

**MINUTES OF A *SPECIAL 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 Special Meeting at Mercer County Intermediate School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL 61231, **Thursday, August 12th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Balmer (via zoom), Bieri, Bowns, Monson, Smock (via zoom), Wagner, & Yates

Absent: none

Also present: Supt. Petrie, Principals Fleurette, Bush, Koresko, Day, Sedam.

Also in Attendance: Athletic Director Andrew Hofer, Ashley Coulter, Amy Fox, Erik Johnson, Randi Dixon, Ashlie Fuller, Rhonda Messerly, Craig McPeek, Adam Septer, Kim Miller, Recording Secretary Angie Baker and many other community members.

Reporters: Jim Taylor

RECORD OF MOTIONS & VOTES

	NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4	NO. 5
Balmer	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE
Bieri	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Bowns	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Monson	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE
Smock	AYE	AYE	NAY	AYE	AYE
Wagner	NAY	NAY	AYE	AYE	AYE
Yates	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE	AYE

END DISCUSSION

1. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to end the discussion.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE

2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to approve the Return to Learn as amended and to follow all state guidelines for the remainder of the school year as they change.
Roll Call: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion carried.

SCHOOL BOARD LOCAL CONTROL RESOLUTION

3. There was a motion by Yates, seconded by Bowns, to approve the School Board Local Control Resolution as presented.
Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 2 Nays. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

4. There was a motion by Bieri, seconded by Yates, to go into Closed Session after a short recess for Personnel discussion at 7:38PM.

4.1 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

5. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Bieri, to return to open session at 8:05pm.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

6. There was a motion by Monson, seconded by Bieri, to adjourn at 8:07pm.
Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Several members of the community addressed the board with concerns about the mask mandate that was put into place by Governor Pritzker on August 4th. Several parents spoke asking the board to go against the mandate stating it's time we take a stand and take back control of our district. Some shared concerns about the mental emotional state of their kids after wearing masks last year and the statistics of teen suicide increasing over that time. Ideas were shared about raising money to cover the funding that could potentially be lost. One parent shared concerns that if we chose to not follow the mandate that our state may go back to stricter guidelines, including the possibility of shutting schools down.

BOARD COMMENTS

2. Julie Wagner addressed the board stating her frustrations with the state especially over the last month. On July 23rd the board approved a draft plan stating masks are optional. On August 4th Governor Pritzker passed a mask mandate for all school districts taking the control out of the hands of the local board. She understands what the state is threatening to take away from our schools and wants to do what is best for our kids. Several other board members expressed concerns about the loss of state funding and loss of the school's ability to engage in any IHSA and IESA athletic competitions. Health and safety concerns of students and staff are top priority.

**SCHOOL BOARD
LOCAL CONTROL
RESOLUTION**

3. Julie Wagner discussed the resolution that was included in the board packet stating its intention was to let the Governor know we want local control of our district.

Submitted By:

Recording Secretary

President, Bd. Of Education

Secretary, Bd. of Education

Approved: _____