

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

The Board of Education of Mercer County School District #404, Mercer, Henderson, & Rock Island Counties, Illinois, held a TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING in **the Mercer County Intermediate School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Bieri, Bowns, Dillavou, Smock (zoom), Wagner, and Yates. A quorum was present.

Absent: Balmer

Administrators present: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Stacey Day, Tim Sedan, Bill Fleurette, Ryan Koresko (zoom), and Marcus Bush.

Also in Attendance: Andrew Hofer, Pastor Dietmeier, Lisa Schwartzkopf, and Secretary Angie Baker

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Andrea Long, Amber Norton, Amanda Heinrichs, Jason Monson, and Holly Staker

Reporters: Cathy Decker (zoom) and Jim Taylor

A Public Hearing was held to inform the public of our 2020 Tax Levy.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the 2020 Tax Levy information and explained the rationale for the amounts and rates contained in the Truth in Taxation Notice that was published in the local newspaper.

RECORD OF MOTIONS AND VOTES

	NO. 1
Balmer	-
Bieri	AYE
Bowns	AYE
Dillavou	AYE
Smock	AYE
Wagner	AYE
Yates	AYE

MOTION TO ADJOURN

1. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Dillavou, to adjourn the Public Hearing for 2020 Tax Levy at 6:14PM. Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**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 in **the Mercer County Intermediate School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:15p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Same as above. Tab joined at 6:20p.m. via zoom.

The Board of Education and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President Julie Wagner.

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4	NO. 5
Balmer	-	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bowns, to approve the following items on the consent agenda:
 - 1.1 Meeting Minutes
 - a.Regular Meeting Minutes – November 18, 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 High School Teacher Mark Artcher
 - 1.7 Retirement of High School Custodian Marlene Loving
- Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADOPT 2020 TAX LEVY

2. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Yates, to adopt the resolution for 2020 Tax Levy as presented, for a total anticipated amount of \$7,739,035.
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

3. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bowns, to go into Closed Session at 6:59pm to discuss Personnel.
 - 3.1 **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

4. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bieri, to return to open session at 7:50pm.
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

5. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

- ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. None

- PUBLIC COMMENT 2. None
- BOARD COMMENTS 3. None
- CORRESPONDENCE 4. There were several Christmas cards received by the board and a thank you card from the family of Eldon Boswell.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS 5. Mr. Petrie briefly discussed the minutes from the Building and Grounds meeting. The committee is working on narrowing down some of the options presented by Bray. All documents from the meetings can be found on the district website.
(Board of Education>Board Meeting Agendas/Minutes>Committee Meeting Minutes/Reports>Building and Grounds)
- 2020 TAX LEVY 6. No changes were made from the tentative Tax Levy presented last month. \$8,142,404 total levy amount with an increase from last year of approximately 4.5136%. Drop in rate overall from 4.85 to 4.84 this year.
- FOIA REQUESTS 7. None
- 21st CENTURY GRANT 8. Mrs. Day discussed the 21st Century Grant Program at the High School. Lindsey Beighle is our site coordinator and organizes the before and after school activities that are offered to our high school students. Due to the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, this year many activities have been virtual. Currently, homework help is being offered in the library for students who wish to stay after school. A virtual paint night and a flower arranging class have also been offered this semester. Tie blanket kits have been picked up by students to complete at home and will be donated to local nursing homes.
- RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE 9. Mr. Petrie discussed the current situation with our return to learn plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The district has completed 19 weeks of in person learning with many challenges as positive cases continue to rise. The quarantining of staff has made things difficult, causing us to go fully remote for four days this semester. He recognized the efforts of each of our nurses. Each Principal was asked to give the board an update on the situation in each building.
- Mr. Bush spoke about the importance of the students learning in person. Many of the fully remote students are struggling. Staff has made many attempts to reach out to parents regarding the possibility of retention for next year.
- Mr. Fleurette has 15 remote students returning to in person learning after the winter break. Adjustments have been made to accommodate those students in the classrooms. Concerns with the amount of students that would need to be retained at Apollo, if this was the end of the school year, were discussed. He also commended Becky Hyett, District Nurse, for the extra time she is putting in due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mr. Koresko spoke about the changes that will be made after the winter break with teachers rotating to the classrooms to have more face to

face interaction with the students. This level is also seeing an increased number of failing grades compared to last year.

Mr. Sedam is very pleased with where our district is at and how they have handled this situation. Tutoring was added at the junior high at the beginning of 2nd quarter. This has helped with grade improvement, but still concerns on the number of students failing.

Mrs. Day commended the students and staff at the high school. Currently, 12% of the overall grades are failing grades. Holding kids accountable is hard when they are not in person. Contacts have been made to these students with very little response. 33 remote students will be returning to in person learning at the high school after winter break.

The district started offering after school tutoring and transportation three days a week after the Thanksgiving holiday. This will continue into 2nd semester. Mr. Petrie shared the results from the parent survey. 18 % of our elementary students will stay remote for 2nd semester. 28% of our junior high and high school students will stay remote for 2nd semester.

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

10. In addition to their written reports, the principals added the following:

Mr. Fleurette discussed the excitement of PBIS Bingo that the staff and students played. He also commended the music teacher and families for participating in the Virtual Sing Along Christmas Program.

Mr. Koresko discussed the holiday spirit week being held this week at MCIS.

Mrs. Day discussed the dress up days at the high school and the IHSA TikTok challenge the high school choir participated in.

Submitted By:

Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____