

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING  
Tuesday January 12, 2021  
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of January 2021 was held virtually on Google meet.

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:

Notice of the date, time and means of access to this remote public meeting, the means of making public comment and obtaining the agenda for this meeting have been advertised in the Trenton Times, sent as well to the Trentonian, posted on the District website and on the main access door of the Administration building, and filed with the Mercer County Clerk, all at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting and in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and State regulations pertaining to remote public meetings. Public comment is permitted online or by telephone during this meeting using the electronic code or telephone number published in the meeting notice. Comment shall be received at the time reserved for public comment on the meeting agenda or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer; and individual comments may not exceed three (3) minutes. Public comment by email or written letter has also been invited in advance of this meeting and comment timely received will be read aloud during the public comment portion of the meeting, subject to the same three-minute time limit. Each comment will be read until the time limit is reached. The Board may pass over one or more written comments if in the discretion of the presiding officer the comment is duplicative of an earlier comment, but each duplicative comment will be noted for the record with the content summarized. The video and audio technologies used for this meeting allow the Board to mute the audio of all members of the public and allow the members of the public to mute themselves. The technologies also allow the Board to regulate participation by individual members of the public. Participation by the public is subject to standards of public comment consistent with Board policies and practices followed if a member of the public disrupts an in-person meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Camille Rainiero, Jan Lewis, Gerald Stockman & Stacy Morgan Santo.

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Suspended

3. **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Presentation of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for June 30, 2020 by Scott Clelland, CPA, Wiss & Co, LLC. Mr. Clelland thanked both his staff and Board staff for their work on getting the

audit accomplished. The internal controls are still in place despite the emergency. Congratulations to the Board and District for 8 consecutive years for receiving the Certificate of Excellence Award. There are no findings of non-compliance.

Dr. Schneider stated the re-opening of our District has been moved to April 19, 2021 which is two (2) weeks after Spring Break. Staff can still work in the buildings. Please work with your building Principal. We are watching the covid numbers carefully. Communication will continue on the District website and email.

Lisa Pusillo, Teacher at JFC commended Board and administration on re-opening push-back. Shared a new children’s book: *A Party to Remember* by Tim Tebow. Interested in getting author to do a virtual presentation.

Dr. Schneider acknowledged comments and idea to get author in.

Elizabeth Breden, parent remarked on April 19<sup>th</sup> re-opening date; need her child back for therapies at a minimum.

Dr. Schneider acknowledged comments and receipt of e: mail.

Jennifer Semple, Physical Therapist-MES said I understand the frustration and kids needing therapy. With vaccines. Hoping we can do something to get back in the building in the safe and organized manner we had before.

Dr. Schneider reported the school nurses have been working with the local Department of Health regarding staff vaccinations.

Discussion ensued on April 19<sup>th</sup> date.

Donations were collected amounting to \$5,200 for the MHS students which gave \$100 gift card per family. JFC staff and MES staff also did a lot for their families.

4. Approval of December 8, 2021 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 and addendum totaling \$3829,818.35 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		X			
Vena						X
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

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

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			

7. Correspondence & Communications

- Presentation of 2020/2021 Budget Review by Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator
- Presentation by Kris Gould, Supervisor of MHS to recognize Eagle Scout, Alex Micharski.

8. Committee Reports

9. Superintendent’s Report:

**PERSONNEL:**

Recommend Board approve the following:

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

**REVISIONS TO BE NOTED:**

**Under Appointments:**

Rachel Sazoff – salary should be \$23,111.00.

**Under Leaves:**

Emp #7480 is at MES ; not MHS

**P. Jablonski, PT Assistant – replacement for J. Poznick**

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:**

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			
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-C)

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

BYLAWS

0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings

POLICIES - none

REGULATIONS – none

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

BYLAWS

0164.6 Remote Public Board Meeting During A Declared Emergency (M)

POLICIES

P2431 Athletic Competition (M)

P2464 Gifted and Talented Students (M)

P5330.05 Seizure Action Plan (M)

P8561 Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M)

**REGULATIONS**

- R2431.1 Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (M)
- R5330.05 Seizure Action Plan (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		X			
Vena						X
Hernandez-Manno						X
Rainiero			X			

**REPORTS:**

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the month of December 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 December 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
<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 December 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	428	496	501	503	505						

	11/30/2020	12/31/2020
Mercer High School	241	241
Mercer Elementary School	195	195
Regional Day	6	7
Joseph F. Cappello School	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>
TOTAL:	<u>503</u>	<u>505</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 Resolution Governing Standard Procedures and Requirements for Public Comment during Remote Public Meetings and for Public Comment Submitted in Writing Ahead of the Meeting (Attachment 11-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			

- b. Approve to accept donations in the amount of \$395 made in memory Karen Ball, 75% to be allocated for food baskets for school families and the remainder to be used as needed for the students of MHS.

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			

- c. Approve addendum to the 2019-2020 bus route contracts re-negotiated pursuant to the Implementation of P.L. 2020, Chapter 27 (attachment 11-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			

- d. Approve the revised 2021/2022 Budget Planning Schedule (Attachment 11-d).

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			

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

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			

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

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			

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

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			

h. Approve to submit the alternate Semi revenue waiver request for the 2021/2022 school year in the amount of \$250,000.



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			

i. Approve the Tuition Rates for 2021/2022 School Year (Attachment 11-i).

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			

j. Review, accept and approve the June 30, 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Management Report on Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance and Synopsis (Summary of Fiscal year 2019/2020 Audit Report) as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:23-4.

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			

k. Approve to write-off prior years negative lunch balances in the amount of \$1,200.05.

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			

1. Approve resolution authorizing member participation of the South Orange and Maplewood, New Jersey Board of Education with Mercer County Special Services School District as the lead agency for the Cooperative Pricing Agreement 103-MCSSSDCPS for the purchase of goods and services (Attachment 11-1).

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			

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Stacy Morgan Santo and Seconded by Gerald Stockman to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (4) aye’s (0) nay’s. Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Deborah Donnelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Alex Micharski for his service to Mercer County Special Services. Alex is an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 91 in Hamilton and a Mercer County STEM Academy 2020 graduate. He has successfully led a group of volunteer STEM Academy students and Troop 91 members to raise enough funds to purchase 50 battery operated, switch adaptable toys. Even with all the COVID-19 restrictions over the past year, Alex was able to lead his group to successfully adapt 24 of those toys with switch access.

AND he has donated all of the toys to our district!

Alex is with us this afternoon, so Alex, on behalf of Mercer High School and the entire school district, thank you so much for this important project. The switch adapted toys, as well as the future toys to be adapted, will enrich the lives of many of our students giving them the opportunity to interact with their environment and play, overall, enhancing their qualities of life!