

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 Junior High School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL, on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Prior to Roll Call, President Bill Smock opened with the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Balmer, Monson, Smock, Wagner, Nelson and Yates. A quorum was present.

Absent: Lower

Administrators present: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Andrea Cooper, Teresa Ibouhouten, Chad Robertson and Tim Sedam

Also in Attendance: HS student (live-streaming) Denise Gipson, Michael Reick, Kady Hofer, Mollie Dunn, David Russell, Brooke Fleurette, Bill Fleurette, Erik Johnson, Natalie Nelson, Josh Frieden, Kelly Frieden, Ronda Linder, Recording Secretary Leanne McDermott

Reporters: None.

A Public Hearing was held to inform the public of our 2023 Tax Levy.

Mr. Petrie reviewed the 2023 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	VOICE
Nelson	VOICE
Lower	-
Monson	VOICE
Smock	VOICE
Wagner	VOICE
Yates	VOICE

MOTION TO ADJOURN

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates, to adjourn the Public Hearing for 2023 Tax Levy at 6:34PM.
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. 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 at *the Mercer County Junior High School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL* on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:34 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present upon roll call: Balmer, Smock, Nelson, Monson, Wagner and Yates. Lower arrived at 7:30 p.m.

A quorum was present.

Absent: None.

Administrators present: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principals Robertson, Sedam, Cooper and Ibouhouten.

Also in Attendance: HS student (live-streaming), Denise Gipson, Michael Reick, Kady Hofer, Mollie Dunn, David Russell, Brooke Fleurette, Bill Fleurette, Erik Johnson, Natalie Nelson, Josh Frieden, Kelly Frieden, Ronda Linder, Recording Secretary Leanne McDermott.

Reporters: None.

	No. 01	No. 02	No. 03	No. 04	No. 05	No. 06	No. 07	No. 08	No. 09	No. 10	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	VOICE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Lower	-	-	-	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Monson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Nelson	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE		AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

	No. 14	No. 15
Balmer	AYE	VOICE
Lower	AYE	
Monson	AYE	
Nelson	AYE	
Smock	AYE	
Wagner	AYE	
Yates	AYE	

CONSENT AGENDA

1. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates to approve the following items on the consent agenda as presented.

- 1.1 Meeting Minutes– November 15, 2023
- 1.2 Bill List
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
- 1.4 Financial Report
- 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement

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

2023 RESOLUTION OF TAX LEVY

2. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates, to approve the 2023 tax levy as presented.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

ADOPT PRESS POLICY UPDATE MINUS 6230

3. There was a motion by Balmer, seconded by Lower, to approve the PRESS Policy Quarterly updates except 6230 (Library Media Program).
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

TABLE PRESS POLICY 6230 UPDATE

4. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Monson to table PRESS Policy Quarterly Update 6230 until the January 2024 board meeting.
Roll Call: 3 Ayes, 4 Nays. Motion failed.

ADOPT PRESS POLICY 6230 UPDATE

5. There was a motion by Balmer, seconded by Lower to approve PRESS Policy Quarterly Update 6230 as presented.
Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 3 Nays. Motion carried.

FY24 MCHS SCIENCE TEACHER

6. There was a motion by Wagner, seconded by Monson to approve an additional MCHS science teacher for FY25.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

STUDENT ATHLETIC ADMISSIONS

7. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer to approve free admission for all Mercer County students to any Mercer County home games/events.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

8. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Yates to go into closed session after a short recess for personnel at 8:30 p.m.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

8.1 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)

OPEN SESSION

9. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock to come out of closed session at 9:10 PM.
Voice: 7 Ayes 0, Nays. Motion carried.

RE-HIRE SPRING COACHES

10. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve re-hiring spring coaches as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE MCHS ASSISTANT TRACK COACH

11. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Balmer, to approve hiring Jason Kenney as MCHS Assistant Boys Track Coach.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE APOLLO ELEMENTARY PARAPROFESSIONAL

12. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve hiring Natalie Finch as Apollo Paraprofessional.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE APOLLO ELEMENTARY PART-TIME COOK

13. There was a motion made by Monson, seconded by Smock to approve hiring Kim Parkinson as Apollo Elementary part-time cook.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE MCJH CUSTODIAN

14. There was a motion made by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve hiring Jaymie Slavish as MCJH custodian.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

HIRE BUS MONITOR

15. There was a motion made by Monson, seconded by Smock, to approve hiring Norma Cervacio as bus monitor.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried,

ADJOURN

16. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Smock, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.
Voice: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: 1. None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 2. Brooke Fleurette, MCHS librarian spoke regarding the ALA Statement. She specifically checks to obtain appropriate in our library. Erik Johnson addressed his concern for censorship. Michael Reick opposes the State of Illinois deciding which books will be in our school libraries. David Russell is concerned for book censorship and Josh Frieden voiced his concern regarding keeping the control of book choices local. Natalie Nelson, MCJH Special Ed. teacher spoke regarding her students use of audiobooks.

BOARD COMMENTS: 3. None.

CORRESPONDENCE: 4. None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 5. Bray Builders met with the Building and Grounds Committee and discussed the three phases for MCHS. A Community Forum has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024 followed by the regular board meeting.

2023 TAX LEVY 6. Mr. Petrie stated the tax rate will remain the same as last year at 4.84. The bulk is in bond levy.

ADOPT PRESS POLICY UPDATES 7. Mr. Petrie stated that initially he was unsure about approving 7270, but after speaking with Nurse Becky Hyett, he believes 7270 should be approved with no issues. Julie Wagner spoke regarding ALA Bill of Rights. Her understanding is that it is up to the librarian to obtain appropriate books available for the students. Though Brooke Fleurette's choices in student books are highly regarded, Julie fears that by adopting 6320, our ability to remove books that are sexually explicit will not be in the district's control. She believes the American Library Association doesn't have our local students' best interests in mind. Julie Wagner requested the board delay a decision regarding PRESS policy update 6230 and opposes sexually explicit books for students. Bill Smock stated that we have policies in our district where parents are able to view what books are available to their children. Each year at registration, parents are given the option to sign a waiver which does not grant their children access to the interlibrary book loan system. Of the 6,000+ online books available via interlibrary loan, it is up to the parents to discuss appropriate books with their children.

ADDITION OF MCHS FY25 SCIENCE TEACHER 8. Mrs. Cooper stated the need for an additional MCHS science teacher. Currently, some science courses are currently offered on rotation every other year. It would also allow honors courses for freshman and sophomore classes and adhere to the advanced placement act requirements.

STUDENT ATHLETIC ADMISSIONS 9. Mr. Petrie stated not enough revenue is made at school athletic events. It is recommended to eliminate the \$1 student admission fee and the Board will monitor the fee if an issue arrives.

FOIA REQUESTS: 10. Mr. Petrie addressed the recent FOIA requests regarding purchasing records, literacy and IAQ and Environmental Testing.

SCHOOL BOARD CONVENTION: 11. In addition to their written report, board members shared their IASB joint conference experiences. Julie Wagner shared the "Carousel of Panels". She believes it is worthy to look into adopting in our district. It incorporates great community involvement as another method to reach out to the community especially since our community is an older generation. Bill Smock shared "Amplifying Student Voices" where a district added two students to their board meetings. Jason Monson will share his report in the future.

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

Tim Sedam stated that Mr. Fornoff has the students learning how to play chess. Teresa Ibouhouten added that the New Boston Elementary Winter program went well and Amplify reading scores are up.

Submitted by:

Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____