

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday February 5, 2019
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of February 5, 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 4:31 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, Lisa Vena, Samuel Floyd.

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

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

- 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 Matters and Negotiations 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 Lisa Vena the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 4:31 PM.

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

On a Motion by Lisa Vena and Seconded by Samuel Floyd the Board unanimously voted to return to the open meeting at 4:55 PM.

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

Motion to approve Settlement Agreement regarding OAL Docket No's EDU 04712-2018S and EDU 06737-2018S.

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

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

3b. PUBLIC SESSION:

Elizabeth Pusillo, Teacher at the Joseph F. Cappello School said we are working without a contract since September. We are now in mediation. We are taking home less money than years ago and it is not fair. In the past benefits made up for disparity in salary. We need Chapter 78 relief. We are getting the most severe students from the sending schools. (Statement attached).

Ayala Rahimi, Social Worker at the Mercer High School stated we are here because we care about the work and want to make the District a better place. Ms. Rahimi presented a chart of her salary from 2014/2014 thru 2017/2018 net of medical benefits. (Chart attached).

Nick Pappano, Speech Therapist at the Mercer Elementary School said some people have lost money. The cost of living is going up and I am concerned about the surplus from the audit of 11 million.

Jeanine Cular, Speech Therapist at the Mercer High School said in 2017/2018 she netted \$101 less than 2013/2014 after Chapter 78. If money is the issue the association did offer difference card in aid and it was denied by the Board.

Karen Burke, Nurse at the Mercer High School asked to table the 2019/2020 Calendar, regarding the Professional Development as delayed openings. She proposes the time change to PD be in the afternoon as the delayed opening does not serve the best interest of the students. Also the speakers are cut off for teachers to run bus duty.

Nick Pappano is also asking for the calendar change due to the routine of students. The change to a PM early dismissal would alleviate the disruption.

4. Approval of the January 14, 2019 Board Meeting Regular and Executive Minutes:

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

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

5. Bills To Be Approved totaling \$4,154,198.37 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent

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

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

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for December 2018

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

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

7. Correspondence & Communications – None

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 Samuel Floyd and Seconded by Lisa Vena was made to approve the aforementioned was carried by roll call vote.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

2019-2020 MCSSSD School Year Calendar, (*Attachment 9-B*)

This item has been tabled.

Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between MCSSSD and the Hamilton Township Police Department, for the School Year 2018-2019 (*Attachment 9-C*)

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

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

Submission of 2019 Gro More Grassroots Grant, sponsored by Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and Kids Gardening for Mercer High School. If awarded, the minimum would be \$500.00 and the maximum would be \$1,000.00.

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

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

Revised Curriculum Guides (For Review in Assistant Superintendent's Office)

Social Studies Curriculum	(Grades 1 - 5)
World History	
World History and Culture	(Grade 6)

United States History	(Grades 7 - 8)
US History I	
English Language Arts Curriculum	(Grades 3 - 8)
English Language Arts Curriculum	(Grades 9 -12)
Early Childhood Math Curriculum	
Math Curriculum	(Grades Kindergarten - 5)
Health and Physical Education	(PreK - Grade 5)
Language Arts Curriculum	(Grades 1 - 2)
Social Studies Curriculum	(Preschool)
Science Curriculum	(Grades PreK – 2)
Financial Literacy Curriculum	
Dance Curriculum	(Grades K - 2)

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

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

REPORTS:

Fire and Security Drills for month of January, 2019 (*Attachment 9-D*)

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

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

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Report for January, 2019

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
January	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

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

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

Enrollment Data as of January 2019:

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	579					

	<u>12/21/18</u>	<u>01/31/18</u>
Mercer High School	260	254
Mercer Elementary School	210	218
Regional Day	10	10
J. F. Cappello School	<u>95</u>	<u>97</u>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>579</i>

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

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

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approve to accept the NJDOE Certified Tuition Rates for the school year ending 2017/2018. Based on administration’s financial analysis, recommends the Board of Education to approve a waiver of 30% to each sending district (Attachment 11-a). pending percentage from Udaya

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

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

- b. Approve Reading Horizons to provide professional development training/curriculum lesson coaching to Mercer Elementary School certified staff who are implementing the Reading Horizon Elevate and Discovery curriculum in their classrooms. The training to be held during the month of February 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

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

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

- c. Approve Young Audiences of NJ Inc. for a performance titled “The Principles of Hip Hop” for the students of Mercer High School to be held on March 8, 2019 at a cost of \$1,175.

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

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

- d. Approve to accept 2 donations to the students of Mercer High School in the amount of \$650 each from Rik Dugan & Kathleen Humora of the Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart and \$650 gift match from the Cerullo Family for a total of \$1,300. Bennett Cerullo ran a fundraiser through his school (Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart); the Cerullo family matched the amount. Sophia Cerullo (Bennett's sister) is a long time student of our school district.

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

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

- e. Approve Mr. Ray School Entertainment to perform for the students of the Joseph Cappello School on February 22, 2019 at a cost of \$400.

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

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

- f. Approve Revised Budget Planning Schedule (Attachment 11-f).

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

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

- g. Approve Elmwood Park Zoo on Wheels Presentation-Habitat Explorations to the students of Mercer Elementary School on March 22, 2019 at 10am and 10:45. This program specifically designed to encourage sensory and tactile learning for all ages and ability levels. Students will meet live animals up close and experience the smells and sounds of those animal's habitats. This tactile program allows

for learners to engage in exploring the natural world to better connect with animals. Program to be paid for by MES Student Activity Account at no cost to the District.

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

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

- h. Approve Comegno Law Group July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 for an amount increase not to exceed \$40,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Approve Wiss & Company, LLP, Engagement Letter for Mercer County Special Services School District Financial Audit for year ending June 2019 in the amount not to exceed \$64,000 (Attachment 11-1).

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

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

- m. Approve to accept donations of the following iPads for the students of Mercer Elementary School:

iPad First Generation 16GB MB292LL V5037X05Z38
 iPad First Generation 16GB MB292LL GB037MKTZ38
 Donation from Miss Amanda Borell

iPad 2 16GB MC755LL/A DLXGN66JDJHF
 Donation from Mr. and Mrs. Schindewolf

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

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

- n. Approve Cy Masterpole to provide professional development training for the District's school nurses. The purpose of the training is to provide yearly recertification training of American Red Cross CPR/AED. The training will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 and is limited to the District's six (6) school nurses at a cost not to exceed \$350.

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

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Samuel Floyd and Seconded by Lisa Vena to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (4) aye's (0) nay's. Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary