



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

JASON CRAIG

DATE: October 23, 2018 7:02 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mossop

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Pastor, McLachlan, Morin

TREASURER

JASON R. KUPSER

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Craig read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

TRUSTEES

NEIL J. FREITAS

ANDREW A. GREEN

REBECCA MOSSOP

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2018/19-41 It was moved by Mr. Kupser supported by Mr. Green, the board revise the October 23, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Agenda to include Action Item #5, the approval of the contract for the Southgate Alternative Education of Southgate MEA/NEA

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

JILL M. PASTOR

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

PRESENTATIONS

Preschool/Latchkey: Ms. Crystal Priest, Director of Childcare, Latchkey and Preschool, gave the board an update on her programs. 294 students are currently being cared for within the districts' four elementary buildings. The adult/child ratio, enrollment and revenue from tuition was reviewed. 3&4 Year-Old Preschool is providing early education to a total of 56 three and four year old students. Of the total number enrolled, 31 are residents of Southgate School District. 23 of the students in the 4 year-old program attended the 3 year-old program last year. The goal is to provide an outstanding early education that will ensure students are prepared for kindergarten academically and emotionally. The MDE approved early education curriculum and assessment is used to help guide with individual and group instruction. Conferences are held twice a year providing an excellent opportunity for staff to keep parents informed and updated on their child's learning and a time to discuss concerns.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-HERRING

Technology: Director of Technology, Ms. Wendy Nowak provided the board with an Update on the Technology Department. Mike Toschi retired in September. Luke Bunge left in September to join the Air National Guard. Ronny Sheeler resigned in October for a position in Wyandotte Public Schools. Interviews are currently taking place to fill one position.

DIRECTOR OF

HUMAN RESOURCES

GERARD L. MORIN

Ms. Nowak reviewed the bond contingency funds and future replacement plan with costs. The district is moving towards development of our own online curriculum delivered by Southgate teachers. For a 2nd year we have been awarded a grant for Cyber Security Club. Nic Quoziante and Luke Bunge are sponsors of this Anderson High School after school club. A new website was launched this fall and 200 T.V.'s were removed from classrooms and recycled.

Goals for 18/19; to increase communication through quarterly newsletters and building visits, increase security measures to strengthen and update user and data security best practices.

Special Services: Special Services Director, Ms. Kelly Thomas gave the board an update on the range of services offered and how students qualify to receive those services. Currently there are 715 students with IEP's enrolled in our district. She welcomed new staff members to the Special Services Department; Paul Okerland, Gideon Massengill, Samantha Kechner, Rhonda Adams, Ream Nasr and Jennifer Mangiapane.

Last year the district was identified as having a disproportionate number of African American Males as cognitively impaired. Files were reviewed and all students met criteria as Cognitively Impaired. We had no findings in our processes and procedures that indicated any racial bias. Even though no corrective action was deemed necessary we were required to participate in a Coordinate Early intervention Service (CEIS). This penalty requires us to take 15% of our Flow-Through Funds and create an At-Risk program to try to prevent students from requiring special education services.

Ms. Thomas reviewed Dean Transportation's service, routes and handling of problems and complaints. Katie Birch and Nicole Gruver, teachers of the Life Skills Program at AHS, teach our students functional academic skills with a focus on large ideas and skills that students will need to be efficient at, in order to be independent. This year's class project is a Thrift Store. Students and staff can purchase items and all profits made, go toward funding our community based instruction such as; dining at a restaurant, shopping for food items for a recipe, participating in a leisure activity and learning how to utilize the SMART transportation system.

This year's students are participating in PT exercises with Sergeant Cumper twice a month. The students benefit from a smaller group setting while working out with their peers. The Life Skills program works to provide meaningful experiences and learning opportunities for our mild to moderately cognitive impaired students.

Employee of the Month: Human Resources Director Mr. Morin explained this is a new program the district is starting, to recognize and honor employees who are doing a great job. The goal is to do this during the school year at one board meeting each month. Shelters Administrator, Ms. Sinder Gundick presented the district's first employee of the Month-Mr. Frank along with Shelters staff members; Ms. Babyak, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Hanna and Ms. Hatfield. Mr. Frank has worked in the district for 8 years as the building's custodian. Ms. Gundick highlighted the many qualities that make Mr. Frank an outstanding employee and presented him with a plaque. Board members shared their appreciation and congratulated Mr. Frank and all of his hard work.

CONSENT

Ms. Pastor wanted to draw the boards' attention to the recent and sudden closing of a company that provided substitute teachers and the difficulty the district faces each day due to the lack of substitute teachers. Discussion took place about a sub pay increase and placing it on a future agenda for action.

2018/19-42 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Estheimer, the board approve the Minutes from October 9, 2018 Regular Board Meeting and the HR update.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio
NO:

ACTION

1. **Approval of field trip for Southgate 8th Grade NJHS members:** Ms. Pastor explained to the board this is an overnight, out-of-state field trip for the Davison Middle School 8th grade NJHS members to attend a Chicago Field Trip. The trip will be from Thursday, May 30 to Friday, May 31, 2019.

2018/19-43 It was moved by Mr. Estheimer supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the overnight, out-of-state field trip for the 8th grade NJHS member to Chicago, Illinois in May of 2019.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

2. **Approval of field trip for VE Anderson students:** Ms. Pastor explained the board is being asked to approve the overnight, out-of-state field trip for Southgate Anderson VE students to attend the Pigeon Forge Trade Show. The trip will be from Saturday, November 17 to Wednesday, November 21, 2018.

2018/19-44 It was moved by Mr. Kupser supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the overnight, out-of-state field trip for the Anderson VE students to attend the Pigeon Forge Trade Show in Tennessee from November 17 through November 21, 2018.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

3. **Approval of Legal Counsel:** Ms. Pastor explained the board is being asked to approve Foley & Robinette, P.C. as legal counsel. On January 9, 2018 the board designated Thrun Law Firm P.C. as the district's legal counsel. The board packets included information from Foley & Robinette, P.C. They are a Southgate firm that has been working with public school districts since 1989. They are currently working with 9 other local districts. This represents a significant cost savings per billable hour. We will not be eliminating ever using Thrun again, but will be migrating most of our legal services to Foley & Robinette, P.C. Discussion took place about retainer fees.

2018/19-45 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the board designate Foley & Robinette, P.C. as legal counsel for Southgate Community School District.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

4. **Approval of Davidson Gym Bleachers:** Ms. Pastor explained to the board they are being asked to approve the replacement of the gym bleachers at Davidson Middle School. This project would be covered with bond dollars. She commented that while this was not originally on the district's radar when the gym floor began to cup. The floor was unsafe to use and was removed. A great deal of time was spent trying to understand the cause of this condition. A humidity test also had to be passed before the floor could be replaced. At that time the bleachers were looked at and found to have a gap in some places that is unable to be closed. This is a safety concern. Plante Moran was asked to put out an RFP. Rob Kakoczki said on September 29, formal RFP documents were issued for bid. Two firms submitted bids. Those sealed bid proposals were received and publicly opened on October 11, 2018. They were reviewed to determine the budget implications.

A post-bid scope review meeting was held with the lower bidder, Interkal, LLC on October 15, 2018 and was attended by TMP Architecture and Plant Moran CRESA. The steering committee is recommending Interkal, LLC for the DMS gym bleacher replacement. The total amount is \$93,302.00. Demolition of the existing bleachers is included. The base bid was based on manual bleachers. The company does not recommend manual bleachers for bleachers of this size. They are too big and too bulky to pull them out and line them up. A power operated alternate package was included in the bid.

Discussion took place about the bid process, the size of the bleachers and the need for motorizing, or downsizing them to make them manual, safety issues and concerns. Board members asked about the need to do this now and possibly tabling this item. Ms. Pastor said the district is on a tight timeline as the floor has arrived and installation has begun.

Ms. McLachlan reviewed the funds left from the bond which will be used to pay for this project.

Board members expressed the need to support this for the students and safety concerns.

2018/19-46 It was moved by Mr. Estheimer supported by Mr. Freitas, the board approve the DMS Gym bleachers as presented for \$93,302.00.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

5. **Approval of the contract for the Southgate Alternative Education Association of Southgate MEA/NEA:** Ms. Pastor explained the board is being asked to approve a two-year contract agreement for the SAEA as presented.

2018/19-47 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Estheimer, the board approve the two-year agreement for the Southgate Alternative Education Association of Southgate MEA/NEA for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Trish Beson, Elementary Music Teacher, addressed the board about the sub shortage and loss of prep time and specials when enrichment teachers are pulled to cover classrooms due to lack of subs. This makes it difficult to re-adjust curriculum and data.

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Estheimer thanked everyone for coming tonight and congratulated Mr. Frank. He encouraged people to support Mr. Freitas in the upcoming election.

Dr. Pomponio announced DMS has brought back after-school tutoring.

Ms. Pastor announced that at the July 24, 2018 board meeting, board members moved to receive monthly financial reports. Board members received budget graphs that represent the budget through August 31, 2018. The graphs represent the entire budget. Ms. McLachlan will answer any questions the board has.

Discussion took place about the data presented on this months' graphs and having a meeting with the Finance Committee to review the data the board wants to see on future graphs.

ADJOURNMENT

2018/19-48 It was moved by Mr. Estheimer supported by Mr. Green, the board adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio

NO:

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

For detailed conversation, Board meetings may be viewed in their entirety on our website: www.southgateschools.com

