

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
of the
MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES
BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday May 11, 2021
4:30 pm

The monthly business meeting for the month of May 2021 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 4:30 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: Ms. Rainiero read the following statement:

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 mailed 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. The public will be placed on mute by default during the meeting until recognized by the chair. The public may also place themselves on mute.

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Brian Bittings Interim Assistant Superintendent, and Walter Bliss, Board Attorney.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Suspended
3. **PUBLIC Session:** moved to the end
4. **Approval of April 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

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			

5. Bills to be Approved and addendum totaling \$3,880,576.09 and authorization of transfers within program areas as approved by the Superintendent.

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			

6. Board Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for March 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			

7. Correspondence & Communications

Ms. Donnelly reported that we were a recipient of the Association of School Business Official (ASBO) International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Ms. Donnelly reported that we have received this award 9 years in a row! Ms. Donnelly thanked her staff in the Business Office and specifically thanked Udaya Batchu, Assistant Business Administrator who worked extra hard with the auditors to get this done!

SUPERINTENDENT’S AGENDA

NEW/SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Recommend Board approve the following:

- Partnership with Mercer Council for the 2021-2022 school year to provide support services and evidence-based programs for youth from middle school to high school. All programs will be facilitated by MCSSSD SAC and Mercer Education Specialist and include interactive lessons/activities that create positive learning experiences to increase the likelihood that youth will make responsible, healthy choices.

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			

PERSONNEL:

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 2020 – 2021 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, Resignations, Leaves, Retirements, etc. (Attachment 9-A)

Ms. Donnelly noted a correction to Personnel: Michelle DiCoio correct salary is: \$99,729, and Brian Kozakowski correct salary is \$136,462.

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:

- Revised 2020-2021 MCSSSD School Year Calendar (previously approved 02/02/2021). This calendar changes the last day of school from June 24, 2021 to June 25, 2021 which is the result of a snow day. (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			

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

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

BYLAWS

None

POLICIES

None

REGULATIONS

None

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

BYLAWS

B0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal (M)

POLICIES

- P1643 Family Leave (M) – NEW
- P2415 Every Student Succeeds Act (M)
- P2415.02 Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities (M)
- P2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M)
- P2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M)
- P5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis (M)
- P7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M)
- P7440 School District Security (M)
- P7510 Use of School Facilities (M)
- P9713 Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M)

REGULATIONS

- R1642 Earned Sick Leave Law (M)
- R2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M)
- R5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis (M)
- R7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M)
- R7440 School District Security (M)
- R7510 Use of School Facilities (M)

Abolished -- Policies, Regulations, or By-Laws
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 April 2021 (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			

- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying as of April 2021

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	1	0	1
April	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	1

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 April 2021

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2019-2020	497	498	548	546	546	551	544	559	563	561	561	560
2020-2021	428	428	496	501	503	505	506	502	501	501		

	03/31/2021	04/30/2021
Mercer High School	244	241
Mercer Elementary School	189	189
Regional Day	7	9
Joseph F. Cappello School	61	62
TOTAL:	<u>501</u>	<u>501</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**

- a. Approve to continue to contract with Realtime Information Technology, Incorporated for the Student Database Management System, Cafeteria Point of Sale System and Emergency Notification System for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$18,759.80.

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 the Affiliation Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District Project Child Clinic Program and The Learning Center beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Attachment 11-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			

- c. Approve agreement with Paul’s Commodity Hauling, Inc. to provide delivery of State Food Commodities to be managed and invoiced through Sodexo for the 2021/2022 school year per agreement (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 to accept the CRRSA Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II) in the amount of \$149,746 for allowable costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020; obligated through September 30, 2023.

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 the Food Service Management Company Cost Reimbursable Contract Renewal at the Management/Administrative Flat Fee of \$55,795.10 with a break-even guarantee with Sodexo Incorporated for School Year 2021/2022 (attachment 11-e).

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 the Architect of Record Services to DI Group Architecture, LLC for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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. Approve to renew Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Hunterdon Educational Services Commission, Education Services Commission of NJ and Mercer County Cooperative Contract Purchasing System.

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 Lease Agreement between Mercer County Special Services School District and Specialized Education of NJ Inc. for the 2021/2022 school year (Attachment 11-h).

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

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

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. Approve resolution authorizing member participation of the South Hunterdon Board of Education with Mercer County Special Services School District as the lead agency for the Cooperative Pricing Agreement 103-MCSSSDCPS for the purchase of goods and services (Attachment 11-k).

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			

l. Approve the use of the Hamilton Police for the safety and security of students and staff at Mercer High School and Mercer Elementary School during 2021/2022 school year as needed by the Principal at the Township extra duty hourly pay rate.

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

Lisa Vena, Board Vice President; Thank you for the Marketing materials that we asked for at the last Board Meeting. I received. I hope it continues to be sent out. I thought it was well done.

Tina Jablonski, Teacher at Joseph Cappello and Vice President of MCSSETA said we understand transfers are necessary, but we do not understand the process. We seem to take the most senior persons and move them. They are the experts in the program and then the program is left with a gap. It is professional courtesy. They feel disrespected after dedicating so many years of service. We are asking for a process change. Every year this happens. Could it be a volunteer process with a meeting with the administration? We hope to have open discussions and make change.

We are not here to cause trouble or complain. We are speaking because we care and want to help and be a part of the process to make positive changes to improve our district.

Camille Rainiero responded; your comments have been heard and will be passed along.

Elizabeth Breden parent of a MHS student; I would like to formally introduce the MCSSSD SEPAG (*Special Education Parents Advocacy Group*), to have some positive communication and work together with the district which will help us have answers. I am the chair and MHS Representative with Anne Olivero co-chair. We are working with Brian Bittings, Assistant superintendent and Tammy Lascar, Supervisor Student Services. There is a representative from each school; Lauren Burton at JFC and Amanda Santos at MES. There is a tab on the district website. We will be having a zoom meeting on May 17, 2021 from 6PM – 8PM. The link has been posted to the website. All are welcome.

Michelle Carmignani, MHS Social worker, there is ESY confusion on whether or not we are offering a remote program. Can we get clarification?

Brian Bittings responded; the sending districts asked if we will be in person and we said yes. There will be students that need remote learning. This has been clarified with the sending districts. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion by Stacy Morgan Santo and Seconded by Lisa Vena to adjourn the meeting passed by unanimous voice vote, (5) aye's (0) nays. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary