

## 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 15, 2021 at 6:30p.m.**

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, Bieri, Bowns, Monson, Smock, Wagner, and Yates. A quorum was present.

**Absent:** None

**Administrators present:** Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Stacey Day, Tim Sedan, Bill Fleurette, Ryan Koresko, Marcus Bush and Andrew Hofer.

**Also in Attendance:** Erica Hajny, Fred Lucas, Stacy Parkinson, Recording Secretary Angie Baker, and Tech Trenton Magadenz

**Reporters:** Jim Taylor

A Public Hearing was held to inform the public of our 2021 Tax Levy.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the 2021 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	AYE
Bieri	AYE
Bowns	AYE
Monson	AYE
Smock	AYE
Wagner	AYE
Yates	AYE

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates, to adjourn the Public Hearing for 2021 Tax Levy at 6:34PM.

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

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**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 15, 2021 at 6:35p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Same as above.

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4	NO. 5	NO. 6	NO. 7	NO. 8	NO. 9	NO. 10
Balmer	AYE	AYE	VOICE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	VOICE	VOICE
Bieri	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		
Bowns	AYE	AYE		AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE		
Monson	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		
Smock	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		
Wagner	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		
Yates	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		

	NO. 11	NO. 12	NO. 13	NO. 14	NO. 15	NO. 16
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	VOICE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	
Bowns	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	
Monson	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	
Wagner	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Wagner, to approve the following items on the consent agenda:
    - 1.1 Meeting Minutes
      - a.Regular Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2021
      - b.Special Meeting Minutes – December 8, 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 Freshmen Volleyball Coach Michaela Matlick
    - 1.7 Resignation of Sophomore Volleyball Coach Lara Swanson
    - 1.8 Resignation of High School Principal Stacey Day effective June 30, 2022
    - 1.9 Resignation of Intermediate School Principal Ryan Koresko end of the 21-22 school yr
    - 1.10 Resignation of Intermediate School Paraprofessional Jasmine Mills
    - 1.11 Retirement of High School English Teacher Laura Mehl end of the 21-22 school year
    - 1.12 Maternity Leave New Boston Paraprofessional Brooke Heath
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADOPT 2021 TAX LEVY

2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to adopt the resolution for 2021 Tax Levy as presented, for a total anticipated amount of \$8,705,603.
 

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

2021 WELLNESS  
POLICY

3. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to approve the 2021 Wellness Policy as presented with amendments.  
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

BUS LEASE

4. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Balmer, to approve the Bus Lease with Thomas Midwest Bus Services as presented.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

PRESS POLICY  
QUARTERLY UPDATES

5. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Monson, to approve the Quarterly PRESS Policy updates as presented.  
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN – MCJH/MCIS

6. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to approve the Mercer County Junior High School and Mercer County Intermediate School Improvement Plan as presented.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

FUNDING BONDS

7. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to approve a Resolution setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper school purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to issue \$9,950,000 bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

WORKING CASH BONDS

8. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve a Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$9,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

9. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to go into Closed Session at 7:17pm to discuss Personnel.

**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(e)(1)*

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

10. There was a motion by Balmer, seconded by Yates, to return to open session at 8:23pm.  
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

- FALL COACH REHIRES      11. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to rehire the fall Coaches as amended.  
Girls Golf: Aaron Heartt  
XC: Peter Nelson  
Football HC: Andrew Hofer  
Football JV: Jason Kenney  
Football AC: Fred Lucas  
Football AC: Eric Russell  
Football AC: Dustin Murray  
Football AC: Monte Smith  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- REHIRE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH      12. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to rehire Erica Biddle as Varsity Volleyball Coach.  
Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 3 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE PE/HEALTH TEACHER      13. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Conner Sharp as Junior High Physical Education/Health Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE SOPHOMORE VB COACH      14. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Megan Sywassink as Sophomore Volleyball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE FRESHMEN VB COACH      15. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Merri Stineman as Freshman Volleyball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- ADJOURN      16. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.  
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

**OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

- ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS      1. None
- PUBLIC COMMENT      2. None
- BOARD COMMENTS      3. Bill Smock and Julie Wagner commended the Music Department for the recent Winter programs they attended.  
Mr. Petrie announced that four of our Apollo teachers recently completed their National Board Certification. Congratulations!  
Staci Sharp, Kristen Reick, Pete Nelson, and Kathy Olson

- CORRESPONDENCE 4. There were several Christmas cards received by the board.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS 5. Mike Bowns discussed the minutes from the Finance Meeting mentioning the purchase of airfare for several teachers. Mr. Petrie clarified that we have additional funds this year, designated to Professional Development, allowing the district to cover these current charges. Mr. Bush explained the two conferences that the teachers will be attending. Get Your Teach on in Las Vegas in February & Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia in March. Teachers will present information to the board once the conferences have been completed.
- 2021 TAX LEVY 6. No changes were made from the tentative Tax Levy presented last month. The tax rate remained the same from last year at 4.84. An increase in funds from \$8.3 million in 2021 to \$9.4 million in 2022. Local EAV went from \$174 million in 2021 to \$192 million in 2022, generating more money at the same tax rate.
- BUS LEASE 7. Mr. Petrie discussed the bus lease options included in the board packet. The committee compared a two-year lease with Midwest Transit and a 3-year lease with Midwest Bus. Mr. Petrie's recommendation to the board is to lease twelve Thomas buses from Midwest Bus Services with an annual savings of \$40,781 and a total savings of \$122,344 over the three years.
- FOIA REQUESTS 8. None
- 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GRANT 9. Mrs. Day discussed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Program at the High School. Lindsey Dunn is our site coordinator and organizes the before and after school activities that are offered to our high school students. This is a five year grant that can be reapplied for only once. We currently have two years left with this program. Activities include: Board Games/Cooking Club/Tutoring/Family Paint Nights/Crochet Club/StarBooks/etc. This group also provides opportunities for community service projects.
- MCSEEF 10. Julie Wagner discussed the Looser Flake letter included in the board packet. Looser-Flake Foundation has issued an endowment-building challenge grant of up to \$20,000 to the Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation. Funds will be matched up to \$10,000. She encouraged all board members to follow MCCEEF on Facebook and on the district website. Additional information on how to donate to the foundation will be made available on their Facebook page.
- LIVE STREAMING 11. A discussion was had regarding live streaming committee meetings. Due to conflicts with athletic events and other activities happening in the district, the meetings will need to be recorded and shared for viewing after the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORTS

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

Mr. Fleurette discussed the preliminary MAP score results at Apollo Elementary. He was pleased with the results.

Submitted By:

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Recording Secretary

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President, Bd. of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_