# MERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
# Board of Education
# Monday, October 24, 2022
# Immediately after the Community Forum, approximately 6:15 p.m.
# Merton Intermediate School Little Theater

President Dobbertin called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Dobbertin announced the meeting was properly posted. Board members in attendance were Andersen, Kent, Lehman, Cotton, and Dobbertin. District Administrator Russ was in attendance. There were no reporters and approximately 20 citizens in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda**
Motion by Lehman, second by Dobbertin to approve the agenda striking D, E and F from the New Business portion of the agenda. Motion failed 2-3, Cotton, Kent and Andersen voting no.

Motion by Kent, second to Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-2, Dobbertin and Lehman voting no.

**Approval of Minutes**
Motion by Lehman, second by Anderson to approve board meeting minutes of Monday, September 26, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. Open Session. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lehman, second by Anderson to approve board meeting minutes of Monday, September 26, 2022 @ 7:30 p.m. Closed Session. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Financial and Bill Listing**
Motion by Lehman, second by Anderson to approve Payroll Check #553830 - #553831 in the amount of $340.30, Payroll Check #553832 in the amount of $162.54. Direct Deposits #900057842-900057960 in the amount of $177,865.10, Direct Deposits #900057961-900055073 in the amount of $163,136.36, Wire Transfers for Payroll Liabilities #202200078-202200107 in the amount of $319,332.86, Accounts Payable Checks #55493-55554 in the amount of $231,519.72, AP Wire Transfers 202200087-202200089 in the amount of $419.09, AP Wire Transfers 202200094-202200096 in the amount of $5,902.19, AP Wire Transfers 202200109-202200110 in the amount of $381.59, Credit Card Transactions #92022 in the amount of $18,622.62 and ACH/Direct Deposit #222300032-222300046 in the amount of $1,146.94. Total Accounts Payable $257,992.15. Motion passed 5-0.

**Delegations to be Heard**
A citizen from the community addressed the Board regarding the possible move of 4th grade from the Primary School to the Intermediate School and the payment of attorney fees to Attolles Law, S.C. in the amount of $3,234.50.

**Administrator's Report**

**1. Acceptance of Donations (Action)**

Motion by Andersen, second by Lehman to approve the donations from the Merton PTO of $19,970.30 for the second electronic outdoor sign, $425.40 for staff back to school meals. The board thanked Andrea Reed and Girl Scout Troop 6380 for their generous donation of $116.25 to refinish the outdoor benches at the Primary school. Motion carried 5-0.

**2. Personal Actions (Action)**

Motion by Lehman, second by Kent to approve the Art Teacher Contract for Kathryn Daugs as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lehman, second by Cotton to approve the Resignation of Olivia Griepentrog as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lehman, second by Kent to approve the Letter of Appointment for Patricia Mula as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**Information**

**Staff Recognition**

Dr. Russ and the Board of Education recognized and thanked Lori Lewandowski for her 30 years in education with Merton Community Schools as a 4th grade teacher. Lori has been nominated multiple times, by both parents and staff members, as a Merton MVP. Thank you for all you do Mrs.Lew.

**Committee Reports**

**A. Finance Committee**

Business Manager April Farley updated the Board on the 2022-2023 Quarterly Financials, the Budget and Tax Levy Memo along with the Final Revenue Limit & Equalization Aid. Mrs. Farley reviewed the 2021-2022 ESSA School Level Report and ESSER III Update.

**B. Student Achievement Committee**

Dr. Russ updated the Board on the presentation that Maria Kucharski, Curriculum Director, gave at 4:45 pm. The topics addressed were the public release of the District's 2022 Spring Forward test results, ACP Plan Modifications, the updated district dashboard and the continuous improvement of staff and administration throughout Merton Community Schools.

**C. Policy/Personnel Committee**

Dr. Russ gave the Board an update and many various Policy/Personnel Committee updates, including; the Employee Climate and Culture Survey, discussions around Educational Technology Policy 7042, Legal Counsel updates, Board Member/Attorney Discretionary Funds Policy, Policies 2001 and 2005, and the policy review timeframes and the MVP recognition policy.

**New Business**

**A. Approve 2022-2023 District Budget/Tax Levy (Action)**

Motion by Lehman, Second by Andersen to approve the certification of the Tax Levy of:
Fund 10: $4,045,330.00
Fund 38: $ 59,482.00
Fund 41: $ 100,000.00
For the total tax levy of $4,204,812.00. Be it resolved that the property tax levy to fund the 2022-23 Merton Community School District operations be set at $4,204,812.00 and that the necessary certifications be forwarded to the clerks of the appropriate municipalities. This establishes a mill rate of $3.16 per $1000 of valuation for property tax purposes. Motion carried 5-0

**B. Information and discussion around possibly moving 4th Grade to Merton Intermediate (Discussion)**

Dr. Russ gave an update regarding the possibility of moving 4th grade from Primary School to the Intermediate School. The Board will be hosting a workshop in November to address this topic.

**C. Strategic Planning Process (Discussion)**

Dr. Russ gave the Board a recap of all the accomplishments and developments over the past year along with the 10 year facility updates. The Board directed administration to revisit Strategic Planning in April of 2023.

**D. Offering Exit Interviews to former Employees (Possible Action)**

The Board tabled the topic to a later date. Conversation focused around the rationale for offering former employees the opportunity given the District just completed exit interviews for last year's employees and a Culture and Climate Survey of all staff now.

**E. Active Administrative Contract Renewal (Possible Action)**

Motion by Andersen, second by Kent to approve the motion to "Actively" (approve contracts prior to January 31 of expiring contract year) renew administrative contracts versus "Passively" approving them when the administrative contract expires. motion carried 3 to 2, Dobbertin and Lehman voting no.

**F. 6th-8th SEL Program/Implementation (possible Action)**

Discussion focused around the SEL Study Hall expectations. Principal Newcomer was allowed to speak to the topic. No action was taken.

**G. Purchase of Chromebooks for Merton Primary (Action)**

Motion by Amnderson, second by Lehman to approve 25 new Chromebooks for 5K, not to exceed $8,500. Motion carried 5-0.

**Future Meeting and Agenda Items**

A. November 28, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. (Open Session)
    1. Monthly Meeting w/ Community Forum to begin the meeting
B. December 19, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. (Open Session)
    1. Monthly Meeting w/ Community Forum to begin the meeting
C. January 30, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. Open Session)
    1. Monthly Meeting w/ Community Forum to begin the meeting

Motion by Andersen, second by Lehman to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Andersen
District Clerk