MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404,
MERCER, HENDERSON, & ROCK ISLAND COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.

The Board of Education of Mercer County School District #404, Mercer, Henderson, & Rock Island Counties, Illinois, convened at an Emergency Meeting at the Intermediate School Music Room, 1002 SW 6th Street, Aledo, IL 61231, Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present upon Roll Call: Balmer, Chiles, Dillavou, Frieden, Smock, and Wagner. Yates attended via speaker phone.  
Also In Attendance: Superintendent Scott Petrie, Principal Stacey Day, and Assistant Principal Andrew Hofer.  
Public in Attendance: Cal Bigham, Taylor Boydston, Rachel Boydston, Lauren Morby, Ruth Smock, Brady Nelson, Kennedy Wells  
Reporters: Cathy Decker - Argus, Christina Hepner- WQAD, Stephanie Mattan – WQAD

A quorum was present. Board President Wagner presided. Minutes were taken by Secretary Bill Smock.

RECORD OF VOTES

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CLOSED SESSION

1. There was a motion by Balmer, seconded by Frieden, to go into Closed Session for School Security Discussion at 4:38 PM.  
Emergency security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).

Roll Call: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Don Yates left phone call.

OPEN SESSION

2. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Chiles, to come out of Closed Session at 4:22 PM.  
Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

PROTEST PROTOCOL

3. There was a motion by Smock, seconded by Balmer, to treat the Walk Out on March 14th as an excused absence.
Roll Call: 2 Ayes, 4 Nays. Motion failed.
MOTION TO ADJOURN  4. There was a motion by Chiles, seconded by Balmer, to adjourn at 5:29 pm. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

COMMENTS  A few students and a community member spoke during public comment. Comments are summarized below.

- Lauren Morby, an MCHS student, explained of what their Walk Out consisted.
- Cal Bigham, an MCHS student, summarized what the group is protesting, noting other school activities that are sanctioned but disruptive.
- Taylor Boydston, an MCHS student, listed negative consequences to the unexcused absence and justification for their reasoning behind the protest.
- Cal Bigham spoke again defending that their protest represents characteristics of the National Honor Society.
- Ruth Smock, a community member, spoke to support the students, stating that it is a National Movement.
- Barb Chiles, a board member, mentioned that no competition would be missed as a result of the unexcused absence, but playing time can be adjusted.
- Jake Frieden, board member, suggested that they did it at another time as part of a larger group.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education

Approved: ___________________________