

**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, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM.**

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

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Balmer (zoom), Bieri, Bowns, Dillavou, Wagner, and Yates. A quorum was present. Smock arrived at 7:00PM.

Absent: none

Administrators present: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Day, Koresko, Bush and Fleurette.

Faculty (Zoom): Amanda Heinrichs, Shelly Reusch, Andrea Hesse

Also in Attendance: Stacy Parkinson, Tenley Sproston, Anna Wagner, Lisa Finch, Kati Sproston, Jackine Benson, Angel Diehl, Madi Diehl, Terri Unsworth, Gary Unsworth, Jenny King, Chad King, Natalie Finch, Emma Unsworth, Emma Mellgren, Larissa Neeld, Bonnie Neeld, Michelle Mellgren, and Stefanie Carey as Recording Secretary.

Reporters: John Hoscheidt and Cathy Decker

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	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

	NO. 11	NO. 12	NO. 13	NO. 14	NO.15
Balmer	AYE	AYE	Abstain	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 Dillavou, seconded by Smock, to approve the following items on the consent agenda.
 - 1.1 Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2021
 - 1.2 Bill List
 - 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
 - 1.4 Financial Report
 - 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement
 - 1.6 Maternity Leave for Kristen Adams
 - 1.7 Maternity Leave for Tiffany Daum
 - 1.8 Resignation of Intermediate School Paraprofessional – Marissa Boruff
 - 1.9 Resignation of Intermediate School Cook – Kaitlyn Ward Marceleno
 - 1.10 Resignation of 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach – Sam Salmon
 - 1.11 Resignation of Junior High Paraprofessional – Briley LloydRoll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022
2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to approve the Public School Calendar with a traditional Easter break as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- AUDIT FIRM FY21
3. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bowns, to use Gorenz and Associates as the District’s Audit Firm for the FY21 audit.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- TRS SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN
4. There was a motion by Bowns, seconded by Dillavou, to adopt the TRS Supplemental Plan Resolution as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- PRESS POLICY 3.30
5. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to adopt PRESS Policy 3.30 AP as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- PRESS POLICY 3.70
6. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bieri, to adopt PRESS Policy 3.70 AP Succession plan as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- QCC TEC ADDENDUM
7. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Smock, to approve the QCC TEC Addendum as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- PUCHASE ACTIVITY BUS
8. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Smock, to purchase a 2018 Activity Bus for \$41,500 from Midwest Bus Sales, including lettering and camera features with 25,000 miles.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION
9. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bieri, to go into Closed Session for Personnel at 9:02PM.
 - 9.1 **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

10. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Bowns, to come out of Closed Session at 10:12 PM.

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

HIRE JH BOYS
BASKETBALL COACH

11. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Sam Whan as Junior High Boys Basketball Coach.

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

HIRE HS ASST GIRLS
TRACK COACH

12. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Fred Lucas as HS Assistant Girls Track Coach.

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

REHIRE WINTER
COACHES

13. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to rehire the Winter Coaches as presented.

High School

Assistant Wrestling Coach: Dallas Morford

Assistant Wrestling Coach: Tristan Finch

Junior High

Boys Basketball 8th: Brandon Hofmann

Boys Basketball 7th: Sam Whan

Volleyball 8th: Lori Feik

Volleyball 7th: Merri Stineman

Wrestling Head Coach: Montie Smith

Wrestling Assistant Coach: Eric Baker

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. Motion Carried.

VOLUNTEER
EMPLOYEE

14. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to approve Karli Stineman as a volunteer employee.

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

ADJOURN

15. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25PM.

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

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. Margaret Puckett's retirement was added to the consent agenda 6.12. She is retiring early, going out at the end of this school year instead of 2024. MCIS paraprofessional was added to Closed Session Personnel 11.1h.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. The following parents and students addressed the Board of Education to air their complaints about the mitigations related to the COVID 19 pandemic and their effects on these students' final year:

Natalie Finch
Emma Unsworth
Katie Sproston
Larissa Neeld
Melody Parkinson (recording)
Brittani Carle (statement read by Michelle Mellgren)
Lisa Finch
Angel Diehl
Jackie Benson
Keirsten Benson (statement read by Stacey Day)
Emma Mellgren
Terri Unsworth
Stacy Parkinson

They all are very upset that the students are missing out on all of the monumental and iconic activities of Senior year and high school in general. They feel that this class has been forgotten. They wished to encourage the Board of Education to allow them some sort of Prom. Different options were mentioned, including an outdoor event after the weather is warmer.

BOARD COMMENTS

3. Tyson Dillavou addressed the parent/ student group and thanked them for speaking. He empathized with them and encouraged them to write to the governor, as we are mandated in our mitigation actions. He mentioned that 17 miles west, in Iowa, everything is open; indicating the political effects.

Mike Bowns encouraged the group to come up with some creative ideas on what to do about these upcoming events.

Julie Wagner reported on a visit to a classroom this week where she observed the new "Amplify" curriculum. A faculty member is coming next month to demonstrate.

CORRESPONDENCE

4. A thank you card were received for a memorial sent in honor of Tammy Muerhoff's husband's passing. Tammy is the Rock Island County ROE Superintendent, and was a former employee of the Westmer School District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. **Finance:** Mr. Petrie reported for the Finance Committee, describing the new ESSER funding that is coming in the near future. We will be receiving over 2.8 million dollars with these next grants that are meant to help with expenses relating to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Buildings and Grounds: There was much discussion on possible construction. A survey was mentioned that would eventually be presented to the public. The board would collectively like to edit the survey sample to clearly layout options for facility upgrades and or new construction in order to allow for public feedback. One option mentioned was a new K-5 grade school built in Joy, while adding on to the Intermediate building to house 6-8. All agree it will be a hard sell, and the taxpayers need to be able to give input. Transportation expenses were mentioned, but it was reiterated that transportation costs are 80% reimbursed. Everyone agreed that air

conditioning at the high school could be added this year. They will get estimates. It was decided to meet again before they talk to Bray.

Transportation: Tyson Dillavou summarized the Transportation meeting. He said that Johannes would be interested in leasing busses in order to have a more updated fleet if we would sign a longer contract. (3 year)

Policy: Not much was said regarding Policy updates. Julie Wagner did mention the succession chart that would be approved.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

6. Mr. Petrie briefly described the differences in the calendar options that were presented to the buildings. One calendar had a Spring Break added in March, significantly removed from Easter. It added another day off to the calendar. The general consensus came back in favor of the traditional Easter break that we normally have. We will also be adding another institute day to the presented calendar to be held on August 17. Mr. Petrie also mentioned that both calendar choices leave us days to use for emergencies without extending the school year much. He also mentioned that our most recent snow day for this year will take off a day from our Easter break.

AUDIT FIRM

7. Mr. Petrie deferred to Stefanie Carey to comment on the current Audit firm. She reported that they are very easy to work with and very helpful. They have an auditor that is familiar with our accounting software, and can login to gather some of his own information and assist with any reports needed.

TRS SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN

8. TRS is offering a new Supplemental Retirement plan, similar to our existing 403b. The Plan is sponsored and administered by the System and is intended to qualify as an eligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457(b). Mr. Petrie explained this new plan to the Board, along with the different employee “tiers.” He didn’t think there would be much participation in this.

ACTIVITY BUS

9. Mr. Petrie explained the purchase options for the new Activity bus. It will be an addition to the current fleet, as we have been in need with the addition of softball.

IASB DIVISION MTG

10. The next IASB division meeting will be held virtually on March 4. Board members were directed to contact Angie Baker if they are interested in registering.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

11. Mr. Petrie explained the wind chill factors used to determine whether or not we cancel school. He presented a chart that showed the varying degrees. He usually calls a “snow day” when the wind chill is -25 or below. Remote days are also a possibility now, but that choice has exceptions as well. Students need to have been prepped a little and have chrome books at home.

SUMMER SCHOOL

12. Summer School will definitely be offered this year. The program will be more robust than before in order to help students catch up who have fallen behind with remote learning.

RETURN TO PLAY

13. Bill Smock gave a little description on how the Junior High games are now that they are back on. Julie Wagner spoke of the High School games. They both praised the YouTube additions and said how nice this was for grandparents and anyone else who aren't able to attend. Julie mentioned that the pep band is being piped in to the gym, and it sounds great!

RETURN TO LEARN

14. Each of the principals gave an update on how things are going in their buildings with the current Return to Learn plan. These updates took the place of the normal Administrative Reports.

Mr. Koresko reported that things are going pretty well. They are happy with their current schedule. Retention numbers are down. They recently moved band to the gym, which has helped with spacing.

Mr. Bush explained that they struggle with having enough time to fit everything in. He said that adding even an hour to the day would be beneficial. The students are missing a lot. They barely have special classes like art or music. PE is even hard to fit in. Science and Social Studies are on hold while they push Math and Reading to the forefront.

Mrs. Day reported on a new Credit Recovery program that was implemented. She also addressed the night's public comments, stating that these problems can't be helped much because we don't have a choice in many of the matters.

Mr. Petrie added that we are required this year to have the 100% remote option, and if this is the case next year, we will handle things differently, designating specific teachers to be in charge of remote students. He also addressed the ramifications of extending the school day this year. Since our teachers have to spend time working on the remote learning, this leaves little time to add to classroom learning from what we have in place right now. Lunch schedules and cafeteria size also come into play.

Mr. Fleurette says that the current schedule is working for their building. They are currently having lunches delivered to the classroom. He mentioned that this helps shorten the time out of the classroom that the traditional lunch creates.

Julie Wagner asked for opinions on how much more time we could add to the day. Mike Bowns added that the CDC has said students were safest at school, and that a lot of students struggle with remote learning. The Board would like to work on adjusting the schedule if they can find a way that will be efficient while following social distancing guidelines and employee workload rules.

FOIA REQUESTS

15. Illinois Retired Teachers requested a list of our retiring teachers.

ADMINISTRATIVE

16. The Principals had nothing to add after their Return to Learn updates. Mrs. Day did mention that they are planning a Freshman Registration night with scheduled appointments. Julie Wagner commended the High School on all of the course offerings. Everyone is impressed with our vocational department.

MCIS
PARAPROFESSIONAL

17. The addition to the agenda to hire MCIS paraprofessional was inadvertently missed, and the motion will be added to next month.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____