

**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, March 17, 2021 at 6:02PM.**

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

ATTENDANCE

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

A quorum was present.

Absent: Balmer joined via Zoom at 6:30PM.

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

Also in Attendance: Pastor Dietmeier, Aubrey Norton, Liz Grey, Megan Ullrick, Amanda Heinrichs, Kris Chausse, Becky Hyett, Megan Sywassink, Stacey Tharp, Michelle Swanson, Laura Mehl, Marcia Garrett, Michelle Aldinger, Dustin Murray, and Secretary Angie Baker.

Reporters: Cathy Decker & Jim Taylor

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	No. 01	No. 02	No. 03	No. 04	No. 05	No. 06	No. 07	No. 08	No. 09	No. 10	No. 11
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	-	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14	No. 15	No. 16
Balmer	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Dillavou	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Wagner	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

CONSENT AGENDA 1. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bowns, to approve the following items on the consent agenda.

- 1.1 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2021
- 1.2 Bill List
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report
- 1.4 Financial Report
- 1.5 BCBS Health Insurance Account Statement

- 1.6 Maternity Leave for Brittani Glidden
 - 1.7 Resignation of Apollo Paraprofessional Lisa Watson
 - 1.8 Resignation of Music Teacher Larry Lipinski at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
 - 1.9 Resignation of Intermediate School Part Time Custodian Natalie Conaway
 - 1.10 Retirement of High School English Teacher Laura Mehl at the end of 2024-2025 school year
- Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

PRESS POLICY 1:10

2. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to approve PRESS Policy 1:10 as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

PRESS POLICY 1:20

3. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Smock, to approve PRESS Policy 1:20 as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

PRESS POLICY 1:30

4. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Smock, to approve PRESS Policy 1:30 as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

CO-OP CLASS FOR
CONSUMER ED CREDIT

5. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to approve the Co-Op Class as a Consumer Education Credit at the High School.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

WIU SPECIAL ED
INTERNSHIP

6. There was a motion by Bowns, seconded by Dillavou, to approve the Alternative Licensure/MAT Program agreement with Western Illinois University as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Wagner left at 7:00PM.
CLOSED SESSION

7. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bieri, to go into Closed Session after a short recess for Personnel, Negotiations., and Litigation at 7:27PM.

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)

7.2 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).

7.3 Security

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: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Wagner returned at 7:30PM.
OPEN SESSION

8. There was a motion by Dillavou, seconded by Bieri, to come out of Closed Session at 9:13 PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- HIRE MCIS PARA 9. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bieri, to hire Jessy Huston as Mercer County Intermediate School Paraprofessional.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE MCIS COOK 10. There was a motion by Bowns, seconded by Frieden, to hire Cristiana Hunt as Mercer County Intermediate School Cook.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- HIRE APOLLO PARA 11. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to hire Laurie Danner as Apollo Elementary School Paraprofessional.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- VOLUNTEER EMPLOYEE 12. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Yates, to approve Erica Knisley as Volunteer High School Volleyball Coach.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- NON TENURED STAFF 13. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to approve the Non Tenured staff contract renewal as presented.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL 14. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to renew the contract of Andrew Hofer as the Assistant High School Principal, High School Athletic Director, Strength and Conditioning Supervisor, and Head Football Coach for three years beginning July 2021 – June 2024 as presented. Salary will be determined at a later date.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- PRINCIPAL CONTRACT 15. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to renew the contract of Ryan Koresko as Intermediate School Principal for three years beginning August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2024 as presented. Salary will be determined at a later date.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- ADJOURN 16. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Bowns, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

- ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS 1. Additions
8.9 Resignation of MCIS Part Time Custodian – Natalie Conaway
8.10 Retirement of Laura Mehl at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
Deletions
10.1 Approve IHSA Membership Renewal

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. Several teachers were in attendance addressing the board with concerns about extending the student attendance day for Quarter 4. The Board of Education and Mr. Petrie were thanked for the support and work they have put into making this year successful with all of the COVID restrictions. Each teacher spoke briefly about how the school day looks in their buildings this year, what things are working, how things have been adjusted, and encouraging the board to start planning for next year if the restrictions are the same. Each teacher emphasized the importance of consistency for our students while still following the CDC guidelines and providing our kids a five day in person learning opportunity. Teachers are seeing gains and success even with difficulties and the shortened days. With 43 days remaining of the school year, they recommend sticking with the same schedule we have had throughout the school year.

Those who spoke:

Megan Ulrick – 6th Grade Science Teacher

Liz Gray – Apollo Kindergarten Teacher

Aubree Norton – Apollo 2nd Grade Teacher

Amanda Heinrichs – 8th Grade ELA Teacher

Kris Chausse – Apollo Special Education Teacher

BOARD COMMENTS

3. Bill Smock and Tyson Dillavou commended the teachers and the Building Leadership Teams for all the work that went into preparing for this school year and making it a successful year for our students. Mike Bowns thanked Becky Hyett and the building nurses for the extra work and dedication during the COVID pandemic. Julie Wagner discussed the Black Hawk Division Meeting on May 6th in Geneseo and the Informational Webinar for School Board Candidates on March 18th.

CORRESPONDENCE

4. Thank you cards were received for memorials sent to Pauline Noble (Dawn Noble's mother in law), John Molburg (Amy Molburg's father in law), and Bud Hennenfent (LeeAnn Baldwin's father).

AMPLIFY UPDATE

5. Megan Sywassink, New Boston Elementary 1st Grade Teacher, gave a presentation on the new Amplify Reading Curriculum sharing a slide presentation engaging the Board with questions and sharing example reading materials. She discussed the Pros and Cons of Amplify, comparing the current to prior reading levels. Teachers are seeing a lot of success with the new curriculum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. Finance Committee - Mr. Petrie discussed the ESSER funds stating that updates have been sent out listing the allowable usage for round 3. He also mentioned our Commercial Insurance coverage has gone out for bids. Ten companies have picked up bid packets from the district. He estimates 4 or 5 will return a bid.

Building and Grounds – Bill Smock reviewed the Building and Grounds minutes from the March 15th meeting. He mentioned bids going out on March 18th for High School Chiller with a bid opening on April 1st. The committee is still working with Bray to get a survey sent out to the

community. Currently under consideration is the possibility of moving students out of the Junior High building and relocating them to the Intermediate School. A building addition would allow MCIS to operate as a 6-8 building, pushing the 5th grade students back to the Elementary Buildings.

Policy Committee – Julie Wagner discussed the policies that were reviewed during the meeting. Approval of 1:10, 1:20, and 1:30 will be acted on under Action Items.

- CO-OP CLASS
CONSUMER ED CREDIT
7. Students are required to complete a consumer education course in order to graduate high school in Illinois. With the creation of the Co-Op program, board approval was requested to allow the class to meet that requirement starting the 2021-2022 school year.
- WIU SPECIAL ED
INTERNSHIP
8. Mr. Petrie discussed the new Master of Arts in Teaching/Alternative Licensure Program being offered at Western Illinois University. This is a two-year program that offers three different degrees: Special Education (K-21), Secondary Math (9-12), or a Secondary Science (9-12) degree. Currently we have two residents that have enrolled and looking for placement.
- FOIA REQUESTS
9. None
- COMMUNITY FORUM
10. Julie Wagner reminded the board of the upcoming Community Forum scheduled for April 13th. Using the information from this event, the board and the admins will work together to write new district goals and objectives for the 2021-2022 school year.
- SOLAR PROPOSAL
11. Mr. Petrie discussed the information provided to the board from the Clean Energy Design Group. After some discussion on location and construction, it was decided to not look into this any further at this time.
- COVID RAPID
SCREENING
12. Becky Hyett, District Nurse, discussed the rapid tests that we acquired from the Health Department. Each of our nurses are able to administer these tests to students who are experiencing COVID symptoms. Parent permission is required before the test can be performed. If the test comes back negative, the student can return to the classroom.
- RETURN TO PLAY
UPDATE
13. Mr. Petrie referred to the LTC conference summary sheet provided to the board regarding outdoor events. The visiting cheerleaders can now participate at games, but will not be given tickets for parents to attend. IDPH is allowing home teams to have fans, cheerleaders, band, and poms at the football games with a 20% capacity. Each player will receive 2 tickets. Home games are live streamed on YouTube and the NFHS network.
- RETURN TO LEARN
14. Mr. Petrie briefly discussed some options for next year if the guidelines are similar to this year. The ROE is looking into options of providing

remote learning. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS

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

Mr. Bush added that K-2 finished training on sound walls.

Mr. Fleurette added that they are working on the 3rd Quarter report cards. 91% of Apollo students are in person. Six students are looking at being retained.

Mr. Sedam added the importance and success of the Social Emotional Learning program provided by the Health Department. The junior high has 8-12 students working on credit recovery courses from 1st semester.

Mrs. Day stated the high school has 50+ students in credit recovery from semester one. Ten students returned to in person learning for 4th Quarter. Home volleyball games went well this week. First football game is this Saturday at UTHS.

Mr. Koresko thanked the teachers for all the hard work this year and the ability to pack a lot of instruction and learning into a shortened day.

Submitted By: _____
Recording Secretary

President, Bd. of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____