

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, January 14, 2019  
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of January 2019 was held this day in the Mercer Elementary School Superintendent's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, 1020 Old Trenton Road, Hamilton, NJ.

The Board of Education took the following actions:

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board of Education President Camille Rainiero called the meeting to order at 4:46 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 in the Board Office and in the Mercer County Clerk's Office and mailed to the *Trenton Times*.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Camille Rainiero, Yasmin Hernandez-Manno, Samuel Floyd, & Jan Lewis

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Rainiero led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of Gail Roberts, former Supervisor of MCSSSD.

- 3a. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discussion certain matters, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mercer County Special Services Board of Education shall recess to executive session for the purpose of discussing:

*Legal Update*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion of such subject matter in closed session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, unless such is otherwise prohibited by law.

On a Motion by Samuel Floyd and Seconded by Jan Lewis the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 4:52 PM.

Roll Call:     Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                   Ms. Vena -     Absent            Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                   Ms. Lewis -    Yes                Ms. Rainiero - Yes

On a Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Samuel Floyd the Board unanimously voted to return to the open meeting at 5:28 PM.

Roll Call:     Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                   Ms. Vena -     Absent            Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                   Ms. Lewis -    Yes                Ms. Rainiero - Yes

3b. PUBLIC SESSION:

Statements were read by Leah Durastanti, President of MCSSETA and Nick Pappano, Speech Therapist at Mercer Elementary School regarding the current negotiations. (Statements attached).

Tina Jablonski, Vice President of MCSSETA supports the statements of her colleagues noting the great deal of support and is hoping for a resolution soon.

Ms. Jablonski reported the successful Winter Food Baskets. There were 115 boxes sent to District families for holiday meals from all our schools.

4. Approval of the December 4, 2018 Board Meeting Regular and Executive Minutes:

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

Roll Call:     Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                   Ms. Vena -     Absent            Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                   Ms. Lewis -    Yes                Ms. Rainiero - Yes

5. Bills To Be Approved totaling \$ 4,203,434.97 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent

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

Roll Call:     Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                   Ms. Vena -     Absent            Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Abstain  
                   Ms. Lewis -    Yes                Ms. Rainiero - Yes

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for November 2019

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

Roll Call:	Mr. Floyd -	Yes	
	Ms. Vena -	Absent	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Abstain
	Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes

7. Correspondence & Communications

Ms. Donnelly noted to the Board regarding C/Y Budget; if enrollment remains where we are currently and administration continues to be frugal with spending we should be on or near budget for the year.

8. Committee Reports – None

9. Superintendent’s Report - None

New/Special Projects: None

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 2018 – 2019 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 A) and addendum.

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

Roll Call:	Mr. Floyd -	Yes	
	Ms. Vena -	Absent	Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Abstain
	Ms. Lewis -	Yes	Ms. Rainiero - Yes

MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

REPORTS:

Fire and Security Drills for month of December, 2018 (*Attachment 9-B*)

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

Roll Call: Mr. Floyd - Yes  
 Ms. Vena - Absent Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
 Ms. Lewis - Yes Ms. Rainiero - Yes

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Report for December 2018

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

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

Roll Call: Mr. Floyd - Yes  
 Ms. Vena - Absent Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
 Ms. Lewis - Yes Ms. Rainiero - Yes

Enrollment Data as of December 2018:

YEAR	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
2017-2018	505	502	579	586	583	587	583	585	587	587	592	593
2018-2019	454	454	547	567	571	575						

	<u>11/30/18</u>	<u>12/21/18</u>
Mercer High School	260	260
Mercer Elementary School	209	210
Regional Day	10	10
J. F. Cappello School	<u>92</u>	<u>95</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>575</b>

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

Roll Call: Mr. Floyd - Yes  
 Ms. Vena - Absent Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
 Ms. Lewis - Yes Ms. Rainiero - Yes

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Approve to continue the services of Benefit Express Services, LLC for COBRA Retiree Administrative Services to be paid by Conner Strong & Buckelew on behalf of Mercer County Special Services School District year two (3) of three (3) for the period February 28, 2017 to February 28, 2020.

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -   Yes                      Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- b. Approve the following Affiliation Agreement(s) between Mercer County Special Services School District and: (Attachment 11-b).

Steinert High School VIP Program  
 Mercer County Technical Schools Health Career Center  
 The College of New Jersey

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -   Yes                      Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- c. Approve to accept the Burlington County Insurance Pool Joint Insurance Fund 2017/18 Safety Basic Award in the amount of \$1,000 and the 2017/18 Certificate of Excellence in Claims Management Award in the amount of \$500.

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -   Yes                      Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- d. Approve Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey Chapter, Inc., to provide professional development training to the certified and non-certified staff at Mercer High School. The training "Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention" will be held on March 21, 2019 from 8:00am – 10:00am during the District's professional development staff in-service at no cost to the District.

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -   Yes                      Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- e. Approve the Proposed Tuition Rates for 2019/2020 School Year (Attachment 11-e).

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -    Yes                    Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- f. Approve to submit the alternate Semi revenue waiver request for the 2019/20 school year in the amount of \$250,000.

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -    Yes                    Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- g. Approval of Transportation Contract (s), Bids, Renewals & Addendums (Attachment 11-g).

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -    Yes                    Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- h. Staff and Student Travel and addendum (Attachment 11-h).

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -    Yes                    Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- i. Approve Ken and Jennifer Northridge of Dovetail Presentations to perform Walk Around Magic Assembly for the students of Mercer High School on February 1, 2019 at of cost of \$325.

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                      Ms. Vena -    Absent              Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                      Ms. Lewis -    Yes                    Ms. Rainiero - Yes

- j. Approve Michele Coleman from Mercer County Technical Schools as a bus driver on an as needed basis for the period January 15, 2019 through June 30, 2019 at an hourly rate of \$16.00 not to exceed \$3,000. Mercer County Special Services School District will pay 100% as per the Inter-local Services Act, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et sq. (Act).

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

Roll Call:      Mr. Floyd -    Yes  
                     Ms. Vena -     Absent            Ms. Hernandez-Manno - Yes  
                     Ms. Lewis -    Yes                Ms. Rainiero - Yes

12. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Jan Lewis and Seconded by Samuel Floyd to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (4) aye’s (0) nay’s. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Donnelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary