



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**City Council Chambers**

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

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

**DATE: May 6, 2014**

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMONIO

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Kremer, Reed-Hall

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Grusecki, Pastor

**ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:** McLachlan

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG  
AMANDA KREMER  
SUE MURRAY

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

2013/14 - 173 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board of Education revise the agenda and delete the presentation from Senator Hopgood and Representative Kandrevas, it will be rescheduled.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio

NO:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

2013/14 -174 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board of Education approve the revised agenda.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio

NO:

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

**ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Asher Representative Mark Kremer reported that the National Adult Education Honor Society Induction will be on Thursday, May 22 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Asher Gym. There will be a Fashion Show Friday, May 23, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00p.m. in the Asher Gym. Prom will be on Saturday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 in the Asher Gym and the theme is Masquerade. Asher Graduation will be held Friday June 13, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Taylor Sportsplex. Asher participated in its first Career Day. Ms. Allyson Zanetti with help from others put on the event. Monroe Community College, Regency Beauty Institute, IT Careers and Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts among others,

were represented. World Book Night was held in conjunction with this event; over 300 books were passed out to students who participated in Career Day. Former Superintendent Nancy Nagle, Retired teacher Mary Howe and Allyson Zanetti's mother, Ms. Wallace, helped to pass the books out to students. Former students were also on hand to discuss their Asher and College experiences.

Ms. Frank-Anderson High School representative reported there will be a meeting for Sophomores who signed up for AP English, on Tuesday May 13 in the Auditorium. Prom Court Nominee ballots are in the main office. Anyone interested in the New York trip should see Ms. Kroll or Ms. Silva for more information. Drama Club will be presenting their play Copacabana again on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Girls Varsity Soccer has a tournament on Sat May 10 in Bedford. Girls Varsity Tennis will be in Woodhaven on May 10. Girls/Boys Track will participate in the News Herald Invitational at Grosse Ile High School. Girls J.V. Softball will play May 10 at Airport. Girls Varsity Tennis Regionals will be May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Golf Team will participate in the News Herald Golf Tournament on Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Knott asked about the Comedy Show, Ms. Frank commented that it was Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>. It is a fund raiser for the Prom and Senior Banquet.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

ASHER- Ms. Judy Cock introduced the Asher School Improvement Team- Wendy Grzych Academic Advisor and Math Department Chair and Dawn Izzi English Department Chair. Packets were given to Board members that included information on the programs, articles from the paper about the Asher program as well as a list of dates of upcoming Asher events.

Asher has set three goals: Math, Reading & Writing with the hope that 50% of the students will be proficient in these subjects per the Advanced Ed in house tests at the end of each semester. Pre and Post testing is done.

To achieve these goals each teacher creates and submits 1 lesson per class each month in order to improve students reading and math skills according to the goals. The writing portion of the goal has teachers creating two content specific writing assignments. Once the students complete those the Advanced Ed Writing Team assesses the results using the National Writing Projects 6-point Analytic Writing Rubric. The results are then distributed to staff.

The evidence of achieving the goals is present in the percentages of students that have increased their scores. Students scoring 78% has gone up from 34% to 44%. Reading scores have gone up from 34% to 58% for students scoring 78%. Professional Development that is aligned to the goals has been very beneficial. Partnerships with EMU Writing Project as well as the Office of Urban and International Outreach not only help teach the teachers how to create meaningful writing assignments, there is also a focus on reaching out to at risk students and improving the social climate in the building.

Departments run meetings according to data, individual and departmental data is collected and disseminated which is used to inform curricular decisions.

Changes that are occurring; for the reading goal, originally a 7<sup>th</sup> grade level reading test was administered, but now due to student improvement that grade level test has been upped to 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade level. In Math, originally the focus was on measurement, now the students are participating in the Michigan Merit Curriculum so Algebra will be the new focus.

Looking toward the future, a fourth goal will be added for the 2015/2016 school year; Retention. Retaining students at this level is difficult. Professional Development is taking place to improve the classroom and school climate.

A video presentation was played for the board, highlighting Asher's success stories and student testimonials.

BEACON-Principal Chris Woodruff introduced Assistant Principal Nichole Moore and Terri Chmara Speech Pathologist and School Improvement Team member.

Beacons three goals are: All students to learn, develop and apply appropriate social skills with the goal of successfully returning to their local school district. All students to be proficient in Math and Literacy. Culture and Climate; as a community we will work to improve student and staff wellness and develop community relations with the district and community of Southgate.

Progress toward Goals: Beacon is partnering in a grant with WMU where they are learning to do trauma interventions with affected students. A high number of students at Beacon have experienced a great deal of trauma in their lives. Social workers and administrators are working together to come up with creative interventions to avoid the use of school suspensions. The theory is, kids don't get better at home being suspended, we need them in school, in the classroom. They are working on building rapport with families; to be successful, family involvement is necessary.

Evidence of Progress: Improvement with oppositional students, students that are not comfortable being in a classroom, being in a school. Most referrals come from the middle school. Most times there is a waiting list of students. So Beacon has created an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cohort, a group of students were moved up to the high school in a group, they stay together, travel together. This pilot program has been successful, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have excelled. This group has been the top group in the unit earning 84% of their points for their behavior 26 out of 31 weeks.

Other statistics and data include a point system. Kids earn these points throughout the day and staff knows when they earn them and when they do not. Indicating which classes may be easy for them and which they may be struggling with. That data helps make more informed decisions about the kids and changes to their programs.

Achievement goals: For the past two years one area addressed is what type of learners are at Beacon. They have implemented their own RTI program which is tailored to a center program. The ASSIST (Academic Student Support and Intervention Study Team), committee has been developed. This team receives referrals from teachers and social workers; they meet each week and develop intervention plans for the students. The focus is to address the specific learning needs of the students.

In Math the staff was able to participate in Southgate's Math Initiative Training. This was well received by staff, who enjoyed the interaction with their Southgate colleagues. Literacy has piloted the Barton Reading and Spelling Program. The focus is to develop phonemic awareness. Data from 8 students was reviewed and significant progress was shown. Throughout the year 3 benchmark assessments were administered.

The Board was shown the data on one student's achievement record and shown the improvement the student has achieved.

Culture and Climate Goals: An Open House with dinner provided by Chris Cakes was held to improve and strengthen the relationship between staff, students and their families. To improve the relationship between students and their bus drivers there are two bus breakfasts held during the year, which included a raffle with gift card prizes. A Thanksgiving Feast is held in November for the entire school, staff and students as well as Southgate Administration and the local police and fire departments. Annually a graduation luncheon is provided to bring together seniors, their families and the staff that has worked with them to get to this level of achievement.

Beacon and Madonna University have partnered to strengthen a wellness plan for the staff and students. Educational materials were provided by Madonna students and the nursing students provided services to staff such as blood pressure and BMI, and an in-service on how to reduce stress level.

A Culture and Climate Committee has been established that is working towards building relationships within and outside of the building. There has been progress shown with the increase in attendance at the Open House-up by 42%, Bus Breakfast was up by 23%. The Culture and Climate Committee is working on plans to prepare to move to the Gerisch building. A Road Rally is being planned to familiarize the staff with the community of Southgate. An Open House is in the works so that Beacon Community can introduce itself to the Southgate Community so that they may get to know each other.

Goals for the 2014/15 school year: Behavioral, Academic/Achievement and Culture and Climate. Focusing on continuing the work across all grade levels to ensure student's educational, emotional and social needs are met. Work will continue with differentiated instruction for all learners through implementing engaging lessons. Culture and Climate; Beacon will continue to work to address the student and staff wellness and build positive community relations with the City and District of Southgate.

Success stories: 14 students will graduate this year and the Board members were invited to attend. This year they have a High School Master Schedule, Beacon is a fully functional High School. Suspensions are being reduced. Teachers and Administrators are actively involved with the District sharing professional development opportunities. Continued partnerships with Mitsubishi and DTE. Beacon Students are also participating in the Southgate District Art Show at the Library.

Staff will be touring the Gerisch building and the renovation is well under way. Mr. Woodruff complimented the district on the Beacon and Asher Programs, saying it is a feather in their cap.

Discussion took place about the art program at Beacon.

Dr. Pomponio inquired as to what the requirements are for students to attend Beacon. Mr. Woodruff explained they have to be certified with an emotional impairment. They have to go through the continuum in their district. When all else fails in their home district, they are referred and a plan is created for them with the goal of returning those students to their home district. Typically there is a two year stay. There was discussion regarding the difficulties of parent participation.

Ms. Murray inquired about the Mitsubishi and DTE partnerships. It was explained that DTE was looking to support a school in River Rouge. They have adopted families at the holidays, worked on landscape, students have taken tours of a DTE facility, and they provided education on electricity.

The Mitsubishi partnership began when they were looking for a center based program to help out with needs. Currently they have supplied the boxes for the move to Gerisch.

Mr. Knott commented on the fact that our School District educates all children.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS**

None

## DISCUSSION

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Grusecki reported on the RESA Preliminary Budget and asked the Board to review it. Wayne RESA will then ask Boards for their stamp of approval. The State Budget is being worked on for the Classroom to Kids. The proposed amount of the increase is around \$111 per student but could go up to \$291 per student. We should know by the first of June what we will be getting. That will help our budget. There is also the potential for increase in revenue if RESA puts the enhancement millage on the ballot in Wayne County. Our Board supported that proposal and we expect the RESA Board will support it to get it on the ballot. Ultimately the voters will decide, it is a Wayne County issue not just a Southgate issue.

The policy committee is working diligently on the policy revisions. Meetings have been taking place regularly and should be completed by the end of May. The proposed 2014-2015 school calendar should be presented to the Board on May 20. Some things that cannot be altered are the start of the school year after Labor Day, and the Wayne RESA common calendar for Christmas and Easter breaks. The rest of the days off are determined locally for such things as Professional Development and Mid-Winter Break.

Starting next year Professional Development hours cannot be counted as instructional hours as they have been able to do in the past. We will be looking at using the half days, Election Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day for Professional Development.

As the end of the year quickly approaches we are looking at the make-up time for our school district. We have the right amount of days in the district; we are short on hours of instruction at DMS and AHS. The elementary schools are fine and their schedule will not change. The info will be going out to staff/parents as soon as it is available.

Dr. Pomponio commented about the policy for Suicide Prevention. Mr. Grusecki added that there will be a story about Mrs. Nichols work on Suicide Prevention and Awareness. Roger Webber from Channel 4 will be interviewing Mrs. Nichols and Mr. Grusecki for a story that will air. He read the News Herald article by Laura Zoochi and thought it would be beneficial to have the story run in the visual media.

Mr. Hayhurst asked about the additional hours we need to make-up to comply with the State requirements. Mr. Knott complimented Laura Zoochi for her professionalism when writing articles about our district.

## CONSENT

2013/14 - 175 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board approve the April 29, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

YES: Craig, Knott, Murray, Pomponio

NO:

ABSTAIN: Hayhurst

2013/14 - 176 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board approve the Disbursements for April 2014.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio

NO:

**ACTION**

2013/14 - 177 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board Adopt the Limited Schools of Choice Resolution.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio  
NO:

2013/14 - 178 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board approve the Southgate Band Trips to Bowling Green State University in June and to University of Toledo, in October.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio  
NO:

2013/14 - 179 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board approve Asher Alternative Education 9-12 School of Choice Unlimited & Virtual ages 14 and up.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Pomponio  
NO:

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jay Laginess-Rosa Lane, Southgate-asked the Board for an update on the DEP and our current level of debt and when we will be in the black.

**INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Pomponio inquired about the current DEP. Mr. Grusecki mentioned the current one presented to the State was rejected and we have until the end of July to submit a revised DEP. Dr. Pomponio reminded parents about the half days on Thursday and the carnivals at Shelters and Allen May 30<sup>th</sup>.

MS Murray reminded everyone it was National Nurses Week and to thank them.

Mr. Hayhurst commented that he attended the High School musical Copacabana and said it was excellent; he encouraged everyone to see it. He also mentioned the MASB awards dinner where Sue Murray received the President's Award of Recognition and Data Specialty; it is the highest award you can receive through MASB.

Ms. Murray mentioned that since 1947, out of approximately 250,000 School Board Members she is one of only 73 that has achieved this level.

Mr. Grusecki announced that today was Teacher Appreciation Day and thanked all staff for the work they do with our students, families and the community.

Mr. Knott reminded everyone of the district Art Show at the Library, and he wished all Mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

2013/14 - 180 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board of Education enter into Closed Session at 8:14 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Pomponio, Murray  
NO:

2013/14 - 181 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board of Education adjourn Closed Session at 9:14 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Pomponio, Murray  
NO:

2013/14 - 182 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Murray that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Pomponio, Murray  
NO:

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Dr. Darlene Pomponio. Secretary  
Board of Education