

Mercer School District
Mercer, WI 54547
May 1, 2018

Director Bob Soldner and the DPI Fund 80 Auditing team,

Thank you for your help in re-auditing Fund 80 and for the time you're spending to help us to be sure that we're doing the fund's bookkeeping correctly.

We have looked over your requests and want you to know that, in every instance, we approved all the payments, expenditures, and actions in question.

We, being ordinary residents and taxpayers, not accountants or bookkeepers, but elected officials, have made some errors regarding minutes, motions, corrections to minutes, etc., for example, in reviewing the paperwork requested by your department, we noticed that at the August Board meeting on August 26, 2015, we had the Memorandum of Understanding on the agenda, handled and signed it in the executive session, and it was not in the minutes. Holmstrom was not in attendance at this meeting. Additionally, at the September regular board meeting, September 28, 2015, the minutes noted "NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS". This referred to the request by Administrator, Erik Torkelson and Business Manager, Lori Boltz to not open their administrative contracts, so no action was taken on that. Missing from those executive session minutes was the fact that we voted on and approved the administrative team's performance bonuses. Deanna Pierpont, board president at the time, was directed by the board members in attendance to have our Business Manager, Boltz, give performance bonuses to Torkelson - \$11,000 (2 payments of \$5500), Boltz - \$3,000, Administrative Assistant, Tricia Thompson - \$3,000, and Building and Grounds Director, Adam Kussard - \$1,000. The minutes did not include these details. The vice president at that time, Noel Brandt, now board president, was absent from this meeting. We also noticed that the motion to go into executive session was 2nd by Brandt. This is incorrect because the motion was seconded by Kelly Kohegyi as written in the business manager's handwritten minutes.

We look forward to your resolving these matters, so we can put the challenges being experienced by our staff, administration, and community behind us.

Please know our boards pride themselves in doing the right thing and we have been diligent as "we fail forward to success". If there are any other matters that need to be addressed or cleared up, we would appreciate your help.

Please note that any errors were not in actions taken, but in the record keeping. If more clarification is needed, feel free to call Deanna @715-776-4588.


MERCER BOARD OF EDUCATION


DEANNA PIERPONT


DENISE THOMPSON


MICKI HOLMSTROM


KELLY KOHEGYI


NOEL BRANDT