

PUBLIC HEARING
(Intent to sell Bonds)

- The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30PM. Board members present upon roll call: Balmer, Bieri, Bowns, Monson, Smock, Wagner, and Yates. A quorum was present.
- Superintendent Petrie, Principals Day, Sedam, Koresko, Bush and Fleurette, and Secretary Angie Baker were in attendance along with many community members.
- Mr. Petrie discussed the intention of the Bond Hearing stating Mercer County intends to issue bonds for capital projects related to the improvement of its existing facilities including the possibility of a combined elementary school on the JH campus in Joy. These improvements will be based on the results of the boards long range facility study begun in March 2020. In December 2021 the district issued \$9.5 million in debt certificates. The board discussed the issuance of funding bonds to repay the debt certificates and also authorized the issuance of up to an additional \$9 million in working cash bonds. The district’s 2021 tax levy does not project a tax rate increase and includes sufficient funds for payment on a bond issue up to \$15 million without future rate increases.
- There were no public comments.
- There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Monson to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:34PM.
Roll Call: 7 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 at *the Mercer County Intermediate School Music Room*, on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:35 PM.**

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

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: none

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

Also in Attendance: Andrew Hofer, Zack Frick, Brad Williams, Erica Hajny, Tamala Parchert, Fred Lucas, Secretary Angie Baker, and many community members.

Reporters: John Hoscheidt, WQAD News

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

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

- CONSENT AGENDA
1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve the following items on the consent agenda.
 - 1.1 Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2021
 - 1.2 Bill List
 - 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
 - 1.4 Financial Report
 - 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement
 - 1.6 Resignation of MCIS Guidance Counselor Jenifer HofmannRoll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- FY21 AUDIT
2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to accept the FY21 Audit as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION
3. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Smock, to go into Closed Session for Personnel, Review of Closed Session Minutes, Negotiations, and Litigation at 8:02PM.
 - 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)
 - 3.2 **Review of Closed Session Minutes**
The discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)
 - 3.3 **Negotiations**
Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
 - 3.4 **Litigation**
Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- Balmer left meeting prior to closed session.
- OPEN SESSION
4. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Bieri, to come out of Closed Session at 9:07 PM.
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.
- REHIRE JUNIOR HIGH SPRING COACHES
5. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to rehire the Junior High Spring Coaches as presented.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE MCIS PARAPRO
6. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Barbara Bryant as a paraprofessional at the Intermediate School.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

CLOSED MINUTES 7. There as a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to keep the closed session minutes from July 2021- December 2021 closed.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURN 8. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. None

PUBLIC COMMENT 2. Several community members addressed the board with concerns regarding the possibility of closing the elementary buildings and consolidating them into one new building on the Joy campus. Transportation and the amount of time spent on busses was mentioned. Ideas were also shared in regards to investing and updating the high school, while maintaining the current elementary buildings.

CORRESPONDENCE 3. None

BOARD COMMENTS 4. Julie Wagner spoke about the Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation, encouraging the board and the community members to go to the MCSEEF page on the district website. The Looser Flake Foundation is matching all donations made to MCSEEF now through December 1st. A donation form can be found on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS 5. Mr. Petrie mentioned the personnel changes that were made to the administrative chain of command and grievance committee policies. No changes were made to the policies themselves. No additional comments were made regarding the finance or building and grounds minutes.

FY21 AUDIT REPORT 6. Mr. Petrie gave a brief summary of the audit, highlighting the five areas on the summary profile provided. The fund balance across all accounts on June 30, 2021 was \$11.5 million, an increase of approximately \$1 million from the prior year. We received a 4.0 rating.

FOIA REQUESTS 7. We responded to a FOIA request from SmartProcure for PO/Vendor information.

LOWELL JOHNSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION 8. Both Apollo and New Boston Elementary received \$6,750 from the Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation to be used for education projects, programs and supplies. The Intermediate School received \$2,500 to be used between both grade levels. Mr. Petrie shared some items that have been purchased in the past.

MCSEEF

9. Mr. Petrie announced the ten teachers that have recently received donations from the Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation totaling \$5,000. The foundation supports classroom level projects and purchasing of supplies. Julie Wagner encouraged the board and attendees to visit the MCSEEF page on our district website, where a donation form can be found.

FACILITY STUDY, SURVEY, REFERENDUM QUESTION

10. Mr. Petrie reviewed the timeline of the facility study, also stating that minutes from the building and grounds committee, the survey results, etc can be found in the blue box on the board meeting agendas/minutes page of the website. Each board member spoke briefly on the facility study, survey, and referendum question. Bill Smock also discussed the steps that were taken beginning in March 2020 with the facility study, survey approval, survey results, informational meetings held at NBE and MCIS, the bond hearing, etc., stating it is time now to choose a path. If a resolution is to be put on the June 28th ballot, the deadline is March 21st. All board members encouraged the community to reach out to them via email, call, text. They want the communities input and will continue to do what is best for the students and tax payers. Bowns also mentioned the transportation software program, comparing current bus routes to what routes might look like if a consolidated elementary school existed. Results of that will be shared at next month's board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11. In addition to their written reports, the following was mentioned:

Mr. Fleurette announced the winners of the 2nd Quarter Apollo Elementary Peace Prize, Avery Boss & Relynd Adolphson.

Mr. Sedam shared that the 7th grade Volleyball program won the travel banner from Sherrard.

Mr. Bush mentioned the teachers that received the MCSEEF grants purchased Apple TVs and Ipads to be used in their classrooms.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____