



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

DATE: November 15, 2016

VICE PRESIDENT

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY

MARK KREMER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer
Pomponio, Reed

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Chretien, McLachlan, Pastor

TRUSTEES

NEIL J. FREITAS

SELDEN GREEN

REBECCA REED

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2016/17-53 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio
the board approve the November 15, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE CHRETIEN

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

PRESENTATIONS

Athletic Program Update: Dave Pinkowski, Athletic Director gave the board the
2015/16 Athletic Expense Report by program; coach salaries, gate receipts, along with
the transportation/officials/game worker costs. He reviewed the sports offerings
for boys and girls, 53% of our students participate on one or more teams in the
athletics department.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

Mr. Pinkowski updated the board on the Bond/Athletic Department work and
improvements. The football stadium bleachers have been completely removed. New
lights and cement are being added. The field events area has been updated with a new
shot put and discus pit area, paid for through fundraisers by the track team and their
coaches. We will now be able to host home track meets.

DIRECTOR OF

HUMAN RESOURCES

GERARD L. MORIN

Mr. Pinkowski highlighted the accomplishments of the fall athletics program; the girls
Cross Country team finished in 2nd place in the Downriver League. Boys Cross Country
Team member, Garrett Brown qualified for the MHSAA State Finals at MIS where he
placed 112th out of 250 and was named Academic All-State.

The district has been awarded the MHSAA District for the Division 1 Competitive Cheer Tournament this winter. The districts athletic department can be followed on Twitter at: @staathletics.

Discussion took place regarding the handling of Booster Club funds and the accounting system for these funds through ledgers, purchase orders and the process for cutting checks. Theresa McLachlan reviewed the procedures for using the districts tax ID#, as well as the requirements for applying for 501C status.

Mr. Pinkowski stated there are advantages to being a part of the districts internal accounting system such as the discounts that district vendors pass on to our groups and clubs that are associated with our district.

Further discussion took place about district liability when our tax ID is being used. Ms. McLachlan said our auditors review our accounts and controls, with supporting documentation that assure filing requirements mandated by law are followed.

ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Asher Student Government Representative - Tyanna Stench introduced herself to the board. She will be graduating in June 2017 along with 60 other students. Asher is in the process of making Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. Common vocabulary, common procedures and total participation techniques are being worked on in classrooms throughout Asher. If all goes as planned, the Red Cross will begin to offer certificate programs to Asher Grads and GED holders next semester. Michigan Works will be onsite Nov 16, to discuss available programs for students. The Guidance Center will be meeting at Asher Nov. 17, to discuss and plan youth assistance programs that may be implemented at Asher. A financial aid presentation will be conducted Tuesday Nov. 22 in the evening by MaShavu McKinstrey from TRIO Educational Center. FAFSA help for evening students will be on Dec. 6, daytime students will receive help on Dec. 8.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anti-Bullying-Dr. Pomponio-Meeting held Oct 24, discussed options for Middle and High School PTO's. O.K. to Say Program has resources for schools that include topics such as depression, cyber-bullying, anger and suicide. She gave a reminder for the anti-bullying topics; it is important to stay aware and alert for any kind of bullying happening around you, whether it's students, staff or parent volunteers. There are anti-bullying forms located in each school office. Next meeting Nov. 28.

Ms. Chretien added, the forms are also located on the web. She also received the posters from O.K. to Say with information on making reports. Each building administrator will receive one at the next Ad-Staff meeting in December.

Finance-Jason Craig-No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy-Dr. Pomponio-Meeting held Oct 24, reviewed current NEOLA updates. Crowd funding will be discussed under Action. There will be a special meeting on Saturday Nov 19 to review the policies on annual reporting. The next meeting will be Nov 28 at 10:30 a.m.

All committees hold open meetings at Southgate's board offices. Dates of meetings, committee members, agendas and minutes are posted on the web page.

DISCUSSION

Finance- Ms. McLachlan received a letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury, we are no longer subjected to the Treasury oversight and no longer required to send in monthly DEP reports as a result of eliminating our Deficit in accordance with our DEP. We are still under the guidelines of the early warning legislation and the requirements for the 5% fund balance. We still have a long way to go in making sure we have a balanced budget and monitoring our budget to get to that 5%.

We are wrapping up our year end reporting. She has been meeting with principals and department heads to review their budgets in preparation for her first budget amendment. The meetings have been very productive. At the next meeting the board will approve the annual summer tax resolution that is required and submitted to the city in order to collect 100% of the property taxes collected in the summer.

Curriculum-Ms. Pastor reviewed the 3rd Grade Reading Bill (HB4822). Beginning in the 2017/18 school year; school boards must choose a reading assessment system, provide individualized reading improvement plans, provide written notice to parents of delay or reading deficiency, provide teacher professional development and utilize early literacy coaches. The MDE will provide us with a list of the approved systems.

Beginning with pupils enrolled in 3rd grade during the 2019-2020 school year; superintendents shall ensure that a pupil, whose parent has been provided notification, is not enrolled in 4th grade until proficient. Pupils are retained beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. Proficiency can be proved through a portfolio that proves they are proficient in all of the reading standards for 3rd grade.

If a child younger than 10 seeks to enroll for the first time, the child may not enroll in 4th grade without being proficient. No later than May 23rd of each year, MDE must provide CEPI with 3rd grade state assessment scores. No later than June 1st of each year CEPI must identify each pupil completing 3rd grade that year, who is subject to not being advanced to 4th grade and notify the parent.

Within 30 days of receiving a letter the parents can request a meeting with school personnel. This would be at the end of June when school is not in session, making it difficult to have administrators and teachers available to meet.

Discussion took place about the literacy coaches. Ms. Pastor said RESA has 4 literacy coaches for the entire county. We do have reading specialists in our buildings that have had training and can be utilized as coaches. But as we use our reading specialists as coaches it takes them away from other students.

This legislation covers charter schools but not private schools. Ms. Pastor said there is talk about repealing this legislation, but there are approximately 28 states that have a similar law about retaining for reading.

Superintendent-Ms. Chretien reminded students and parents that it is the policy of this district to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all students. This policy protects all students from bullying or aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student whether by other students, staff or other third parties including board members, guests, contractors, vendors or volunteers is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes; written, physical, verbal and psychological abuse. Including; hazing, gestures, comments, threats or actions to a student which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation. Demonstration of appropriate behavior; treating others with civility and respect and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior. This policy applies to; all at-school activities in the district including activities on school property, in a school vehicle and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school sponsored, school approved or school related activity or function such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the schools control or where a school employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment. This is a good chance to talk to our children and remind them not only of our school policy, but the fact that we do need to treat each other with civility and respect.

Ms. Chretien thanked the voters for passing the Regional Enhancement Millage. This will mean an additional \$1.6 million dollars for Southgate for the next 6 years. This will be assessed and collected on the winter tax bills. It will be distributed during the second semester. She and Ms. McLachlan will receive more information at upcoming county meetings. One priority for this money is to reduce class size. Principals have been asked to draft recommendations for the most serious areas of overcrowding. We may also be able to address the secondary level during semester 2. The plan for elementary will begin next year, changes in classrooms now would be too disruptive for students.

Ms. Chretien reviewed our student count numbers by building. In K-12 we budgeted for a loss of 150 FTE's. Based on the "roll-up" information from parents in the spring regarding their students return, we establish our numbers for the fall. Our actual loss district wide K-12 was 147.

With private/non-public we lost FTE's. The ISD informed us we have been using the wrong formula. During audits in 2013/14 we were o.k. This year they told us the formula was incorrect. This does not cause a loss, it is less of a gain. We do not lose money providing services to private/non-public, we have always made money.

Beacon and STC amount to a 31.5 FTE loss. We did have a waiting list in the past, but the ISD now has removed students from our assignment and reallocated students to Westwood. That loss is out of our control. Hospitalized students did not show up in time for us to count them.

Act 18 programs have a whole different set of rules. We can apply for deviations. Theresa McLachlan said the numbers determine how many teachers and aids we are allowed. We are sending RESA an updated overview of the classrooms at Beacon for review and they may give us more money based on the structure of the program not just the head count.

Ms. Chretien said the deviations are based on the IEP's of the students. There are required services and just because we have fewer students doesn't necessarily mean we can reduce staff because we may need that staff for other students and their IEP needs.

Asher and Alternative Programs had a loss of just under 41 students. Some adjustments were made last spring by reducing schedules and collapsing classes. She will meet with the Asher Director in a few weeks to discuss reductions. Asher has been declining for quite a few years and there are several reasons for that; when the economy improves there are fewer adults attending school because they have gone back to work; we have also seen a huge increase in the amount of online instruction that is available; more area high schools have opened up small, alternative education programs because they are interested in retaining their alternative students in their own district. Adjustments will be made after meeting with Asher representatives to make the determinations.

Money from the enhancement millage cannot be used to balance budgets. Ms. Chretien said both she and Ms. McLachlan have a responsibility to the district to run a balanced budget. Loss of students will not be accounted for from the millage money. The budget for this year will be balanced by reducing programs.

Mr. Kremer inquired about the .5 FTE's at Beacon and Asher. Ms. Chretien said those programs have students that may not attend a full day, we cannot get a full FTE for part time students. He questioned whether the director of Asher was telling students to transition to GED and leave the diploma program. Ms. Chretien said no.

Dr. Pomponio asked how the money from the millage will be spent and who will make that decision. Ms. Chretien said the money will go into the budget, determining how the money is spent will be the same process as how we spend the General Fund dollars, that will be the work of central administration.

Dr. Pomponio asked if she could get an update on the status of wheat/white pizza.

Ms. Reed inquired about home school children, those that we still pay for such as expelled students and where that number would be found. Ms. Chretien said these students are still accounted for in our numbers. She will get the formula for calculating those numbers to the board.

Mr. Knott wanted everyone to know the board is being as transparent to the public as possible, they had been waiting on numbers and tonight's presentation to report our student count.

CONSENT

2016/17-54 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the October 18, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed
NO:

2016/17-55 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the HR update as presented.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed
NO:

2016/17-56 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the Disbursements for October, 2016.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed
NO:

ACTION

2016/17-57 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the Policy Update as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Chretien commented on crowd funding accounts, the board needs to make a decision on these before approving the policies.

Mr. Knott stated these are; 5830, 6605 and 9700 they deal with booster club and Go-Fund me accounts.

Discussion took place about crowd funding accounts. Having a board policy would give the district more clout in controlling the use of our name and logo.

Further discussion took place about the complexities for the business office to tie these accounts to our tax ID# and track the allocations; bank fees for insufficient fund checks, dissecting and splitting the funds, all can lead to more errors.

It was suggested to review this subject in depth at the winter retreat and make adjustments to the policy if desired.

2016/17-58 It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve Option 1-policies 5830, 6605 and 9700 which would not allow Crowd Funding.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed.

NO:

2016/17-57 *Original motion was still on the floor- It was moved by Mr. Kremer, supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the Policy Update as recommended by the Policy Committee.*

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio congratulated the winners of the election. Southgate Parks and Recreation Winter Wonderland for 2016; 36th Annual Frostbite Open at Southwinds Golf Club will be 10:00 a.m. on Saturday Dec. 3, 2016-\$60/person for 18 holes, Tree Lighting will be Friday Dec. 2 at 5:00 p.m., the 7th Annual Santa's Christmas Express Train Rides will be held on Friday Dec. 2 and Saturday Dec. 3 from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. An indoor Holiday Craft Show Friday Dec. 2 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Sat. Dec. 3 from 3:00-9:00 p.m. Family photos with Santa will be at the Southgate Historical Society Sunday Dec. 4 between 2:00-5:00 p.m., pets are welcome. Southgate Figure Skating Christmas Exhibition is Sunday Dec 11 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. Skate with Santa is Sunday Dec. 18 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Mr. Knott extended his congratulations to the newly elected board trustees; Mr. Kupser, Mr. Green, Mr. Estheimer and Ms. McDaniel-Bishop.

Ms. Reed updated the board on the Food Program through Good Shepard in Southgate, they have received corporate attention. They want 10-15 families, which have been identified in the district as being in need, to donate complete Thanksgiving meals to as a way to give back to Southgate Community Schools.

Mr. Knott extended a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone on behalf of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

