

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday September 1, 2020
4:30 pm

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Morgan Santo	X	
Stockman	X	
Lewis		X
Vena	X	
Hernandez	X	
Rainiero	X	

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Suspended
3. Public Session

Carline Mirthil presented the HIB report for the 2019-2020 school year (Attachment).

Michelle DiCoio, District Test Coordinator presented the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Science Spring 2019 Results.

4. Approval of August 4, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

5. Bills to be Approved totaling \$2,439,402.36 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	X			
Lewis						X
Vena	X		X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

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

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

7. Correspondence & Communications

Ms. Donnelly reported on the Association of School Business Official (ASBO) International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Ms. Donnelly also noted we have received this award 8 consecutive years since 2011-12 audit for meeting all accounting and legal requirements.

8. Committee Reports

9. Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Schneider stated we will be all remote learning through November 9, 2020, first marking period. We are following guidelines for a healthy return. Pandemic Teams review regularly and hope the positivity rates will decline and we can update before November.

Ms. Morgan Santo asked if there is a helpline for students to get help with IT issues?

Ms. Donnelly noted we have an IT helpdesk that receives concerns/questions since March and requests are dealt with in the order received.

Dr. Schneider noted we are switching out laptops and Chromebooks if it requires repairs.

Ms. Morgan Santo asked if the teachers are remote or teaching from the classroom?

Dr. Schneider stated teachers can use the classroom alone with social distancing in the building and can teach onsite. Some have been set up at home and choose not to come in. Approximately 10 prefer to come in to teach. We expect to increase that number as we get closer to November. We are not currently pressuring them to come on-site.

SUPERINTENDENT’S AGENDA

NEW/SPECIAL PROJECTS: None

PERSONNEL:

Recommend Board approve the following:

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Presentation of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) Semi-Annual Report for the period 01/01/2020 - 06/30/2020 – Carline Mirthil, Principal

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

- Self-Assessment findings regarding the “Commissioner’s Program and Guidance for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” (P.L.2010,c.122), for each of the schools within the Mercer County Special Services School District for the 2019-2020 school year. (Attachment 9-B)

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

- Presentation of New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Science Spring 2019 Results - Michelle DiCoio, District Test Coordinator (Attachment 9-C)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman		X	X			
Lewis						X
Vena	X		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 (Attachment 9-D)

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)

Second Reading -- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws* (Attachment 9-E)

BYLAWS

NONE

POLICIES

- P1648 Restart and Recovery Plan (M) (*changed from first reading)
- P2622 Student Assessment (M)
- P1649 Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (M)
- P2431.3 Heat Participation Policy for Student-Athlete Safety (M)
- P5320 Immunization
- P5330.04 Administering an Opioid Antidote (M)
- P5610 Suspension (M)
- P5620 Expulsion (M)

REGULATIONS

- R5320 Immunization
- R5330.04 Administering an Opioid Antidote (M)
- R5610 Suspension Procedures (M)
- R8451 Control of Communicable Disease (M)

Abolished -- Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws

NONE

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

	07/31/2020	08/31/2020
Mercer High School	170	170
Mercer Elementary School	177	177
Regional Day	6	6
Joseph F. Cappello School	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>
TOTAL:	<u>428</u>	<u>428</u>

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Affiliation Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District Project Child Clinic Program and The CYO - Yardville Branch School beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (Attachment 11-a).

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

- b. Approve to accept the Project Child Clinic Grant in the amount of \$19,329.00 for the period 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021.

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

- c. Approve to accept the Special Child Health Services County grant for \$104,345.00 for the period 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021.

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

- d. Approve to accept the Project Adults Grant for \$100,000.00 for the period 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021.

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

- e. Approve to accept the modified and changed 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. (previously approved in April 2020 for \$208,000 for the period 07/01/2020-06/30/2021).

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

- f. Approve the District's Respiratory Protection Plan/Policy (RPP) for the 2020-2021 school year (attachment 11-f).

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

- g. Approve to accept the Grant for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2020 in the amount of \$15,000.

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

- h. Approve the Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District and Genova Burns, Attorney-at-Law for Negotiation Attorney Services beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Attachment 11-h).

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

- i. Approve the SECURE Act Retirement Plan Changes to the 403(b) and Governmental 457 Retirement Plans (Attachment 11-i).

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

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

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

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

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

1. Approve Facilities Annual Maintenance Budget amount worksheet M-1 per N.J.A.C.6A:26A to be submitted to the Department of Education County Office and the Mercer County Special Services School District Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report for the 2020/2021 school year (Attachment 11-l).

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

Jennifer Semple, Physical Therapist - MES, stated there are options that we can use our safety protocols to deliver some sort of in-person services. Students cannot get much out of virtual therapy. Many districts are opening and offering on site therapies

Dr. Schneider responded we are convening a meeting next week with Dr. Sharlin and nurses involved. With your help we can hopefully put out a pilot with some families. The team is moving forward on this.

Beth Breeden, Parent said she applauds Ms. Semple and said she will bring her child. The pilot is days away, please I am waiting. We need MCSSSD. I have a petition in Robbinsville with 600 signatures.

Ms. Rainiero said we received your email. We want to try to work with these students that need PT services.

Mr. Stockman added we want to be sure Ms. Semple and Ms. Breeden’s comments are connected and, in a few days, will move forward. The letter referred to has not yet been seen.

Ms. Vena said she has not yet seen a letter either.

Ms. Rainiero asked how often are PT services are given?

Dr. Schneider said she can provide a Friday Memo with that information, as it varies. We still have concerns for students and staff that may have health concerns.

MaryBeth Smith, MES Nurse said she is ready to come in and help with PT & OT as needed. She is concerned about the students who need these services. Academics can catch up, but the students need the specialized services.

Dr. Schneider said those on the call interested in the committee, we can get something to the Board by next Friday.

Nicole Pratt, parent, said even why hybrid is in session parents should still have options for in-person therapy.

Nick Pappano, Speech Therapist MES agreed that OT/PT are very crucial. Also sent information regarding speech. Some students are falling behind on remote. Therapists assess by observation not by testing math or science.

Dr. Schneider said I understand you are going to be in class to provide instruction.

Mr. Pappano responded: plan to be in a few days. I have reached out to parents in numerous ways, but it is hard to assess how well things are being done/skills when students are not getting on Goggle Classroom. Students have devices but some parents cannot get on to access Google Meets.

Michelle Cromwell, Classroom Assistant - MHS asked did I misunderstand that it was said that we have a reopening plan?

Dr. Schneider said the plan says as of November 9, 2020 we will resume a hybrid model if the positivity rates decrease.

Ms. Morgan Santo asked if our plan has been approved by the State?

Ms. Smith said some districts are requiring testing by the return, will we be required?

Dr. Schneider responded no, not required. We will have a self-assessment app for employees to access daily to indicate temperature or symptoms and to assist in contact tracing. Right now, in Trenton we are at 9%, we are looking for under 3%. We are in contact with the Department of Health and the Mercer County Superintendents. We hare hoping to be in a better place by November 9, 2020.

13. Adjournment:

A Motion by Gerald Stockman and Seconded by Lisa Vena to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (5) aye's (0) nays. Meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary