

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING  
Tuesday August 4, 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: At the end
- 4a. Approval of the July 7, 2020 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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			

5. Bills to be Approved totaling \$4,458,319.54 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		X			
Vena						X
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

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

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			

7. Correspondence & Communications

Dr. Schneider announced the re-opening plan due Friday to the County includes several standards, masks, screening etc. Each principal will post on the website.  
 The schedule will be ½ days for September for the hybrid model: AA (Monday/Tuesday)-Wednesday Remote-BB(Thursday/Friday).  
 Alert parents/community of the positivity rate. Some sending districts presenting a full remote start.  
 Meeting with the Health Department regarding students not wearing masks on Friday.  
 Preliminary plans to be posted by Friday.  
 Trenton will be on-site in November. We are working closely with the Department of Health to determine the positivity rate monthly

8. Committee Reports

9. Superintendent’s Report:

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		X			
Vena						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		X			
Vena						X
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Mercer County Technical School District & Mercer County Special Services School District Coronavirus (COVID-19) Action Plan and eLearning Plan as of June 23, 2020 (Attachment 9-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			

- Approve to submit submission of grant application 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		X			
Vena						X
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

- Continuation of Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying last approved on August 7, 2018 for the 2020-2021 school year

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			

- District Mentoring Plan for 2020-2021 (available for review in the Assistant Superintendent’s Office)

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			

- 2020-2021 Professional Development Plan(s) for Mercer High School, Mercer Elementary School, Joseph F. Cappello School and the MCSSSD Plan (Attachment 9-C)

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			

- 2020-2021 Nursing Services Plan (Attachment 9-D)

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			

- 2020-2021 ScIP Committee Members (Attachment 9-E)

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			

- 2020-2021 School Preparedness & Emergency Planning drill schedule for Mercer High School, Mercer Elementary School and Joseph F. Cappello School (Attachment 9-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			

- 2020-2021 Code of Conduct for Mercer High School, Mercer Elementary School and Joseph F. Cappello School (available for review in Administrative Offices)

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			

- Revised job description – Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent (Attachment 9-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			

- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws - First Reading (Attachment 9-H)

**BYLAWS**

None

**POLICIES**

- P1648 Restart and Recovery Plan (M)
- 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)

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

**BYLAWS**

B0152 Board Officers

**POLICIES**

- P5330 Administration of Medication (M)
- P7243 Supervision of Construction (M)
- P8210 School Year

**REGULATIONS**

R5330 Administration of Medication (M)

**ABOLISHED**

None

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			

**REPORTS:**

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the month of July 2020 - none

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			

- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of July 2020:

Month	Investigations	HIB	Non-HIB
July	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0

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			

- Enrollment Data as of July 2020

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

	06/30/2020	07/31/2020
Mercer High School	252	170
Mercer Elementary School	207	177
Regional Day	11	6
Joseph F. Cappello School	<u>90</u>	<u>75</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<u>560</u>	<u>428</u>

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			

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

Recommend Board approve the following:

- a. Approve the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (Attachment 11-a).

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 the Compressed Gas Safety Program in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.101 Standards (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 to accept a donation from the Hamilton Township Knights of Columbus Council #6213 in the amount of \$925.35 for the students of the Mercer Elementary School.

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 the Student Affiliation Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District and William Patterson University (Attachment 11-d).

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 to contract with Homecare Therapies dba/Horizon Healthcare Staffing 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).

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 Handle With Care Behavior Management System, Inc., to provide recertification training for the District staff members who will turnkey train staff in proper restraint handling of the students as per the State of New Jersey guidelines. The recertification training is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The cost of the training not to exceed \$3,300. which includes \$2,500. for the first ten (10) participants, \$250. each for an additional two (2) participants (if necessary) and \$300. for additional expenses (mileage, tolls, etc.) (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 addendums to the 2019-2020 bus route contracts re-negotiated pursuant to the Implementation of P.L. 2020, Chapter 27 (attachments 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 the Resolution approving the adoption of required forms to be used for the filing of Notices of Tort Claim against the Board of Education in accordance with the Tort Claim Act for the 2020/2021 school year (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. Staff and Student Travel (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. Miscellaneous Equipment Disposal List (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 the Resolution for the Board President, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator, to enter into contracts for School Transportation for the 2020/2021 School Year (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 the Contract with Eastern Armored Services, Inc. to transport District deposits from Mercer High School to PNC Bank per scheduled dates for the period September 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021 at \$34. per diem (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			

12. PUBLIC SESSION

Dr. Schneider provided the results to the surveys to parents:

Hybrid was 1<sup>st</sup> choice:

JFC 50%

MES 59% hybrid, 47% remote

MHS 58% hybrid, 42% remote

Staff survey:

46% Remote, 33% hybrid (1<sup>st</sup> choice)

20% would work on-site full time

80% would prefer hybrid/remote.

While we understand hybrid is preferred, we understand due to the Mercer County positivity rate, we may have to consider a full remote model. The District will be prepared for either.

Leah Pray, MCSSETA President, asked teachers do you feel comfortable/safe going back with the hybrid model.

We want to be sure we have everything before going back in September.

Our therapists or otherwise will be in the faces of students who cannot socially distance. Even with masks and shields it does not address the proximity issue. We are addressing this issue at a meeting on Friday with the Department of Health County Office. There are still unanswered questions for all. Additional guidance to be issued and will be shared.

Dr. Schneider said with the hybrid model we are trying to reduce to less than 25% of persons in the building at one time. The Governor said: "We never graduated from the first wave". Parents are thinking about therapies to the greatest extent possible. Lunch in classroom. Nurses, therapists have to pick up students from the classroom. County Superintendent not formally approving but reviewed to verify that it meets the standards. Trying to keep people apart as much as possible. On August 24<sup>th</sup> we will open the building by appointment to come to the classrooms.

Principals are trying to develop plans strategically to place people distanced.

Start putting in orders for what is needed.

Michelle Golden-Carmigani, Social Worker, MHS asked if staff or student are sent home because of symptoms, what is the process?

Dr. Schneider said that staff/student is sent to the nurse to go to an isolation space, temp check, go through process to get picked up. Staff would also be sent home. Must return with a doctor's note. Start contract tracing with the DOH.

We would assume the quarantine of students and staff of that class and go remote.

As far as the transportation issues with students, we would have to wait or until we could secure transportation.

Nick Pappano, MES asked where are we with PPE equipment for the District?

Rick Hillman said we have ordered face shields, isolation gowns, gloves on site and hand sanitizer in the next 2 weeks. All orders are with the suppliers.

Dr. Schneider said if we were to run out, we reach out to the County College, OEM, we are well supported in Mercer County. If we do not have then we cannot come in, we can't risk safety.

Mr. Pappano said our students would benefit from hybrids so we can monitor progress.

Dr. Schneider said I agree as long as it is safe for students and staff.

If the infection rate is low, then try the hybrid and we will see the impact.

It will work if all isolate ourselves/families, isolate and stay safe.

Mr. Pappano said the issue is people are out and about and ready to come back. The children are suffering. What do this years IEP's look like? What are the goals?

MaryBeth Smith-School Nurse, MES, said parents/staff have Covid anxiety at a certain level. How about quarantine with exposure, do we get federal days? What is there is a second time? We need guidelines we all can review.

Dr. Schneider: Our plan is going to the County on Friday.

Ms. Smith: has Dr. Sharlin been involved?

Dr. Schneider said Dr. Sharlin has given guidance. He is asking parents to get a mask they like to wear, start getting used to it and increase time in a mask over time.

Ms. Pray said we are also going over everything with NJEA.

Dr. Schneider asked what to do with the students not able to wear a mask?

Dr. Sharlin answered we do not have an answer; social distance becomes an issue for these students. 43% of individuals are carriers without symptoms, we don't know. Masks and social distancing are important.

Ms. Rainiero asked if we are any closer to testing to see who are the carriers?

Dr Sharlin said the antibody test is 50% unreliable. There are new tests coming out but the turn around time is the issue.

Karen Burke, School Nurse, MHS said students with no masks, but have a face shield and staff will have masks and shields.

Dr. Sharlin said with the shield there are openings, but still better than nothing.

Ms. Burke asked if students could get lunch to go?

Dr. Schneider asked Deborah Donnelly to check with Camille Gadiare/Sodexo.

Ayala Rahimi, School Social Worker, MHS said there are so many questions about bathrooms, plexiglass etc., how do we address these?

Dr. Schneider said the Principals are having faculty meetings and Ms. Donnelly, Dr. Schneider and Rick Hillman can attend.

Tina Jablonski, Teacher, JFC said it is important to wait for the final plan then direct questions as we don't know what is in there yet.

Dr. Schneider said the plan for draft will be posted Monday, then you should plan meetings next week for faculty to direct their questions to principals first. Dr. Sharlin should attend the faculty meetings.

Lisa Pusillo, Teacher, JFC, said there is a UPenn rapid test, can we have that available to us?

Dr. Schneider said that is a question for the DOH, to ask for priority testing.

Tyra Sample is concerned for the OT's; room at MES is very small. What is the plan? where will we work? We love what we do

Dr. Schneider said my DOH colleagues are working to get clear guidance on these issues on Friday. Use larger space line the gym but still working in close proximity. DOH needs to give guidance.

Sara Simon, OT, MES had a question on students getting ill, not just fever. What are the protocols? If we are working half days how can we see all students? And Wednesday is remote, how can we get it all in?

Dr. Schneider said 3 days remote OT/PT just like you have done March through June. It is going to be a challenge. The other 2 half days: work with Clara, Michelle, and Heather on scheduling. Not perfect ability to make up all time face to face.

Helen Williamson, OT, MES asked are we able to supplement with contract services to ensure hands on therapy as parents are sending students for this purpose.

Dr. Schneider said, please provide an idea of what schedules look like.

Ms. Williamson: We don't know who is coming, where we are working, we need more information about students.

Dr. Schneider said use last year's schedule-what does new schedule look like? Maybe all therapies go virtual? Right now the principals are trying to figure all this out.

Ms. Rainiero: send questions to your principal as a group, categorize as PT, nurse, etc., then they can answer in the next week's specific faculty meeting. Until we meet with the DOH next Friday, we do not have enough information now.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Gerald Stockman to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (4) aye's (0) nay's. Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Donnelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary