

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
of the
MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday October 6, 2020
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of October 2020 was held this day virtually due to COVID19 regulations.

The Board of Education took the following actions:

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board of Education President Camille Rainiero called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: Ms. Rainiero read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be posted on the District website and in the Trenton Times and mailed to the Mercer County Clerk's Office.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Camille Rainiero, Lisa Vena, Yasmin Hernandez-Manno (joined at 5:00PM), Jan Lewis, Gerald Stockman (joined at 4:38PM) and Stacy Morgan Santo.

Also Present: Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Superintendent, Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Walter Bliss, Board Attorney.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Suspended.
3. Public Session was held at the end.
4. Approval of the October 6, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo	X		X			
Stockman						X
Lewis		X			X	
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

5. Bills to be Approved totaling \$4,742,547.33 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman						X
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer's Report for August 2020

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

7. Correspondence & Communications:

Ms. Donnelly reported the MCSSSD Biosecurity Manual for the 2020/2021 School Year has been updated and distributed. A copy is available for review in the Business Office.

8. Committee Reports: None

9. Superintendent's Report:

PERSONNEL:

- Appointments, Resignations, Leaves, Retirements, etc. (Attachment 9-A)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

MISCELLANEOUS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

- 2020-2021 Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff (Attachment 9-B)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Extended School Year Calendar – Summer 2021 (Attachment 9-C)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- School Safety and Security Plan – Mercer High School/Regional Day School Annual Update (*available for review in the Administrative Offices*)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- School Safety and Security Plan – Joseph F. Cappello School Annual Update (*available for review in the Administrative Offices*)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X					
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- School Safety and Security Plan – Mercer Elementary School Annual Update (*available for review in the Administrative Offices*)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Approval to Submit application for Kids Gardening.org/Klorane Botanical Foundation, 2021 Budding Botanist Grant. The purpose is to further grow the community gardens with a focus on improved irrigation and increased crop variety at Mercer High School. If selected, recipient would receive \$1,200.00 (\$1,000.00 check + \$200.00 in gardening materials). Deadline for grant application is October 30, 2020. Grant application is being submitted by Mercer High School.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Approve to submit the modified and changed Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services (SCHEIS) Grant in the amount of \$156,000 to provide partial support for Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management for the period 10/01/2020 - 06/30/2021.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws - First Reading

First Reading -- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws

BYLAWS
NONE

POLICIES

NONE

REGULATIONS

NONE

Second Reading -- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws

BYLAWS

NONE

POLICIES

P1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families (M)

P1648.03 Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction (M)

P2270 Religion in the Schools

P5200 Attendance (M)

P8320 Personnel Records (M)

REGULATIONS

R5200 Attendance (M)

R8320 Personnel Records (M)

Abolished -- Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws

NONE

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

REPORTS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the month of September 2020 - none
- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of September 2020:

Month	Investigations	HIB	Non-HIB
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X					
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

• Enrollment Data as of September 2020

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2019-2020	497	498	548	546	546	551	544	559	563	561	561	560
2020-2021	428	428	496									

	08/31/2020	09/30/2020
Mercer High School	170	236
Mercer Elementary School	177	188
Regional Day	6	7
Joseph F. Cappello School	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>
TOTAL:	<u>428</u>	<u>496</u>

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo		X	X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve the change of date for A Partnership for Change (APFC) to provide professional development training for Mercer High School staff on October 13, 2020. (originally scheduled for March 19, 2020). The training entitled Teen Dating Abuse will include types of abuse, warning signs, safety planning, how to support a victim, intervention strategies and resources. The cost not to exceed \$600.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- b. Approve member participation in the PEPPM (Pennsylvania Education Purchasing Program for Microcomputers) National Technology Cooperative Purchasing Program (attachment 11-b).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- c. Approve a lease through Canon USA c/o Prior Nami Business Systems under NJ State Contract A40462 for a Canon Image Runner 4751 to replace an aged copier located in the Business Office. Lease term is for 48 months at \$224.31 per month to include machine and maintenance. Option to purchase at Fair Market Value (FMV) at lease end.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- d. Approve a Postage Machine Lease and Meter Rental through FP Mailing Solutions for a Post Base Vision S5 Package for 36 months located at Joseph F Cappello School in the main office at \$60 per month.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- e. Approve a Postage Machine Lease and Meter Rental through Great America Financial Service for a Post Base Vision A5 Package for 60 months located at Mercer High School in the main office at \$116.30 per month.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- f. Approve to accept the revised Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services (SCHEIS) Grant in the amount of \$52,000 to provide partial support for Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management for the period 07/01/2020-09/30/2020, \$156,000 for the period 10/01/2020-06/30/2021 total award \$208,000 (Attachment 11-f).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- g. Approve to award the Kitchen Equipment Repair Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-10 to Malachy Mechanical Company as needed based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$24,750 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$24,750 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$26,850 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$76,350 (Attachment 11-g).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- h. Approve to award the HVAC Repairs and Maintenance Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-11 to McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc., based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$186,334.65 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$188,846.95 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$191,750.35 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$566,931.95 (Attachment 11-h).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- i. Approve to award the Inspection and Maintenance of Fire Alarms and Life Safety Systems Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-12 to Absolute Protective Systems, Inc., based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$35,649 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$36,769 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$37,144 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$109,562 (Attachment 11-i).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- j. Approve to award the Building Physical Security Solutions Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-13 to Dynamic Security based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$51,848 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$52,620.40 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$53,180.96 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$157,659.36 (Attachment 11-j).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- k. Approve to award the Electrical Services Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-14 to Magic Touch Construction based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$67,806 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$66,60.25 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$68,453.50 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$202,866 (Attachment 11-k).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- l. Approve to award the Generator Inspection Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-15 to Gen Serve., based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$14,380 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$14,380 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$14,380 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$43,140 (Attachment 11-l).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- m. Approve to award the Plumbing Services Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-16 to Magic Touch Construction based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$68,703.50 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$69,362.50 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$70,027.25 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$208,093.25 (Attachment 11-m).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- n. Approve to award the Grease Trap Cleaning Services Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-17 to Russell Reid Waste Hauling based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$2,150 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$2,150 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$2,150 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$6,450 (Attachment 11-n).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- o. Approve to award the Roof Technician Bid #103-MCSSSDCPS-21-18 to Northeast Roof Maintenance based on time and materials in the amount not to exceed \$20,900 for the 2020/2021 school year and \$20,900 for the 2021/2022 school year and \$20,900 for the 2022/2023 school year for a total of \$62,700 (Attachment 11-o).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- p. Staff and Student Travel (Attachment 11-p).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- q. Approval of Transportation Contract(s), Bids, Renewals and Addendum (11-q).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- r. Miscellaneous Equipment Disposal List (Attachment 11-r).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- s. Approve the Roxey Ballet Dance Program for the students of Mercer Elementary School at no cost to the District. Program dates: January 5, 7, 12, 13 & 14, 2021, two classes: 9:30-10:30 & 10:30 – 11:30. Informal Showing Date which may be streamed virtually for the school and will occur Friday, January 15, 2021 from 10:30 – 11:15. Classes will be implemented via Zoom, In person Hybrid or a combination of both (Attachment 11-s).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena			X			
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

12. PUBLIC SESSION:

NJ published an App - Covid19 dashboard which will provide additional Covid related information.

Ilene Paskanik, Teacher at MHS said I understand wearing masks are imperative. But we are asked to wear masks in the classroom while teaching remotely

Dr. Schneider said it is taking time to get used to it. Mantra: All masks-all the time in the office. There are others moving around. We never know who we will come across. The aerosol has a cumulative effect.

Ms. Paskanik replied it is not about the time we are with the students.

Tina Jablonski, Teacher at JFC said she worked a partial day while no students.

Lisa Vena asked are we speaking of remote learning? If not in classroom, why the need for a mask?

Dr. Schneider said we cannot give choices on mask wearing.

Ms. Donnelly clarified that we are discussing masks wearing October 19 – 26, 2020 when staff are back to prepare for the students return.

Lisa Pusillo, Teacher at JFC, I do not understand why we are waiting for a week before assistants. Can it be reconsidered?

Dr. Schneider stated the reason is from an IT perspective to ensure we can work remotely from the classroom.

Ms. Pusillo replied we need them to help with the set up. We are in complete support of Ms. Bigos's idea to have full classes in full days in person. In the afternoon students are tired.

Leah Housel, Teacher at JFC said my own children were exposed. We need a protocol on how to handle these situations.

Dr. Schneider said the nurses are trained.

Anne Marie Nolan, Occupational Therapist at MHS is concerned with the communication. She suggested using robo call system to inform families.

Maureen Welsh, Teacher at MHS wanted to acknowledge Kris Gould, Supervisor at MHS for all of his efforts since March to present and are grateful for him and applaud him

Cindy Galloway, Teacher at MES read a statement (attached).

Dr. Schneider responded you are with Leah Pray and I. We discussed this to bring back in a succession so teachers can prepare. This is why we decided to come back over time. The heads of the unions met with administration to put a plan in place.

Leah Pray, President MCSSETA reported all of this information has been shared with the building principals by me, Dr Schneider, Tina Jablonski, and Deborah Donnelly. I will address at a meeting once the healthcare information comes out. Please reach out to the building principals and copy me and Dr. Schneider.

Dr. Schneider followed up by saying there is a letter going out tomorrow to parents regarding masks, temperature checks and lunch. It will be on District Announcements for our staff to see the communication.

Ms. Jablonski said we have building meetings and speak to building principals. Not cohesive with the District.

Clara Bigos, Principal at JFC said we are accommodating our students.

Ms. Jablonski said we know that is who our children are. Spoke to nurses regarding those that cannot wear masks. Will we be able to get N95 masks? I am not feeling secure.

Dr. Schneider said I will take a look at this with Ms. Donnelly regarding PPE. CS teachers needing face shields, needs will differ. Ms. Bigos can collect your PPE concerns.

Lori Cuddy, Teacher at MHS said only our District is not back full time. Have we looked at the other districts and what they are doing with this population?

Dr. Schneider responded yes, we do know the concerns and we anticipate different teachers needing different types of PPE. We will look at those needs when we see who/how many are returning to your classroom.

Ms. Cuddy said I commend the decision to return as hybrid. The sending districts are open to special education. I am concerned they will not continue to send their students to us.

Dr. Schneider responded Remember, in the past, we managed the H1N1 protocols with our local department of health and education Our Nurses reported our incident rates weekly to the department of health. For those

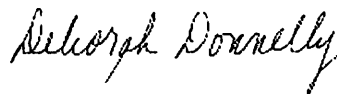
who were not here then, we did a great job. Congratulations to all our staff then, because we reported zero cases of flu the entire spring semester. We did a great job then and we can do it again!

Karen Burke, Nurse at MHS reported the Burlington County Special Services School District has been back in session 5 full days a week. I am in touch with the school nurse weekly. Things are going well. Communication is important, nurses feel it is important that we go back safely. All the nurses are working together. Last year we complained about how bad the high school looked. The work has been done, thank you for the school being painted and the new floors!

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Stacy Morgan Santo and Seconded by Gerald Stockman to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (6) aye's (0) nays. Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Good evening-

My name is Cindy Golway, and I am a teacher at Mercer Elementary School.

The fun fact about my journey to MCSSSD is that I have known that I have wanted to work here since the time I was in second grade as my cousin went through our district.

Why do I share this?

2 reasons-

1. my hard work and dedication to this district comes from the heart! I love this place and the population I work with day in and out.
2. I have second grader of my own who I have chosen to keep remote because of the mask wearing rules and knowing how hard it is.

Planners!

Teachers are planners!

Planning Started in the second grade to get myself her to my dream job!

Planning how possible to care for my family while going back into the classroom to do my job.

Goodbye snuggles with my daughter. Goodbye contact with my elder parents. As I return to the classroom with students who may be unmasked.

But this all ties back to many unanswered questions with the opening of our building.

Things that I usually do without blinking an eye caring for my students but now an uneasy sense of how to do it while social distancing.

Example you may ask? Sure

Changing a student who has wet themselves but wears high top sneakers because they have difficulty keeping shoes on.

Or the child who defecates and it takes two staff members to clean and change? Suggestions welcome on how to do this whole social distancing.

What's the plan and protocol for aggressive students?

Those students run away when not held onto them?

MASK?

Who wears them? How do they keep them on?

Let's talk promoting and the bases of an ABA program. Hands on. Touching? How can we do this? How can we guide and show without touching?

Cleaning protocol? What is that going to look like? What Exactly does a "deep clean" look like instead a nightly cleaning?

Hand washing needs to be added to the schedule. How are our students expected to do this on their own? Many in our population needs promoting to clean hands and now just play with water, soap if we are lucky.

What does feeding look like in the classroom? Is there 6-foot silverware being invented I do not know about?

I had to say something, I had to speak up because I am losing sleep. I have a constant knot in my stomach. I want to be in my routine! With my colleagues. Doing what we do best.

Because if you think teachers think outside of the box you should see what we have done teaching virtually. Just as much as we are adjusting to teaching in this environment we are also learning on our own with limited guidance.

Teachers are resultant humans who love other people's children like they are our own, but please make it safe! Please keep us safe so we can keep loving our own children.

We want answers, so we feel safe. It is not that we don't want to go back in our work home.

Thank you for your time.