

**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 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM.**

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

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	No. 01	No. 02	No. 03	No. 04	No. 05	No. 06	No. 07	No. 08	No. 09
Balmer	AYE	VOICE	AYE	AYE	AYE	VOICE	-	VOICE	VOICE
Bieri	AYE		AYE	AYE	NAY		AYE		
Bowns	AYE		AYE	AYE	NAY		AYE		
Monson	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE		
Smock	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE		
Wagner	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE		
Yates	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE		

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Bieri, Bowns, Monson, Smock, Wagner, and Yates.

Absent: Balmer arrived at 6:42 PM.

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

Also in Attendance: Andrew Hofer, Chloe Cordell, Tamala Parchert, Jessica Thomas and Secretary Angie Baker.

Reporters: Ty Taylor

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Monson, to approve the following items on the consent agenda as presented.
 - 1.1 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2021
 - b. Special Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2021
 - 1.2 Bill List
 - 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
 - 1.4 Financial Report
 - 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2021 WELLNESS POLICY

2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to table the 2021 Wellness Policy until next month. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

SUBSTITUTE SALARIES

3. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to approve the Substitute Salaries due to the minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2022 as presented. Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- RELOCATE DISTRICT OFFICE 2022-2023 4. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Monson, to relocate the District Office to Joy Vocational Building for the 2022-2023 school year. Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- RELOCATE PRE K PROGRAM 2022-2023 5. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Wagner, to relocate the Pre K Program to the north end of the Junior High for the 2022-2023 school year . Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 2 Nays. Motion carried.
- BUS LEASE 2022-2023 6. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to table the presented bus lease for the 2022-2023 school year until next month. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION 7. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Monson, to go into Closed Session for Personnel discussion at 8:13PM.
- 7.1 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: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- OPEN SESSION 8. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to return to open session at 9:02PM. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
- ADJOURN 9. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. None

PUBLIC COMMENT 2. Tamala Parchert addressed the board with concerns regarding the Junior High School building in Joy and the use of the gyms. She also spoke about the possibility of the Pre K program being moved and transportation concerns.

Chloe Cordell spoke about the benefits of housing the entire Pre K program in one location. All three of the Pre K teachers agree that it would increase communication, disperse the high needs kids more evenly, and create more time for curriculum planning as a whole. She also gave some suggestions on things that would need to be considered for the Pre K program.

- BOARD COMMENTS 3. None
- CORRESPONDENCE 4. Thank you cards were received from the families of Charles Headley & Diane Sharp.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS 5. Julie Wagner provided minutes from the finance committee. Tax Levy information will be discussed further under information items. No further discussion with finances or building and grounds minutes. Transportation meeting was postponed.
- WELLNESS POLICY 6. In accordance with Public Act 102-0359 and the federal and local regulations, public schools need to make every effort to produce the precise number of meals needed by using production records etc. In the event excess food remains, the district will have a plan in place to provide food to students in need beyond the meals provided. That section will be added to the Wellness Policy, reviewed, and acted on at next month's meeting.
- SUBSTITUTE SALARIES 7. Due to the minimum wage increase, substitute secretaries, cooks, custodians, paras, and summer workers were increased to \$12/hr effective January 1, 2022. Substitute teachers, nurses and event worker's rates were also increased.
- FOIA REQUESTS 8. We responded to a FOIA request from The Register-Mail providing information regarding funds received and spent by MCSD under the ESSER grant.
- SCHOOL REPORT CARD 9. Mr. Petrie reviewed our districts school report card. Due to the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year, many areas were impacted. He discussed the school district finances portion of the report. He also pointed out the chronic absenteeism rate (25%) that our district is still struggling with currently. A link is provided on our district website under the district tab to review the School Report Card.
- LEVY DISCUSSION 10. Prior year tax rate was 4.84 with \$8,705,603 in county property tax funds. Proposed levy for 2022 maintains the same tax rate at 4.84 which is \$9,341,834 in county property tax funds, an increase of \$636,231. EAV steady increase. A Truth and Taxation Hearing will be required and held next month.
- BONDING 11. Mr. Petrie reviewed the documentation provided by Kings Financial Consulting regarding our capacity to bond. With prices rising and interest rates increasing, it was recommended to consider selling, at the current interest rate, some or all of our capacity giving us money on hand before June. Further information will be presented by a consultant at a special board meeting on December 8th.

ALEDO TOWN STOPS

12. Mr. Petrie discussed the Aledo Town Bus Stops. The district is still struggling with a shortage of bus drivers. Concerns with quarantine rules and busing due to the pandemic are still a factor. Eliminating town stops we were able to quarantine much fewer students due to more space and social distancing on the buses. Town stops are not included on the bid process, as this is a courtesy to our families within 1.5 miles of the school building. The shortage of bus drivers has also made it difficult to provide transportation from after school tutoring.

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

13. In addition to their written reports, the following was mentioned:
Mr. Bush mentioned that Mrs. Sywassink, Mrs. Stice, and Mrs. Molburg were all nominated for the Amplify Reading Program.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____