The Mercer County Board of Education met in special session at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, in the Seminar Center at the Mercer County Technical Education Center, Princeton, WV.

Members present were, Paul Hodges, Jacinda Santon Smith, Gilbert Bailey, Greg Prudich, and Deborah Akers, Secretary. Mary Alice Kaufman was present via telephone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Todd Browning, Assistant Superintendent, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Resolution
Board Memo #187

Mr. Prudich moved to amend and accept the amended board resolution, seconded by Ms. Smith, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved the amended board resolution.

Mr. Bailey proposed a change in wording; and Mr. Prudich proposed changing collaboration to consultation in paragraph seven (7) of the board resolution.

RESOLUTION
MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The legislature has a duty to provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools in the State and the Mercer County Board of Education has been delegated such duty for Mercer County, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS: In October 2018, the Governor, flanked by legislative leaders, promised an additional five percent (5%) pay raise for school personnel and additional funding to stabilize the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA); and

WHEREAS: Public schools are at the heart of the community well-being; and

WHEREAS: County Boards of Education budgets are already severely strained due to previous cuts to education funding; underfunding of education in WV has led to shortages of professional and service personnel; and
WHEREAS: Reduction in State financial support will negatively impact our ability to serve the children and families of our community; and

WHEREAS: The opioid problem has additionally put a strain on our educational system that has furthered the difficulty in educating many of our children due to the increase in number and magnitude of behavioral issues in children; and

WHEREAS: The Senate Education Committee has since originated SB 451, the Omnibus Education Bill, which proposes certain changes to public education under the guise of educational reform with little, if any, meaningful consultation with education stakeholders in West Virginia; and

WHEREAS: To the extent that this so-called “reform” to West Virginia’s public education system is needed, such reform should have the goal of increasing student achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS: Research and experience across the country have shown that implementation of certain aspects of the bill has a high likelihood of adversely affecting the education of the most disadvantaged children in our system; and

WHEREAS: Certain provisions of the current proposed Omnibus Bill is detrimental to our public schools and the ability of the Mercer County Board of Education to provide a thorough and efficient system for all students in Mercer County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Mercer County Board of Education opposes any and all efforts to use public funds for education reform or changes that will not lead to higher student achievement for ALL students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The MCBOE opposes taxation and policy decisions which result in reduced revenues for public education and/or have a negative impact on our students and families.

Paul Hodges
Board President
February 5, 2019

Richard S. Alexander
Superintendent
February 5, 2019

Nothing further appearing, Mr. Prudich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Smith, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Deborah S. Akers, Secretary