

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2015

RESCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2015 DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Board Meeting of February 17, 2015 was called to order by President Albert Pitman at 4:41 pm. The meeting took place at the Mercer County Vocational-Technical Schools, 1085 Old Trenton Road, Trenton, New Jersey. The President read the following Sunshine Statement:

“In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided.
This meeting notice was advertised in the Trenton Times newspaper on February 20, 2015.
This notice was also posted in the Board Office and a copy has been filed with the County Clerk of Mercer”.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Present	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Present
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy - Present	Mr. Pitman - Present

PUBLIC

Madeline Lollo, MCVEA President, Cosmetology Instructor and resident of Mercer County asked the Board to reconsider their negotiations offer. Ms. Lollo stated that she knew taxes, etc. are going up, so please reconsider your offer to the staff.

Ed Birdsall, Landscape and Design Instructor stated, with the rise of health benefits and salaries staying the same the past four years, it seems like we have taken two steps forward and three steps back. We ask the Board to reconsider its position.

John Baldino, PE Instructor read the following to the Board: I want to thank you for taking the next few minutes to listen to what I have to say. I would like you to listen to my words, not as a board member or any other job title you hold, but as a fellow citizen, tax payer and as a husband, wife or dad or mom. Put yourself in my shoes and try to understand what I am battling daily. I am here to talk to you not just as an educator, but as a husband and a father. Next to God, my wife and my two sons are what matter most in my life. Due to the drastic changes that have been made to our health benefit cost increases my ability to provide, care for and spend time with them has changed. As of this past September I starting bringing home almost \$700 less each month. That’s \$7,000 less a year that I don’t have to pay my mortgage, buy groceries, save for my children’s future education, or pay down the debt we have from when my wife was out on maturity leave. My take home is now less than what I was taking home my first year teaching here 7 years ago. Because of this extreme change in salary I had to get a part-time job working 3-4 nights a week at a grocery store. That job resulted in losing 16 to 24 hours of being with my family to make an extra \$200-400 a month. This has left us \$300-500 short of what I was bringing home last year. This has taken me away from raising my children and spending time with my wife. These are two things that I will never get back. Making money can be done by working extra hours, but the memories I miss making with my wife and the lessons I am not able to teach my children, or the time I miss watching them grow can never be made up. This has hindered my sleep as well. I work until 10 or 10:30 at night which has me getting to bed later. This leads to less sleep and causes me to be more tired in the morning and less able to give my students my best effort. All of these issues stem from having such a large amount of money taken out without any notice of how much it would be exactly. On top of this, I recently lost that part time job because the store closed up. This has left me to fight for jobs with the same students I teach. Something I feel as utterly ridiculous and wrong. I knew that becoming a teacher would never make me rich; it would allow me to enrich the lives of a countless number of young adults. Everything in my life has now changed. My wife and I have almost drained our savings and it has put a strain on our relationship. She is forced to take on the work of most of the house hold chores on top of being the primary care provider for our children. We have entered into a cycle that isn’t healthy for our relationship as husband and wife and my children are suffering because I have become more of an absent father because I need to work more. We don’t live outside our means either. We have a small Cape Cod home in Hamilton and we are just looking to not struggle every month. How would you feel if you were in my position? I understand that as educators we aren’t the only ones paying for our health insurance or struggling with monetary issues. This drastic change just makes us as employees wonder what the plans are for the future here. If you keep taking things away from us at what point will we stop worrying about teaching and start focusing on self-preservation. At what point will these teachers be fed up with the increase in paper work and added responsibility and decreased salary to do a job that gets harder to deal with. We lose our prep periods to more meetings and trainings. We are constantly asked to do more for the same or less than what we used to make. This will lead to burnout and then a constant rotation of new teachers who have no veteran leadership to lean on. That may save you money, but it doesn’t help the students. In the long run it will lead to a weak staff and poorly run school. As an administrator I would hate to have this situation on my hands. Being told year after year to lead fresh faced teachers with no support because a divide has been drawn and there is no trust.

So I ask you...is this fair? Is this right? Is it in the best interests of the future students of this school district? Your future children or grandchildren? If I were in your situation it would be a tough pill to swallow knowing that I have a direct negative impact on the people I am asking to leave a legacy for the next generation.

Ms. Lollo stated, ask the Board to remember that our staff prepares the students for the senators and other visitors that showcase our schools.

Mr. Pitman said, that doesn't fall on deaf ears, as I live with an educator. I have those same buttons you have all around my house. We know you are dedicated and we know you all work hard, but I don't know how to resolve this healthcare issue. Believe me, we hear you and thank you all for all you do.

Ms. Lollo asked, maybe talk to the negotiations committee, because the last time we met, they did not want to negotiate. We are willing to negotiate if they are. Thank you.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The regular session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015 were brought before the Board for approval. Upon reviewing the regular session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015, Ms. Iszard introduced a motion for the Board to approve the minutes. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Abstain
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman – Yes

The Executive session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015 were brought before the Board for approval. Upon reviewing the Executive session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015, Ms. Iszard introduced a motion for the Board to approve the minutes. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Abstain
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman – Yes

BILLS TO BE APPROVED/TRANSFERS

Bills totaling \$1,052,922.05 for February 2015 and budget transfers to date were brought before the Board. Upon reviewing the bills and budget transfers presented, Dr. Morana introduced a motion for the Board to approve the bill list totaling \$1,052,922.05. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote. The bills list and budget transfers report shall be attached to the original minutes filed in the Board Office as an official document of the Board.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Yes
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman – Yes

BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon review of the financial reports for the period ending January 2015, Ms. Iszard introduced a motion the Board approve the reports as presented, whereby, that major accounts and fund balances have not been over-expended and sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote. Said reports shall be attached to the original minutes filed in the Board Office as official documents of the Board.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Yes
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman – Yes

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Dana Hice DePugh, Assistant Superintendent informed the Board that the culinary students participating in a competition today in Summit, NJ won silver.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT NEW PROGRAMS/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Recommend the Board approve the following:

1. Articulation Agreement between Mercer County Community College and Mercer County Technical Schools for the Health Science Academy CIP 51.000 for the 2014-2015 school year, effective September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (attached)

PERSONNEL

Recommend the Board approve the following personnel in the job categories, salary/wage rates, time periods specified:

1. Maria Cram as an Interim Supervisor at the Assunpink Center and Health Careers Center, on an as needed basis and not to exceed four (4) days per week, at a per diem rate of \$450, retroactive to January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 (13-330-200-103-05-00-2400)
2. An adjustment of one additional increment for Natalie Aulicino, Biology Instructor at the Sypek and Assunpink Centers, for attainment of her standard teaching certificate, pending the outcome of negotiations, with the effective date of March 1, 2015 in accordance with the 2011-2014 agreement between the Board of Education and the MCVEA, Article IX, Item B (11-310-100-101-02-00-1719) (11-320-100-101-03-00-1027)
3. A stipend for the following in the amount of \$75 for chaperoning HOSA students to the HOSA Southern Regional Conference event held at Monmouth County Academy of Allied Health on February 7, 2015 (11-310-100-101-01-01-0000)
 - a. Sharon Nemeth, Principal of the Assunpink Center
 - b. Anne Benoit, Supervisor of the Assunpink Center
 - c. Laura Wurtzel, Secretary I at the Assunpink Center
4. A stipend for the following in the amount of \$100, pending negotiations, for overnight chaperoning of students to the Prostart competition event held at The Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ on Monday, February 23rd and Tuesday, February 24, 2015 (11-310-100-101-02-02-0000)
 - a. David Nash, CIE Coordinator
 - b. Scott Engle, Culinary Arts Instructor at the Sypek Center
 - c. Marcie Tandy, Business Office Applications Instructor at the Sypek Center

Ms. Iszard introduced a motion for the Board to approve the aforementioned. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana - Yes
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy – Abstain	Mr. Pitman – Yes

MISCELLANEOUS

Recommend the Board approve the following:

1. Board policy 2622 Student Assessment for first reading (attached)
2. District Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Report for September 1, 2014 through February 4, 2015 (attached)
3. Emergency Preparedness Drill Report for the month of January 2015 (attached)
4. 2013-2014 School Year Test Results for New Jersey Biology Competency and High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) (attached)
5. Revised 2014-2015 Secondary Calendar (attached)

6. Revised 2014-2015 Health Careers Center Calendar (attached)
7. Revised 2014-2015 Thomas J. Rubino Academy Calendar (attached)

Ms. Iszard introduced a motion for the Board to approve the aforementioned. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote. A copy of Policy 2622, HIB, EPDR, HSPA, revised secondary, HCC and Rubino calendars shall be attached to the original minutes filed in the Board Office as official documents of the Board.

Roll Call:	Ms. Iszard – Yes	Ms. Stinger – Absent	Dr. Morana – Yes
	Mr. Zoller – Absent	Mr. Murphy – Abstain	Mr. Pitman – Yes

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS & ADDENDUM

Recommend the Board approve the following:

- IIA. Travel requests (attached)
- IIB. Field trip requests (attached)
- IIC. Audit services of Wiss & Company, LLP (with a Peer Review Rating of Pass) for the school year ending June 30, 2015 per engagement letter dated January 22, 2015 for \$25,000 (11-000-230-332-07-00-2301/7048) (attached)
- IID. Renewal of subscription with My Learning Plan to provide a web-based online educator observation and appraisal management system for the period February 21, 2015 to February 20, 2016 for \$1,776 (11-310-100-320-09-00-1760/7202) (attached)
- IIE. Revise tuition payable to Camelot Education Resources, LLC. of \$167,040 for increased enrollment from September 2014 through December 2014 over base enrollment of 125 students (attached)
- IIF. Approve the services of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann to serve as special counsel in the lease finance for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 which will be paid for through the purchase proceeds (attached)
- IIG. Approve the services of Phoenix Advisors, LLC to serve as financial advisor for an amount not to exceed \$7,500 which will be paid for through the purchase proceeds (attached)
- IIH. Approve the resolution to enter into a lease purchase finance for a term not to exceed five (5) years in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,00 to be used as local share ROD grant project number 3105-040-14-1002-G04 (attached)
- III. Robbinsville High School as the site for the Health Careers Graduation Ceremony on July 17, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$250 (13-330-200-590-05-00-2400)
- IIJ. Comegno Law Group, PC for the period of December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$175, not to exceed \$7,500 (11-000-230-331-07-00-2301/7046)
- IIK. Authorize the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC) from May 2014 to December 2014 as follows: 269 from Assunpink and 338 from Sypek for a total of 607 SREC's using the services of Flett Exchange Online Auction
- III. Advertise the following bids for the 2015-2016 school year:
 - Construction Supplies
 - Cosmetology Supplies
- IIIM. Agreement with The Hamilton Manor for MCTS Prom Celebration on Friday, May 29, 2015 (paid by student accounts) (attached)

II.N. Middle States Association evaluation preparation fee of \$550 to cover costs associated with identification, support and training needed to guide MCTS through the self-study phase and document review of the accreditation process

Dr. Morana introduced a motion for the Board to approve the aforementioned. Ms. Iszard seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote. A copy of travel, field trips, auditor agreement, My Learning Plan, Camelot tuition revision, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, Phoenix Advisors, lease purchase resolution, Hamilton Manor agreement, shall be attached to the original minutes filed in the Board Office as official documents of the Board.

Roll Call: Ms. Iszard – Yes Ms. Stinger – Absent Dr. Morana – Yes
Mr. Zoller – Absent Mr. Murphy – Yes Mr. Pitman – Yes

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 4:57 pm on a motion made by Ms. Iszard and seconded by Mr. Murphy and carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call: Ms. Iszard – Yes Ms. Stinger – Absent Dr. Morana – Yes
Mr. Zoller – Absent Mr. Murphy – Yes Mr. Pitman – Yes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mercer County Vocational-Technical Board of Education shall recess to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations update.

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.

Ms. Iszard introduced a motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to public regular meeting at 5:26 pm. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call: Ms. Iszard – Yes Ms. Stinger – Absent Dr. Morana – Yes
Mr. Zoller – Absent Mr. Murphy – (left meeting at 5:24 pm) Mr. Pitman – Yes

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Iszard introduced a motion the meeting be adjourned at 5:27 pm. Dr. Morana seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call: Ms. Iszard – Yes Ms. Stinger – Absent Dr. Morana – Yes
Mr. Zoller – Absent Mr. Murphy – (left meeting at 5:24 pm) Mr. Pitman – Yes

The next meeting of the Board shall be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the Assunpink Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Dawson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary