regions of Illinois. Tier 3 Mitigations paused all indoor group sporting and recreational activities. IHSA postponed Basketball Season on November 17, 2020.
- BONDING 10. Mr. Petrie reviewed the documentation provided by Kings Financial Consulting regarding our capacity to bond. Further information will be presented by a consultant at a future board meeting.
- ROE FY20 ANNUAL REPORT 11. Mr. Petrie discussed the ROE Annual Report included in the board packet. The ROE sponsors the RAES Alternative Program, the 21st Century Grant Program, the Early Childhood Programs, and the Truancy and Homelessness programs for our district.
- SCHOOL REPORT CARD 12. Mr. Petrie reviewed our districts school report card. Due to the suspension of in person learning during the 2019-20 school year, many metrics were affected. Assessment data from last year was not available. He discussed the school district finances portion of the report, comparing district and state numbers in regards to teacher/admin salaries, teacher/student ratio, and instructional expenditures per student. A link is provided on our district website under the district tab to review the School Report Card.
- LEVY DISCUSSION 13. Final 2020 rate was 4.8331. Proposed levy for 2021 is currently at 4.8494 which is \$8,142,404 in county property tax funds. EAV steady increase due to IL tax changes on farm land. The Finance Committee recommended a Truth and Taxation Hearing will be held next month.

AIRSS MEMBERSHIP

14. Mr. Petrie recommended participation in the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. This organization helps promote and enhance education in rural and small schools in every community and location of Illinois, as well as, offers programs to help support the districts and teachers. Annual membership fee is \$400.

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

15. In addition to their written reports, the following was mentioned:
Mr. Fleurette , Mr. Bush, and Mr. Koresko briefly discussed the advantages to Amplify.

Mr. Sedam and Mrs. Day touched base on how well our students and staff are continuing to adjust due to the COVID pandemic.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____