

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

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday July 7, 2020
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of July 2020 was held this day virtually due to COVID19 Regulations.

The Board of Education took the following actions:

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board of Education President Camille Rainiero called the meeting to order at 4:40 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 on the District web site and in the Mercer County Clerk's Office and mailed to the *Trenton Times*.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Camille Rainiero, Yasmin Hernandez-Manno, Lisa Vena, Jan Lewis, Gerald Stockman and Stacy Santo Morgan.

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Suspended
3. **Public Session**

Karen Burke, MHS School Nurse – statement supplied.

Lisa Pusillo, JFC teacher noted interest in re-opening plans and the need for social distancing and supplies for preparation.

Nick Pappano – when deciding on September plans a committee with administration to assist would be a good idea.

Mary Beth Smith – expressed concern with the amount of work the nurses have to prepare for RSY even with remote; need health care plans, medications and medical guidelines; with pandemic nurses are essential.

Elizabeth Breden – parent of student at HS asked if therapists were asked about working ESY; volunteered as a parent on a committee

4. Approval of June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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			

5. Bills to be Approved totaling \$3,383,611.29 and addendum for a total of \$4,391,872.93 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent.

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			

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for May 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

Dr Schneider thanked everyone for their patience getting staff approved for ESY – with the restrictive budget the district hired to meet code requirements. Noted that we will look at options for nursing assistance. Tina Jablonski asked who will handle JFC since an ESY nurse was not hired – Dr. Schneider noted that Clara Bigos and Diane Caldwell will be working on this.

Dr. Schneider discussed early thoughts on re-opening plan; will be different than when we left in March with a combination of in-person and remote; social distancing will require that we use other large areas like cafeteria and gyms for class space. Possible model will be AB/Wed remote/AB. Principals are working with administration on plan and will present to parents, Dr. Sharlin, Leah and building reps. Noted Camille Rainiero and Stacey Morgan Santo will be on District team.

Dr. Schneider thanked Rick Hillman for developing a great template for our plan development which uses the various standards of the NJ re-start plan.

Plan will include use of masks and possibly temperature checks (kiosk consideration); plexiglass dividers being looked at by principals and Building & Grounds.

District team is meeting 7/24 – goal is to be prepared by 8/1

News of virus increasing in the south – if travel from a hot spot, staff and students need to quarantine.

Yasmin Hernandez-Manno – noted that the state plan is out and anticipating districts to send to the county office for review then be disseminated to parents 30 days prior to opening. May see other provisions coming through due to increases in neighboring states.

Lisa Pusillo proposed AA/Wed remote/BB to deep clean between cohorts.

Dr. Schneider – principals working on plans with staff and may look different by school – feels strongly about need to deep clean mid-week and weekends.

Camille Rainiero asked if we thought kiosk would be available for September.

Dr. Schneider noted we feel they will but also will use hand temperature monitors for various entrances to reduce time.

For meals – goal is to deliver/eat in classrooms instead of moving around and using café.

MaryBeth Smith – inquired as to whether or not nurses are responsible for kiosks. Dr. Schneider noted that it was not decided yet, but we were reaching out to others in healthcare to see how it would work; urged staff to send concerns to building principals.

Tina Jablonski asked about committees (building or district based).

Dr. Schneider – noted they would be notified by principals of needs then district-wide team will meet at end of July.

Lisa Vena asked about plexiglass – there are waiting lists for installers.

Dr. Schneider some options include rolling or table top. Also thought of Harry Oliesk and vocational students. There are issues with vendors and deliveries.

Camille Rainiero – plan is in motion to get back to school with ESY students – parents should be made aware of google training.

Dr. Schneider noted teachers will share with parents to become familiar.

Karen Burke inquired as to what happens when there is a positive case with students or staff.

Dr. Schneider replied that the district would work with the local and county health department to determine how to move forward. Possibility if contained could allow class to quarantine and educate remotely. DOH will help to determine % of infected persons – goal is to try to remain open. Contact tracing will be important.

8. Committee Reports: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

NEW/SPECIAL PROJECTS: None

PERSONNEL:

Recommend Board approve the following:

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

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero						

- 2020 Extended School Year, Hourly and Contracted (Attachment 9-A1)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- 2020-2021 Substitute Renewal List (Attachment 9-A2)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Professional Employment Agreement between Board of Education for the Mercer County Special Services School District and Frederick J. Hillman as Manager Technology and Buildings and Grounds for the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 (Attachment 9-A3)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Professional Employment Agreement between Board of Education for the Mercer County Special Services School District and Udaya Batchu as Assistant School Business Administrator for the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 (Attachment 9-A4)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

MISCELLANEOUS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Heather Pyle as the Affirmative Action Officer for the District, at no cost to the District, effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Affirmative Action Team Members for the District, to conduct the needs assessment and develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan, at no cost to the District, effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
 - Heather Pyle, Affirmative Action Officer
 - Brian V. Bittings, Clara Bigos and Carline Mirthil, Team Members

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Organizational Chart, effective 07/01/2020 (Attachment 9-B)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Continuation of Charlotte Danielson Group Model for Teacher, Therapist, Child Study Team and support staff evaluation per code N.J.A.C. 6A.10., effective: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Continuation of Stronge Leader Evaluation Model for Principals and Supervisors per code N.J.A.C. 6A.10., effective 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Mercer County Technical School District & Mercer County Special Services School District Coronavirus (COVID-19) Action Plan and eLearning Plan – as of June 9, 2020 (Attachment 9-C)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- 2019-2020 New Jersey High School Voter Registration Law Annual Statement of Assurance (Attachment 9-D)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Revised and/or New Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws - First Reading (Attachment 9-E)

BYLAWS

B0152 Board Officers

POLICIES

P5330 Administration of Medication (M)
 P7243 Supervision of Construction (M)
 P8210 School Year

REGULATIONS

R5330 Administration of Medication (M)

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

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

BYLAWS – None

POLICIES –

P1581 Domestic Violence (M)
 P2422 Health and Physical Education (M)
 P8220 School Day (M)
 P8462 Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children (M)

REGULATIONS –

R1581 Domestic Violence (M)
 R8220 School Closings (M)

ABOLISHED -None

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

REPORTS:

- Fire and Security Drill(s) for the month of June 2020 - none

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of June 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
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

• Enrollment Data as of June 2020

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2018-2019	454	454	547	567	571	575	579	580	581	586	587	588
2019-2020	497	498	548	546	546	551	544	559	563	561	561	560

	05/30/2020	06/30/2020
Mercer High School	252	252
Mercer Elementary School	208	207
Regional Day	11	11
Joseph F. Cappello School	90	90
TOTAL:	<u>561</u>	<u>560</u>

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

Recommend Board approve the following:

- a. Approve addendums to the 2019-2020 bus route contracts re-negotiated pursuant to the Implementation of P.L. 2020, Chapter 27 (attachments 11-a).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- b. Approve Kiker Learning Instructional Technology & Design to provide Professional Development training for all MCSSSD staff district-wide on September 8 and 9, 2020. The Kiker Learning Google for Education workshops will be provided by Richard Kiker and support staff on-line virtual training, cost not to exceed \$7,000.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- c. Approve renewal of contract with Software Advantage, Inc., for the microTRIPS software transportation service for 2020/2021 school year in the amount of \$4,000 (Attachment 11-c).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- d. Approve renewal of software agreement with School Dude Solutions Incorporated for State mandated automated work order system, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.9 for the period July 1, 2020 through Jun 30, 2021 renewal amount not to exceed \$6,754.24.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- e. Approve Heritage/Stewart Business Systems to cover maintenance on the following:
 District owned Canon machine; #LTA00508 at Joseph F Cappello School for the amount of \$56.50/month, includes 10,000 b/w per month for the period 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- f. Approve Stewart Business Systems to cover maintenance on the following District owned Xerox Machines ; #FMA015782/Mercer Elementary School, #FMA015795/Business Office, #VDR570068/Administration, #WTM766578/Joseph F Cappello School, #AYX991138/ Transportation Dept, #VDR556579/Assistant Superintendent Office, #FLB026965/Regional Day School, #XKP068909/Regional Day School, cost in the amount of \$2,325 per quarter, coverage cpc at \$0.01350 b/w and \$0.11000 color for the period 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021 (Attachment 11-f).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

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

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- h. Approve the following Request for Proposal, 21-01, 02, & 03 for Therapy Service vendors on an as needed basis for the 2020/21 school year:

RFP 21-01 SPEECH THERAPY	AWARDED VENDOR	SERVICE AT SCHOOL	SERVICE AT HOME	AAC EVALUATION
	Therapy Source	✓	✓	✓
	Kaleidoscope	✓	✓	✓
	MBG Therapy	✓	✓	✓
	Oxford	✓	✓	---

RFP 21-02 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY 20-02	AWARDED VENDOR	SERVICE AT SCHOOL	SERVICE AT HOME	AAC EVALUATION
	Therapy Source	✓	✓	✓
	Kaleidoscope	✓	✓	✓
	Oxford	✓	✓	---

RFP 21-03 PHYSICAL THERAPY	AWARDED VENDOR	SERVICE AT SCHOOL	SERVICE AT HOME	AAC EVALUATION
	Therapy Source	✓	✓	✓
	Jump Ahead	✓	✓	✓
	Kaleidoscope	✓	✓	✓
	Oxford	✓	✓	---

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- i. Approve IMX Medical Management Services Fit for Duty Exams for the 2020/21 school year up to \$700.00/per evaluation and up to \$2,000.00/per evaluation for specialty doctors.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- j. Reject all competitive contracting proposals for the Negotiations Attorney Services CC 20-08 pursuant to N.J.S. 18A:18A-22 (d) as the board of education wants to substantially revise the specifications for the services.

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

- k. Approval to write-off, as of June 30, 2020, receivables from 2018-2019 school year from Perth Amboy in the amount of \$8,103 (invoice #19-00484, #19-00503, #19-00541, and #19-00566) and Hillsborough in the amount of \$408 (invoice #19-00761).

Bd. of Ed.	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Morgan Santo			X			
Stockman			X			
Lewis	X		X			
Vena		X	X			
Hernandez-Manno			X			
Rainiero			X			

12. Public Session #2

Karen Burke again expressed concern regarding other nurses working ESY even if P/T – need them to be involved to be sure all schools are doing the same thing.

Anna Maggio – one-on-one assistant noted that without the nurses we wouldn’t have help to ensure students are healthy. I see them work with each student; we need them to ensure we are all safe. Nurses have been helpful in identifying if behavior is due to illness or core behavior issues.

Lucille Reside – is the plan to full staff without furlough?

Dr. Schneider noted that right now it is not a consideration.

Lucille Reside noted that we have to remember 1-1s and assistants in our plans.

Dr. Schneider noted that staff was approved for September start, but change will happen if enrollment is reduced.

MaryBeth Smith – asked about isolation for sick.

Dr. Schneider noted that separate rooms are part of plan.

Tina Jablonski noted that since JFC has Cognitive Severe and medically fragile students transferring teachers at this time would be difficult.

Kelly Barcalow, nurse – noted that she hears that over summer district is doing planning but there is no way we can start in Sept in one day.

Keesha Bruno, parent at MES shared that students/parents cannot all take the risk of coming back – will there be an option for remote learning and keep them home?

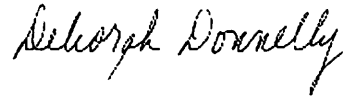
Dr. Schneider yes working to ensure hot spots/chrome books will be available – CSTs and sending districts to speak to our families.

Maureen Welsh – noted nurses are essential part of return to school.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Stacy Morgan Santo and Seconded by Gerald Stockman to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (6) aye's (0) nay's. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Donnelly".

Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Hello... My name is Karen Burke, nurse at the high school. Today, I am speaking on behalf of all our nurses.

On June 18th, the district nurses, together, sent an email to Dr. Schneider, Deb Donnelly and Brian Bittings. We also CC'd the principals, as well as our union president and vice president to keep them apprised of our concerns. Our mission with this email was for our upper administrators to consider hiring the other three nurses that signed up to work in February (the deadline) and have worked the previous summers. We knew that 2 of us were being hired and two of us were not planning on working anyway.

We explained in that letter the many tasks that still need to be completed ending last school year (we need to get into the building to do) and what we need to do to prepare for the upcoming school year. Plus, we need to get on to the google classrooms during ESY besides doing our other work. Being the health professionals of our district, we also need to continue to educate ourselves and prepare for the eventual opening of school regarding Covid 19. Things are constantly changing. We need to have everything in place, so that when school does open, we are prepared to deal with everything related to Covid. You know that is going to be difficult at best. This will be on top of what is typically a busy day without the issues of Covid.

Do you know what response we received from that first email??? We heard crickets! We then sent a follow up email on Tuesday, June 30 as we knew this board meeting was approaching. Again nothing!!! Do you know what "No response" says to us?? It's a very loud response to what we see as disrespect. An answer of some kind would have been appreciated! An acknowledgement of our letter. We have found out that these 3 nurses are the only certified staff not being hired that had planned on working this summer except

for one teacher. How can that be?? We are in the middle of a pandemic.

We realized in the beginning that everyone probably would not be hired...teachers, therapists, nurses, assistants, behaviorists etc. Under the circumstances we understood that. But then things changed. Fortunately, everyone did get hired, but not these 3 nurses. We believe that we are not being unreasonable.

Yesterday, Leah Durastanti sent an email out to everyone on that original email link asking for a response. Today, at 2:22pm we received a response from Brian Bittings that due to the decreased enrollment and budget constraints the 3 nurses will not be hired for ESY.

Let me just say on a personal note that I have been a very dedicated nurse in this district since 1999. I've always felt that I had a good relationship with our upper administration and was listened to and we had a mutual respect for each other. I love working here, but I can tell you that we are all very disappointed with how we, as a group, are being treated at this time. Perhaps there is an explanation?? We hope that we can have a further discussion with all involved which will bring out a positive outcome.

Thank you for your time.