

PRESS RELEASE

NOTICE OF MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 1403 Honaker Avenue, Princeton, WV 24740

For Immediate Release:

Date: July 22, 2026
Contact: Edward T. Toman, Superintendent
Phone: (304) 431-1236
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The public is hereby notified that the Mercer County Board of Education will convene and meet at **6:00 P.M.** for Regular Session on **Monday, July 27, 2026** in the Seminar Center at Mercer County Technical Education Center, 1397 Stafford Drive, Princeton, WV, at which time the following topics or propositions will be brought on for discussion and action:

AGENDA **MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION** **Regular Session (6:00 P.M.)** **July 27, 2026** **MCTEC Seminar Center** <http://tinyurl.com/mercerwv>

- I. ROLL CALL**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. SUPERINTENDENT'S OPENING REMARKS/PRESENTATIONS**
 - JASON Argonaut Presentation
 - Jason Butcher – SESC- Presentation
 - GEAR-Up Conference Presentation
- IV. CITIZENS INPUT**
- V. POLICY 2322 WEST VIRGINIA SUPPORT & ACCOUNTABILITY: SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, STUDENT OUTCOMES, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - July 13, 2026
- VII. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. J-05: Conditional Deferral of Expulsion Policy – 2nd Read
Board Memo # 483

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Contracted Services Agreement – GEAR UP SWV Local Coordinator
Board Memo # 27026
2. Renewal of College Contract for Placement of Students for Clinical Experiences
Board Memo # 27027
3. Dollywood Foundation
Board Memo # 27028
4. Student Placement from Radford University
Board Memo # 27029
5. Funding Request – Gaggle ReachOut Services
Board Memo # 27030
6. Career Connections Business Partners
Board Memo # 27031
7. 2026 – 2027 Chuck Mathena Center Rentals
Board Memo # 27032
8. Purchase Order Request – School-Based Probation Officer Funding
Board Memo # 27033
9. Vestis – E&I Cooperative Contract
Board Memo # 27034
10. Athens Baptist Church parking lot rental FY'26/27
Board Memo # 27035
11. Parts, Supplies, Tools – Lowe's
Board Memo # 27036
12. HVAC and Plumbing Parts – Ferguson Enterprises, LLC
Board Memo # 27037
13. Payment of Invoices
Board Memo # 27038
14. Purchasing Card Transactions
Board Memo # 27039

Additional Business

- A. BID 994 – DOT Physicals
Board Memo # 27040

- B. Proposed Changes to Policy D-09: Non-Public School Student Participation in MCPS
Board Memo # 27041
- C. Change Order for Emergency Re-Roof at BHS
Board Memo # 27042
- D. G-23: Retirees as Professional Substitutes – 1st Read
Board Memo # 27043
- E. G-40: Critical Need Shortage: Substitute Bus Operators – 1st Read
Board Memo # 27044
- F. Superintendent Travel
Board Memo # 27045
- G. Personnel
Board Memo # 27046

IX. DISCUSSION

- Board Policy Review – Mercer County and SESC Version
 - Section A
 - Section B
- Graduation Discussion

X. WRITTEN REPORTS

- June School Financials
- DRAFT June 2026 Financial Statements
- MCTEC Task Force

XI. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTED INFORMATION

- Superintendent's Contract
- Organizational Chart

XII. BOARD MEMBER ROUND TABLE

XIII. UPCOMING EVENTS/BOARD MEETINGS

- August 10: Administrator's Back to School Meeting, PVHS
- August 10: Regular Session, MCTEC Seminar Center, 6:00 PM
- August 17: First Day for Teachers
- August 20: First Day for Students
- August 21: Board Workshop, MCTEC Seminar Center, 10:00 AM
- August 24: Regular Session, MCTEC Seminar Center, 6:00 PM
- August 26: First day for Pre-K Students

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Professional Personnel

Employment is contingent upon acceptable background checks and drug screening.

Resignations Submitted After Publication of Agenda

Maternity Leave

Allison C. Lewis, Classroom Teacher, Bluefield Middle School, requests maternity leave for the period of August 20, 2026, through September 4, 2026. (200-day, Fund 11)

Employment

Sierra M. Brookman, Elementary Classroom Teacher, Mercer School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Kassi Leann Diffenbach, Elementary Classroom Teacher, Princeton Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Cortne Noel Smith, Elementary Classroom Teacher, Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Deanne Mertz, English Teacher, PikeView High School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Virgie T. Ratcliff, Math Teacher, Bluefield Middle School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Transfer

Michell J. Berkey, from Elementary Resource Teacher, Itinernat to Library/Media Teacher, PikeView High School, effective August 17, 2026, (200-day term, Fund 11)

Leslie A. Burnette, from Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Teacher, Bluefield Primary School to Special Education Teacher (Autism), Glenwood School, effective August 17, 2026, (200-day term, Fund 11)

Sarah D. Graham, from Elementary Classroom Teacher, Sun Valley Elementary School to Elementary Classroom Teacher, PikeView Middle School, effective August 17, 2026, (200-day term, Fund 11)

Zachary Tucker Meadows, from Physical Education Teacher, Itinerant, to Drivers Education Teacher, Princeton Senior High School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Angela Kay Neal, from Title I Instructional Interventionist, Mountain Valley Elementary School to Classroom Teacher, Mountain Valley School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Robert H. Tibbs, from PE/Health Classroom Teacher, Montcalm High School to Social Studies Teacher, Montcalm High School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Amy S. Wooldridge, from, Special Education Teacher (Multi-Cat/Autism), Mountain Valley Elementary School to Classroom Teacher, Special Education (Multi-Cat), Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Sarah D. King, from Classroom Teacher, Lashmeet/Matoaka School, to Classroom Teacher, Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026, (200-day term, Fund 11)

Amber L. Woods, from Classroom Teacher, Princeton Primary School to ESL Teacher, Itinerant, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Amber Marie Moore, from Library/Media Teacher, Itinerant to Math Teacher, Princeton Senior High School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Recission of Preferred Recall

Andrea B. Graham, from Preferred Recall, to Title I Social Worker, Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 61)

Reassignment of Classroom Position Without Posting

Ashleigh N. Hayes, Mountain Valley School, moving from 3rd grade classroom to 1st grade classroom, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Alyson N. Hollins, Mountain Valley School, moving from 4th grade classroom to 5th grade classroom, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Christy M. Hollins, Mountain Valley School, moving from 1st grade classroom to 4th grade classroom, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fun 11)

Coaching Employment - (Fund 12-Excess Levy)

Bluefield Middle

Timothy James Dewitt, Head Soccer Coach

Dennis Thompson, Head Track Coach

David Flack, Assistant Track Coach

Bluefield High School

Jeremiah Holcomb, Head Cross Country Coach

Glenwood School

Sara Elizabeth Wilie, Head Volleyball Coach

Coaching Resignation

PikeView High School

Casey R. Belcher, Assistant Volleyball Coach, effective July 9, 2026.

PikeView Middle School

Joshua Blankenship, Assistant Football Coach, effective July 17, 2026.

Princeton Middle School

James Edward Tunstalle, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, effective June 30, 2026.

Coaching Volunteers

Bluefield High School

William Warren

Deiyantei Powell-Woods

Yubrenal Isabelle

PikeView High School

Franklin Patton

Princeton Senior High School

James Whitt

Austin Southcott

Christopher Presley

Elizabeth Ramsey

Ryan Muse

George Spadaro

Shawn McGlothlin

Haley Justice

Montcalm High School

Aaron Abram

Glenwood School

Godfrey Ngure

Athletic Support Volunteers

Montcalm High School

Kevin Hedges

James Hedges

Andrew O'Donnell

Andrew Hudgins

Bridgette McClanahan

Chad Thompson

Courtney Havens

Cindy Havens

PikeView High School

Charles Maynard

Extra-Curricular Contracts

Mitzi Sadler-Thorne, Home/Hospital Instructor

Athens School

Kiersten Pennington, Head Robotics Coach

Substitutes

Professional

Karen L. Thornhill
PreK Special Needs
Elementary Ed 1-6
Mentally- Mild/Mod

5202 Substitute

Charles D. Ford

Volunteers

Princeton Senior High School

Naomi Creer

Service Personnel

Employment is contingent upon acceptable background checks and drug screening.

Names will be given at the beginning of the board meeting of the individual filling the position

_____, Supervisor of Maintenance, Maintenance Department, 261day.

Resignations Submitted After Publication of Agenda

Retirement

Pamela Jean Wellman, ECCAT/Aide (Instructional) w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Mercer Elementary School, effective August 4, 2026.

Employment

Timothy Wayne Belcher, Bus Operator, Daycare Run, Bluefield & Surrounding Area, Transportation Department, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Brent A. Bledsoe, Custodian III, Shift 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Oakvale School, effective July 28, 2026. (220-day term, Fund 11)

Ethan A. Jewell, Custodian III (part-time), Shift 2:00 p.m.-5:29 p.m., Straley School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Alex C. Mullens, Custodian IV, Shift 3:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., Princeton Middle School, effective July 28, 2026. (261-day term, Fund 11)

Steven Ray Thornton, Custodian IV (Temporary Position), Shift 6:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Montcalm High School, effective July 28, 2026, (261-day term, Fund 11)

Transfer

Deanna F. Hoosier, from Special Education Aide w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield High School to Special Education Aide w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Bryce J. Pannell, from Special Education Aide w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield High School to Special Education Aide w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield Middle School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Audra M. Shrewsbury, from ECCAT/Aide (Instructional) w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Timberwood Elementary School to ECCAT/Aide (Instructional) w/Transportation

Duties (as needed), Mercer County Early Learning Center, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Melissa L. Thornton, from ECCAT/Aide (Instructional) w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield Intermediate School to ECCAT/Aide (Instructional) w/Transportation Duties (as needed), Bluefield Primary School, effective August 17, 2026. (200-day term, Fund 11)

Frances L. Walker, from Cook III, Spanishburg School to Secretary/Accountant II, Spanishburg School, effective August 11, 2026. (207-day term, Fund 11)

Recission of Reduction in Force

Chad R. Southern, Custodian III, Shift 3:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., Bluefield Middle School, effective July 31, 2026, (215-day term, Fund 11)

Summer Paint Crew Voluntary Extension July 27-31, 2026

Charity D. Akers

Kelly Marie Buchanan

April Dawn Lawrence

Shelia R. Lusk

Karen C. Pacitto

Karen L. Pacitto

Devan D. Rollyson

Mary E. Taylor

William N. Taylor

Kevin S. Welch

Beverly M. Lytton

Kimberly Farmer

Joanne Pilarski

Extra-Curricular Contract Removal

Lisa Shawn Collins, Custodian, K-3 Summer Learning Academy, Princeton Primary School, effective July 17, 2026.