

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING  
Tuesday, April 7, 2020  
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of April 2020 was held this day via Virtual Meeting.

The Board of Education took the following actions:

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board of Education President Camille Rainiero called the meeting to order at 4:30 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, District Announcements, the Mercer County Clerk's Office and mailed to the *Trenton Times*.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Camille Rainiero, Yasmin Hernandez-Manno, Lisa Vena & Jan Lewis via Virtual Meeting due to COVID19.

**Also Present:** Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Superintendent, Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dana Hice-DePugh, Assistant Superintendent, and Walter Bliss, Board Attorney.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Rainiero suspended.
3. **PUBLIC SESSION:** held at end.
4. **Approval of the March 3, 2020 Board Meeting Regular Minutes:**

A Motion by Jan Lewis and seconded by Lisa Vena to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

**Roll Call:**

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Abstain
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

5. Bills To Be Approved totaling \$4,860,804.29 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent

A Motion by Lisa Vena and seconded by Jan Lewis to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for February 2020

A Motion by Jan Lewis and seconded by Lisa Vena to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

7. Correspondence & Communications

Dr. Schneider discussed the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic – we are following the Governor’s Executive Order in which he closed schools until April 30<sup>th</sup>. The District was last onsite on March 12<sup>th</sup> and started remote learning on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Schneider thanked the school family for doing their best in the new structure. We are getting better every day!

We continue to post notices on our website for families and staff.

Free and reduced students are serviced with food pick-up services, we are managing IT requests and continuing with therapy services.

ESY plans are ongoing. We are planning for either an onsite or remote learning environment.

Spring break is April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Yasmin Hernandez-Manno noted that at the April 1, 2020 meeting, the State Board approved e-learning for virtual services. On April 3, 2020 information was shared with the Superintendents.

Any changes to instructional components of the emergency plans need to be sent to the County Office and upload to the District website.

Today the Governor noted that the school closing will be indefinite.

- 8. Committee Reports – None
- 9. Superintendent’s Report - None

New/Special Projects: None

Recommend Board approve the following:

PERSONNEL & ADDENDUM

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education does hereby approve the following appointments, reappointments, adjustments, resignations, terminations, retirements, leaves, transfers, suspensions, and requests for expedites, emergency certification for the School Year 2019 – 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Education submit to the County Superintendent, as required, applications for emergency hiring and the applicants’ attestations that they have not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq, N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et seq, or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et seq.

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

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

Revised job description –Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary (*Attachment 9-B*)

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

MISCELLANEOUS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

Approve to submit the Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services (SCHEIS) Grant in the amount of \$33,233 to provide support for Case Management to conduct outreach and support to families of Deaf/Hard of Hearing children in need of hearing follow-up for the period April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

Approve to submit the Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services (SCHEIS) Grant in the amount of \$208,000 to provide partial support for Special Child Health Services (SCHS) Case Management for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

Approve to submit the Education First Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in Action Awards Grant in the amount up to \$7,000.00 to implement SEL initiatives in classrooms or schools for the period September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

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

**BYLAWS - Non**  
**POLICIES - No**  
**REGULATIONS – None**

**Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws - Second Reading (no changes made from first reading)**

**BYLAWS – Non**  
**POLICIES – Non**  
**REGULATIONS – None**  
**ABOLISHED -None**

**REPORTS:**

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the month of March 2020

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno -	Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero -	Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent		

- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of March 2020:

Month	Investigations	HIB	Non-HIB
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	0
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno -	Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero -	Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent		

Enrollment Data as of March 2020

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>2018-2019</b>	454	454	547	567	571	575	579	580	581	586	587	588
<b>2019-2020</b>	497	498	548	546	546	551	544	559	563			

	<b>2/29/2020</b>	<b>3/31/2020</b>
Mercer High School	254	253
Mercer Elementary School	209	209
Regional Day	11	11
Joseph F. Cappello School	<u>85</u>	<u>90</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>559</u></b>	<b><u>563</u></b>

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve the Resolution to adopt the 2020/21 Mercer County Special Services School District Budget (Attachment 11-a). \*  
\* Item has been tabled.

- b. Approve the Resolution to adopt the Hamilton Regional Day School Budget for 2020/2021 (Attachment 11-b).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- c. Approval for Ahha Moments LLC to provide professional development training for Mercer Elementary School Classroom Assistants/IBA's/One-on-One staff on May 12, 2020. The training is entitled "Rise and Shine". The cost of the two-hour training will be \$300.

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- d. Approve Comegno Law Group as Special Counsel specializing in Special Education beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 on an as needed basis at the rate of \$185 an hour for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 (Attachment 11-d).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- e. Approve to contract with Bayada Home Healthcare Incorporated and Mercer County Special Services School District to provide a Registered Nurse to the District on a substitute basis as needed for the 2020/2021 school year at a rate of \$55 per hour (Attachment 11-e).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- f. Approve the Model Written Indoor Air Quality Program complying with the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (POESH) Program, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Standard (N.J.A.S. 12:100-13) (Attachment 11-f).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- g. Approve to award VMG Group for Bid # JFC Roof Replacement System Project #19.001 in the amount of \$1,027,000 (attachment 11-g).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- h. Approve the use of the Hamilton Police for the safety and security of students and staff at Mercer High School and Mercer Elementary School during 2020/21 school year as needed by the Principal at the Township extra duty hourly pay rate.

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- i. Approve to continue to contract with Frontline Central for the implementation of Frontline Central software at an annual subscription cost of \$11,259.63 and absence & substitute management and time & attendance in the amount of \$13,570.02 and employee evaluation management with Danielson 2011/1013 in the amount of \$7,685.58 beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- j. Approve to accept the Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services (SCHEIS) Grant in the amount of \$33,233 to provide support for case management to conduct outreach and support to families of Deaf/Hard of Hearing children in need of hearing follow-up (Attachment 11-j).

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	

- k. Approve to accept the award in the amount of \$500 for the HPS/MAG Grant sponsored by Hardy Plant Society/MidAtlantic Group.

A Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Jan Lewis was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Ms. Vena -	Yes	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes
Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes
Mr. Stockman -	Absent	



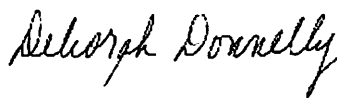
12. PUBLIC SESSION

Leah Pray, MCSSETA President said parents are overwhelmed with the amount of work the students have. Can something be done to reduce? I had trouble finding the Board meeting on the website, can it be made more prominent?

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Lisa Vena to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (4) aye's (0) nay's. Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Deborah Donnelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary