

**MERCER COUNTY
SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
4:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Board of Education President Stacy Morgan Santo called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the main access doors of the Mercer Elementary School and on the website of the Mercer County Special Services School District, and sent by email to the Times, The Trentonian, and emailed to the Mercer County Clerk, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and Administrative Code. Public attendees may make comments when recognized by the Board President during the appropriate time scheduled on the agenda. Written statements received by 11 AM today will be read aloud by the Board Secretary during the public comment period as well. A time limit of three (3) minutes applies to both oral and written comments. Written statements will be read until the time limit is reached. Duplicative written comments shall be summarized for the record.

ROLL CALL:

Bd. of Ed.	Present	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo	x	
Mr. Stockman	x	
Ms. Lewis	x	
Ms. Vena	x	
Dr. Minus-Vincent	x	
Ms. Smith	x	
Dr. Angwenyi	x	

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Ms. Morgan Santo

- 3a. Executive Session

Time: 4:32 pm

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mercer County Special Services School District Board of Education shall recess to executive session for the purpose of personnel issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the executive session shall be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, except personnel information or information pertaining to legal settlements with personnel which by agreement must remain confidential shall not be released unless otherwise required by law.

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena		x	x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent			x			
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

Return to Open Session:

Time: 4:39 pm

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena		x	x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent			x			
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

3b. Public Session

Walter Bliss, Board Attorney presented Ethics Training to the Board members. (Handouts)
It is required by law to annually review the ethical requirements – the following were presented:

- School officials prohibited conduct
- Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Mr. Bliss noted that the Board of Education differs than other boards, such as municipalities.

The purpose of the training is to sensitize board members to ethical issues that may arise and incentivize members to ask questions as situations arise.

Lucie Reside, MES teacher, thank you note to Board members on display for approving our field trip to Shady Brook Farm. Some students would not have the opportunity to go to such a place without us..

Ms. Morgan Santo – We did notice that and thank you.

4a. Approval of the October 11, 2022 Regular Minutes

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman					x	
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi		x	x			

4b. Approval of October 11, 2022 Executive Minutes

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman					x	
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi		x	x			

5. Bills to be Approved totaling \$3,553,065.22 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent.

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			

Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis		x	x			
Ms. Vena	x		x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for September 2022

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis		x	x			
Ms. Vena	x		x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

- 7. Correspondence & Communications – None
- 8. Committee Reports - None
- 9. Superintendent’s Agenda

NEW/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Recommend Board approve the following: None

PERSONNEL

Recommend Board approve the following:

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

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi		x	x			

MISCELLANEOUS

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Renew the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between MCSSSD and Hamilton Police Department, for the 2022-2023 school year (Available for review in the Superintendent’s office)
- Approve the District Library Media Specialist to apply for the “2023 Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant”. If selected, the recipient would receive an award ranging from \$2,500.00-\$10,000.00.

- Approve the District Library Media Specialist to apply for the “Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries” grant. If selected, the recipient would receive an award of \$3,000.00.
- Approve the District Library Media Specialist to apply for the U.S. Department of Education’s “Improving Literacy Through School Libraries” grant. If selected, the Department of Education will determine the award amount.
- Approve to apply for the School and Small Business Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance Program and School and Small Business Ventilation and Energy Efficiency and Repair Program grants.
- Student Placement Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District and Salus University to provide students with practical experience for the term of 07/01/2022–06/30/2023 (Available for review in the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction)
- Presentation of “Spring 2022 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment Results” – Kristen Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction/District Test Coordinator (Attachment 9B)
- Extended School Year Calendar – Summer 2022 (Attachment 9C)

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi		x	x			

- Policies, Regulations, By-Laws (Attachment 9D)

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

BYLAWS

None

POLICIES

3160 Physical Examination
 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

REGULATIONS

3160 Physical Examination

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

BYLAWS

None

POLICIES

None

REGULATIONS

None

Abolished -- Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws

BYLAWS

None

POLICIES

None

REGULATIONS

None

REPORTS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the months of September and October 2022 (Attachment 9E)
- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of October 2022

Month	Investigations	Unfounded	Founded
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	0	1	0
October	0	1	0
Total	0	2	0

- Enrollment Data as of October 31, 2022

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2021-2022	412*	413	485	493	497	501	499	504	517	513	517	519
2022-2023	416*	417	464	467								

	09/30/2022 (actual)	10/31/2022 (estimated)
Mercer High School	237	236
Mercer Elementary School	147	147
Joseph F. Cappello School	80	84
TOTAL:	<u>464</u>	<u>467</u>

* data updated to reflect actual number

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman			x			
Ms. Lewis	x		x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	

Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi		x	x			

11. New Business

Recommend the Board approve the following:

- A. Interlocal Services Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District and Board of Education for the East Windsor Regional School District for the service of transportation equipment maintenance, equipment rental, and inspection services (attachment 11A.)
- B. Change Order 02 with McCloskey Mechanical Contractors for the HVAC Upgrades at the Alfred Reed School to decrease the contract sum from \$444,000 to \$419,313 due to the credit of unused allowance in the amount of \$24,687 (attachment 11B.)
- C. Transportation Contracts, Bids, Renewals and Addendums (attachment 11C.)
- D. Staff Travel/Professional Development/Student Trips (attachment 11D.)
- E. Short-Term Personal Assistant Contract template (attachment 11E.)

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo			x			
Mr. Stockman	x		x			
Ms. Lewis		x	x			
Ms. Vena			x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent					x	
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

12. Public Session

Kristen Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, presented Spring 2022 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment Results (see 9B above).

Ms. Taylor - Over 80% of our students do not take assessments as noted in my October presentation. The results are not surprising. Department of Education will be providing additional information on the use of this data.

Mr. Stockman – Is some of this a result of the pandemic?

Ms. Taylor – Originally a prerequisite for graduation and then the pandemic hit. We lobbied to not have this as a graduation requirement. We also did a field trial to see how students performed.

Ms. Stockman – Based on our teaching practices, you noted we may not teach as this level. Is that the reason the students did not do well?

Ms. Taylor – It was not because of our students.

Mr. Stockman – We test our kids and receive results. The rest of the districts with special needs test their kids at the same time.

Matthew Carey, Superintendent – If they are taking the same test – some take DLM. These students would be the ones that qualify. That’s why we only had 14. In the future there may be a requirement but with our students, many of them have a waiver, etc.

Ms. Stockman – Is there an awareness that our students may not succeed?

Mr. Carey – Yes.

Mr. Stockman – Enrollment – could the scores (assuming ours are higher) encourage other districts to send them here? I'm thinking of those not sent here – a little pressure.

Mr. Carey – I think more of the DLM because more of our students take that test.

Ms. Taylor – NJ is not an opt-out state. Parents can just refuse to take the test. We work with families. On any day, it's a snapshot; depends on the students' focus that day.

Dr. Angwenyi – In terms of assessment, more to look at in our district than just these testing as far as students not passing.

Mr. Carey – We break that data down and look at the specifics to get them to the threshold. Always an alternative assessment for these students with special circumstances.

13. Executive Session- in the beginning

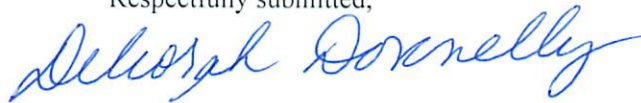
14. Adjournment: Ms. Morgan Santo left the meeting at 5:10 pm. Ms. Vena, Vice-President, assumed the role as chair for adjournment.

All in Favor:

Time: 5:11 pm

Board Members	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Morgan Santo						x
Mr. Stockman		x	x			
Ms. Lewis			x			
Ms. Vena	x		x			
Dr. Minus-Vincent			x			
Ms. Smith			x			
Dr. Angwenyi			x			

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Donnelly
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary