



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**City Council Chambers**

**14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195**

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

**DATE: March 11, 2014**

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

**TIME: 6:00 P.M**

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Kremer

TRUSTEES

AMANDA KREMER  
SUE MURRAY

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Grusecki, McLachlan, Pastor

**ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

**ADMINISTRATION**

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2013/14 - 137 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray, that the Board of Education revise the March 11, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Agenda to include approval of the minutes from Feb 24, 2014 Special Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

2013/14 - 138 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray to approve the March 11, 2014 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

**ATTENTION to STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

None

## PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Knott presented the Division 1 State Competitive Cheerleading Champions to the Board of Education and commented that this is the third consecutive year they have won this title. He invited Coach Colette Norscia to come forward to speak on the girls behalf. She explained that with the support from parents, Grandparents, family members, the community, staff members and the Athletic Director and the unbelievable dedication and sacrifices the girls have to make- is how they were able to achieve this success. The collective GPA is a 3.3. She thanked the Board for recognizing the girl's achievements as student athletes and valuable members of the community. She thanked the families for their support as well as Mr. Grusecki for attending the Regional event. She mentioned the incredible support from fans and how they had over 340 in attendance, and thanked all those who drove the distance to support the girls. The girls were individually introduced to the Board and photos were taken to honor them. Not all girls were able to attend due to the fact many were involved with the spring sports tryouts and practices.

Mr. Grusecki commented on the greeting he received from the young ladies at the Regional event, saying it was the best he has had in his educational career, when in unison they said "Hi Mr. G". He told them he really appreciated that, and congratulated them.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

## DISCUSSION

### FINANCE

Theresa McLachlan updated the board on the amended budget. A lot of hard work has gone into the updates. The finance committee will be presented with the finished budget and then it will come to the board by the next meeting. She also let the board know she received an email from the state regarding the Best Practices Resolution the board had passed. The state confirmed we have met 7 of the 8 requirements so we will get additional money added to our state aid starting in March.

She made a presentation to the board regarding the new Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Requirement, due to the fact we are part of a multi-employer, cost sharing, pension plan. Every district will be required to report their share of the unfunded liability from our retirement system. This means that the liability owed to all the retirees is greater than the assets in the pension fund. The state has estimated each districts portion of that, and she presented the figures to the board. As of Sept 30, 2012 the system total is \$25,015,515,000.00. Southgate's portion is \$73,361,000.00. We will have to start reporting that liability beginning with our financial statement for the year ending June 30, 2015. We will get another letter based on Sept 30, 2013 with an estimate. Then for the year ending June 30, 2014 we will get actual information that we will have to report on our financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015. This information will be reflected on the first page of our audit report. The pension liability will not change our deficit. The \$73 million will show up under liabilities, in our statement of net position.

Mr. Grusecki asked Ms. McLachlan to clarify what that approx. \$73 million means when it is stated that it is a liability. Ms. McLachlan explained that this is an actuarial estimate of all the employees that will be retiring in the future, and what we will have to pay for our employees. It is our portion of the unfunded liability for all the people that are a part of the retirement system. Discussion took place as to why this reporting is necessary and Ms. McLachlan said it is due to the fact this is not the states

liability, it belongs to each district. The state is not a member of this plan. This encompasses all state employees and cities have already had to start reporting this a few years ago. This new way of accounting was approved by G.A.S.B. the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Discussion took place regarding the impact this has on the district. Ms. McLachlan said this does not affect our fund balance, but there is speculation it could affect our bond rating. The amount we are responsible for is proportionate to the size of our district. Mr. Grusecki commented that in the past employees were in a defined benefits plan, today's employee is in a defined contribution plan. This means the employee funds more of their future pension. Ms. McLachlan said this number will go down and be adjusted as the amount we pay into an employees' pension goes down. This amount reflects what we would be responsible for if it all came due today. We do not have to do anything with our DEP. It is only a new way of reporting our liability.

Dr. Pomponio asked which of the Best Practices we did not comply with, Ms. McLachlan said it was Online Blending ie: 21F. Mr. Grusecki said we are working on that for next year.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Grusecki reported that June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> will be full days of class for students. If the impending storm does not come, that plan will stay as is. There may need to be another adjustment to the calendar to make up time. Legislative Day is Thursday March 13. Mr. Grusecki, Ms. Reed-Hall, Mr. Hayhurst and Dr. Pomponio will be attending that event. After the morning sessions there will be an opportunity to meet with our representatives in Lansing.

A staff meeting was held earlier today and the buildings are gearing up for next year. Kindergarten registration has begun. We will be asking parents to complete a form upon exiting the district as to the reason why they may be leaving.

Mr. Grusecki also wanted to recognize the Girls Varsity Basketball team who only had one loss all season. He congratulated them on a fine season and complimented the coach and players for their dedication all season. The Boys Varsity Basketball team won their district at Wyandotte last week after losing to them twice during the regular season. They lost to Ypsilanti which ended their season.

JROTC' Winter Banquet is this Friday at Crystal Gardens.

Mr. Knott asked if we could have the basketball teams come to a board meeting to be recognized, and it was agreed they would be.

#### **CONSENT**

2013-2014 139 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 24, 2014 Special Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

2013/14 - 140 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall  
NO:

2013/14 -141 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the approve the disbursements for February 2014.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall  
NO:

### **ACTION**

2013/14 -142 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve School of Choice under Section 105 of the School Code for Kindergarten only, limited to 50 seats, for the 2014/15 school year.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall  
NO:

### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

### **INFORMATION**

Dr. Pomponio mentioned that March is Reading Month and the elementary schools have events lined up to celebrate this, from Bingo for Books, Reading Challenges and a Roller Skating night.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hayhurst commented: "I have heard remarks recently from the stakeholders of this district that according to Gov. Snyder in his State of the State address-funding for education in Michigan has increased by 1 billion dollars or \$660.00 per student under his watch. So why are we making all these cuts and continuing to complain about our budget problems?"

Let me take this public opportunity to address those comments and questions by reading you a portion of an article in the Michigan Association of School Boards newsletter from Feb 18, 2014":

Quote: "We have all recently heard that Governor Rick Snyder has provided schools with \$1 billion or \$660 per student since taking office. Is he telling the public the truth? Or are his numbers misleading? Since Proposal A passed 20 years ago, the Michigan electorate has thought of school funding on a per pupil basis largely because our basic foundation allowance for schools has been distributed that way. If you looked at the per pupil foundation allowance over the last four years, you would see an overall decline for ALL districts in the state. Even with the Governor's most recent recommendation, our lowest funded districts will still remain \$129 per pupil below their highest levels and districts at higher Foundation amounts will remain \$357 per pupil below their highest levels. How,

with these numbers, can the Governor say that he has increased funding for schools? What the Governor is relying on is total state appropriations for schools." End Quote

"The funds that Gov. Snyder is claiming he added to school budgets has not gone into your per pupil foundation grants and therefore not gone into your kids classrooms. We continue to struggle with funding in this district because regardless of what Lansing wants you to think, we are trying to educate your children, our students, with far less money that we had to spend 4 years ago".

Mr. Knott announced that Grogan's Institute of Arts (GIA) has an event on March 25, 6:00 till 8:00 p.m. Art can be viewed and there will be raffles, auctions and fundraisers to benefit their art program.

Mr. Grusecki commented on how March is Reading Month and he challenged all of the Central Office Staff to get out to the buildings and read to students. He has read to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Allen. He also mentioned that we are coming up on the 1 year anniversary of Tyler Nichols suicide. He has been in contact with Anderson High School the district and the buildings have been very proactive with Suicide Prevention. Staff has had training, UM's Eric Hipple presented on mental health disorders and depression. Mr. Hipple conducted a parent/community presentation as well as age appropriate presentations to grade levels. The development of a Southgate Community School District Suicide Prevention Policy, a committee has been formed to look at best practice research to make recommendations to the School Board. Mrs. Kemp is spearheading that. Karen Dunholter attended an all day Professional Development workshop which introduced her to practices from other districts as well as Suicide Prevention Curriculum that she will share with Ms. Pastor. Our required health class does include a unit that addresses mental health and suicide. The counseling staff has been monitoring and checking on students throughout the year who showed signs of being affected by last years' events.

Mr. Grusecki said that the district has developed a strong relationship with Tyler's family and continue to have contact with them.

Mr. Knott, on behalf of the board, sent thoughts and prayers to the Nichols' family.

#### **WORK SESSION**

The Board of Education moved into a work session at 6:40 p.m.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

2013/14 - 143 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Craig that the Board of Education enter closed session at 7:00 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Reed-Hall, Pomponio  
NO:

2013/14 -144 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Craig that the Board of Education adjourn the closed session at 8:12 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Reed-Hall, Pomponio  
NO:

**ADJOURNMENT**

2013-2014 145 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Murray, Reed-Hall, Pomponio

NO:

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Dr. Darlene Pomponio, Secretary  
Board of Education







