

**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*, on **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:02 PM.**

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

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Balmer, Bieri, Bowns, Dillavou, Smock, Wagner, and Yates. A quorum was present. Balmer joined via video conference.

Absent: none

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

Also in Attendance: Andrew Hofer, Jason Monson, Vic Johnson, Michelle Swanson, Jason Crawford, Taylor Beguelin, Amanda Heinrichs, Dixie Wieskamp, Michelle Marston, Megan Sywassink, Sarah Dixon, Deb Ness, Derek Dixon (via zoom), and Recording Secretary Angie Baker.

Multiple community members also joined via zoom call.

Reporters: Jim Taylor & Cathy Decker

SPECIAL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING began at 7:28 PM.

Board Members present upon roll call: Balmer (zoom), Bieri, Bowns, Dillavou, Smock, Wagner, & Yates.

Absent: none

PRESENTATION

Outgoing board member, Tyson Dillavou, was presented with a plaque. He was thanked for his years of service and the time and effort he devoted to serving Mercer County School District #404.

CANVASS OF VOTES

Mr. Petrie read the vote numbers from the County Clerk Sara Blaser. No allegations of irregularities or illegal votes are known and the election's outcome was not challenged.

Two Year Seats Elected – Mike Bowns & Mark Bieri

*Four Year Seats Elected – Talbert Balmer, Donald Yates, Jason Monson,
& Julie Wagner*

PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Superintendent Petrie was named Temporary president until a new president was chosen.

- ADJOURN SINE DIE** There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri to adjourn sine die.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- SEATING NEW BOARD** The five returning board members were seated along with Jason Monson.
- MEMBERS PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL** Tab Balmer, Mark Bieri, Mike Bowns, Jason Monson, Bill Smock, Julie Wagner, & Don Yates.
- OATH OF OFFICE** The Oath of Office was recited by all six newly appointed members. Tab Balmer, Mark Bieri, Mike Bowns, Jason Monson, Julie Wagner, and Don Yates.
- OFFICER ELECTIONS**
- PRESIDENT**
Don Yates nominated Mike Bowns for President. Jason Monson nominated Julie Wagner for President. Mike Bowns was declared President with 5 to 2 Roll Call Vote.
- SECRETARY**
Mike Bowns nominated Bill Smock for Board Secretary. No other nominations, Bill Smock was declared Board Secretary.
- VICE PRESIDENT**
Mike Bowns nominated Don Yates as Vice President. No other nominations, Don Yates was declared Vice President.
- RECORDING SECRETARY** There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to adopt a resolution to appoint Angie Baker as recording secretary.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- COMMITTEES** President Bowns will contact the board members to determine the best fit for Committee Assignments.
- REGULAR MEETING DATES AND TIMES** Regular board meeting dates and times will be determined at a later time.

Reorganizational Meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.

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
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Monson	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	NAY	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14	No. 15	No. 16	No. 17	No. 18
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Monson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	Abstain	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to approve the following items on the consent agenda.

- 1.1 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2021
 - b. Community Forum Minutes – April 13, 2021
- 1.2 Bill List
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
- 1.4 Financial Report
- 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement
- 1.6 Retirement of District Nurse Becky Hyett end of 2024-2025 school year
- 1.7 Retirement of Bus Driver Nancy Rockhold end of 2020-2021 school year

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

IHSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

2. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to accept the 2021-2022 IHSA Membership Renewal as presented.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

IESA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

3. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to accept the 2021-2022 IESA Membership Renewal in the amount of \$300.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

MCHS CHILLER BID

4. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Monson, to accept the Chiller Bid for the high school from Mechanical Service Inc., in the amount of \$286,990.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- MCJH ASBESTOS BID 5. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to accept the Asbestos Abatement Bid for the junior high school from Abel Plus Services, in the amount of \$22,700.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HS MATH CURRICULUM 6. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to adopt the 9-12 Math Curriculum as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HS ELA CURRICULUM 7. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to adopt the 9-12 ELA Curriculum as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- RELOCATE GRADES 5- 8 8. There was motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to relocate grades 5-8 from Joy for the 2022-2023 school year.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.
- CLOSED SESSION 9. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, at 8:53PM to go into Closed Session after a short recess for Personnel discussion.
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 Monson, to come out of Closed Session at 9:32PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE P/T APOLLO PRE K PARA 11. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to hire Chelsey Paslawski as Part Time Apollo Pre K Paraprofessional.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE JH TRACK COACH 12. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Monson, to hire Bob Stockham as Junior High Track Coach.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE NBE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER 13. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to hire Andrea Gattton as New Boston Elementary Special Education Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE NBE MUSIC/
JH BAND TEACHER

14. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Ariane Omerza Call as New Boston Elementary Music/Junior High Band Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

VOLUNTEER
EMPLOYEES

15. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to approve Sydney Brokaw as a volunteer for the high school track program and Teague Smith as a volunteer for the junior high track program.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE
CONTRACT

16. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to renew a three year contract for Taylor Saey as the Special Education Administrator. Salary will be determined at a later date.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

17. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to renew a five year superintendent employment contract for Scott Petrie in the amount of \$159,000.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

18. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. None

PUBLIC COMMENT 2. Several community members addressed the board with concerns regarding the possible closing of the Joy Facility and relocating grades 5-8. Michelle Marston, Sarah Dixon, and Derek Dixon expressed concerns in regards to busing, staffing, communication, and curriculum. They feel this decision is being made too quickly without community input. The amount of time some of our students could possibly be spending on bus routes was a big concern. Ms. Dixon also gave reasons why a consolidated K-8 or K-12 campus could work well.

BOARD COMMENTS 3. None

CORRESPONDENCE

4. Thank you cards were received for memorials sent to Kay Hucke's family with the passing of her father and Angie King's family with the passing of her father in law.

MCSEEF

5. Victor Johnson and Deb Ness provided information to the board on behalf of the Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation. The foundation is actively seeking new members. Mercer County Schools Excellence in Education Foundation is a non-profit group that was created to supplement funding to the school district in order to provide an excellent education for our students. Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at MCJH, Joy. Additional information can be found on the district website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. No additional comments or discussion on committee reports.

9-12 MATH
CURRICULUM

7. Mrs. Day provided information regarding the new Reveal Math Traditional, McGraw-Hill Math Curriculum for grades 9-12. The group compared a couple different curriculums and felt this layout worked well providing many practice problems and allowing several additional resources to be used. The instructional materials and assignments can be downloaded to the chrome books without needing internet access to complete.

9-12 ELA
CURRICULUM

8. Mr. Hofer discussed the ELA Curriculum that was provided in the board packet, stating that StudySync 2021 for grades 9-12 is much more interactive, meets expectations of alignment to the common core ELA standards, and aligns with the google platform.

JOY FACILITY

9. Bill Smock started the discussion reviewing the minutes from the Building and Grounds meeting. The architects laid out a possible time table in regards to relocating grades 7-8 out of Joy. It was determined that it is not possible by the fall of 2021. The committee recommends pushing that date back to fall of 2022.

Mr. Petrie gave his recommendation in regards to moving students this fall, stating this affects 900 students and 150 staff members, RIF deadline has passed if a reduction in staff is necessary, scheduling is a big job for 6-8 building, and construction is not possible on this timeline. He shared guidance from the ROE on closing a building and recommends a plan for the fall of 2022 giving time to build additional classrooms at MCIS.

Mike Bowns shared his view and concerns on how to provide a better learning environment for our students and teachers. A survey will be sent out to the community for their input with two to four different plan layouts.

Bill Smock stated our bonding capacity is \$23 million. We do not have enough finances to do a K-12 campus which costs approximately \$60 million. Don Yates stated that the voters will decide what we can do with that amount. Anything over \$11 million will increase property taxes. The surveys, that are mailed out to the community, will show a tax chart. Bill also asked the community to reach out to the board members with

questions, suggestions, concerns and/or feedback. Community involvement is very important and appreciated.

FOIA REQUESTS

10. We responded to two FOIA requests from Construct Connect and SmartProcure.

COMMUNITY FORUM

11. Mr. Petrie discussed the Community Forum held on April 13th, thanking the participants whom attended. The same survey that the attendees completed has been shared with the public on our social media sights. The community is being asked to complete the survey by Monday, April 24th. Mike Bowns stated that there was a lot of good input from the community members. The survey results will be shared on social media once completed.

IASB GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

12. Mr. Petrie informed the board that the IASB Governing Board meeting that is usually held in May in Geneseo, will be moved to June 3rd. The committee is hoping to find a larger space to hold an in person meeting.

RETURN TO PLAY UPDATE

13. Mr. Hofer gave an update on the Return to Play guidelines for the outdoor sports season. Spring sports plus wrestling will begin the week of April 26th. No tickets will be needed for the outdoor sports. Visiting fans will be allowed at our outdoor venues. This policy could be different at other host schools. Social distancing and mask wearing is a must while in attendance. The athletes will not need to wear masks during play/competition. Live streaming is TBD.

Wrestling will be limited to 25% capacity, social distancing and mask wearing is a must. Tickets are required to attend wrestling meets. No visiting fans for indoor sports. Live streaming will be available on YouTube or the NFHS network.

RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE

14. Mrs. Day gave an update on end of the year events happening at the high school. Detailed information will be pushed out to the students next week. Tickets will be given to students for the following:

National Honor Society
High School Musical
Graduation Ceremony
Awards Night
Baccalaureate

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Mr. Bush added that NBE will complete IAR testing this week.

Mr. Fleurette added information about end of the year events at Apollo to replace field trips. On May 5th the PTO has organized an event to have a number of big trucks come to Apollo. Power company trucks, fire trucks, etc. Each grade will have time to visit the trucks and talk to the operators about what the trucks do.

Mr. Koresko mentioned that MCIS is finishing up the IAR testing this week. Some events are being planned for some end of the year fun.

Mr. Sedam mentioned state testing will take place next week at the JH.

Mrs. Day gave a shout out to the staff for how well the year has went. The district has talked to the health department about holding a Pfizer Vaccination Clinic for students 16 and older.

Mr. Petrie mentioned the success with the rapid Covid testing kits in each building, helping keep us learning in person.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____