



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Electronic Board Meeting
#771936192

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

DATE: April 14, 2020 7:00 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW A. GREEN

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos Pomponio, Sage

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

TREASURER

RICK LAMOS

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Pastor, Baker-Herring, Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Estheimer read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG
NEIL J. FREITAS
SHAWN SAGE

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2019/20-101 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the board approve the April 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

JILL M. PASTOR

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

PRESENTATIONS

None

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-HERRING

CONSENT

2019/20-102 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the March 3, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes, HR Update and the disbursements for February and March 2020.

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

ABSTAIN: Lamos

ACTION

1. **Bond Authorization Resolution:** The board received all of the supporting documentation from Thrun Law Firm.

2019/20-103 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos the board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

1. On March 10, 2020, the qualified electors of the Issuer voted in favor of bonding the Issuer for the sum of not to exceed Fifty-Nine Million Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$59,475,000), the proceeds to be used for the purpose of erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to the Anderson High School; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; erecting, equipping, preparing, developing, and improving athletic fields and facilities, and sites (the "Project"); and
2. It has been determined by the Board of the Issuer that there be issued at this time a first series of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Thirty-Five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000) (the "Bonds"); and
3. The board has received a proposal from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Okemos, Michigan, to act as underwriter for the Bonds (the "Underwriter") or, in the alternative, to act as private placement agent (the "Placement Agent") to place the Bonds with a sophisticated investor or commercial bank (the "Purchaser"); and
4. Prior to the issuance of Bonds, the Issuer much either achieve qualified status or secure prior approval of the bonds from the Michigan Department of Treasury (the "Department of Treasury") pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Bonds of the Issuer aggregating the principal sum of not to exceed Thirty-Five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000) be issued for the purpose of funding a portion of the Project. The Bonds shall be designated 2020 School Building and Site Bonds.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

2. **2020 Bond Program Architectural/Engineering Design Services:** Ms. Pastor gave the board a recommendation letter from Plante Moran Cresa and the full TMP Architectural, Inc. Proposal. She explained that based on the proposed fee of \$1,618,862.00, plus reimbursables, The Project Team recommends awarding the Architectural/Engineering Design Services contract for the 2020 Southgate Community School District Bond Program to TMP Architectural, Inc. pending final review of terms by district legal counsel.

The budget established in the bond application for these services was 7% of the cost of construction, which totaled \$1,967,772.00. Based upon this recommended contract award to TMP Architectural, Inc., there is a cost savings of approximately \$350,000. Discussion took place about billing fees and reimbursables.

2019/20-104 It was moved by Mr. Green supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve authorizing the Superintendent, subject to the review and approval of its School District Counsel, to award the Architectural/Engineering Design Services for the 2020 Southgate Schools Community School District Bond Program to TMP Architectural, Inc.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage,
NO:

3. **Anderson High School Stadium Turf:** Ms. Pastor gave the board, in their packets, the Plante Moran Award Recommendation Letter, Budget Summary, Foresite Award Recommendation letter, Bid Tabulation and Contractor Proposal.

Based on all the information, the total award recommendation for the 2020 Turf Construction Project is \$876,383.00. This includes a total contract award to AstroTurf, LLC for \$796,712.00 with a construction contingency budget equal to \$79,671.00.

AstroTurf, LLC. was the lowest responsible bidder that met the project requirements and project schedule. The low bidder for Proposal A-General Construction was not able to commit to the project schedule listed in the contract documents due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion took place about turf material safety, who is responsible should damage to the track occur, site drainage and the schedule/timeline for completion with the current COVID-19 situation.

2019/20-105 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the award of the 2020 Anderson High School Stadium Turf project to AstroTurf, LLC. In an amount not to exceed \$876,383.00.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

4. **Employee Layoffs:** Ms. Pastor explained to the board they are being asked to approve the layoff of the employees listed on the agenda under this action item as A and B.

The employee numbers of the employees being recommended for layoff are on the agenda, their names and respective positions are considered confidential. They will receive a phone call tomorrow from their administrator. Official letters will be mailed tomorrow.

2019/20-106 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the layoff of employee #102100 to be effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

2019/20-107 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the layoff of employee #102062 to be effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

- 5. Approval of Audit Services Provider:** Ms. Wilson explained to the board an Invitation to Bid was issued to three auditing firms on February 26, 2020. All three firms submitted proposals by the March 20, 2020. The following methodology from the MSBO (Michigan School Business Officials) was used to evaluate the proposals.

Proposals were ranked according to the technical factors first to select the best qualified proposals. Technical factors included general qualifications of the auditor; approached to the audit work plan; evaluating the staffing level and experience of assigned staff for the type and complexity of the audit for the District.

Cost of work to be performed is important and is a significant factor in selection of the proposal for entering into a contract for services. Cost should not be given primary and dominant weight in selecting the auditor. Cost for the audit should be given consideration when all other evaluation criteria have been met and the proposal are equal in qualifications.

Based on the requirements in the Invitation to Bid, we received three qualified proposals (Plante Moran, Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants and Rehmann Robson). These three proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the Superintendent and Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson prepared a ranking based on technical factors for each firm.

Ms. Wilson does not recommend Rehmann Robson because they plan to use primarily inexperienced staff. Their proposal indicated in addition to two Principals, one Manager to oversee three staff members with only one-five years of experience. As a firm they do not have as much K-12 audit experience (50% less than Yeo & Yeo). In addition, their hourly rates for services outside the base contract are significantly higher.

Based on the evaluation of the bids submitted for auditing services, Ms. Wilson recommends the appointment of Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants as the auditors for the District for the years ending June 30, 2020, 2021, 2022 with the right to extend the three year contract an additional two years based on satisfactory performance of audit services. We have had quality service from Yeo & Yeo. They have provided excellent guidance on new accounting requirements and practices. They offer a range of higher qualified staff to conduct the audit, such as a Senior Accountant, a Manager and a Senior Manager in addition to Staff Accountant and the two Principals. They are a Southgate business. In the past Yeo & Yeo has not charged for additional consultations throughout the year. Their base costs are \$3,500 more than the lowest bid and \$8,000 less than the highest bid. In addition, the cost for the 2020 audit services bid is a cost savings over 2019.

- 2019/20-108 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the appointment of Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants as the auditors for the District for the years ending June 30, 2020, 2021, and 2022 with the right to extend the three year contract an additional two years based on satisfactory performance of audit services. The base cost of the audit will be as proposed in the bid for 2020, \$31,000; 2021 \$32,000 and 2022 \$33,000.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio commented that she first wanted to extended her sympathies to the family of one of our seniors who we lost through a tragic accident a couple of weeks ago, her heart goes out to the family. Second, to our students and seniors, we are proud of you, hang in there and have a safe and healthy rest of the school year.

Mr. Lamos supported Dr. Pomponios' comments.

Ms. Pastor informed the board that the district submitted our Continuity of Learning Plan to Wayne County RESA yesterday. After fixing a few typos the plan was resubmitted and we fully anticipate that it will be approved in the morning. We will be able to provide different enrichment and learning experiences for our students in order to complete the 2019/2020 school year. Although many people are looking for answers, whether it be; when is prom, when is graduation, when might I get my items out of my lockers. Many of those things are to be determined as we have to stay with what the governor says and stay home and stay safe. At this time we have limited staff coming in. Ms. Pastor sent her thanks to the dedicated people in food services and the volunteers that are helping out Monday's to package the meals and on Tuesday's as we distribute meals. We again today gave out 13,300 meals. We are anticipating continuing that. The State of Michigan has received a waiver from the federal government for people that qualify for Free & Reduced lunch or belong to a building where we are direct certified, will be getting some money loaded onto a type of bridge card. However, we know that about a quarter of our workforce is currently not working and we want to continue to support those families that need to drive up and get those meals who may not have the opportunity to have that money loaded onto a card. She sent kudos out to food service, the volunteers and the Southgate Police Department who help manage the Trenton Rd. traffic jam on Tuesdays.

Mr. Estheimer thanked Ms. Pastor, the food service director and our maintenance director for all of their help overseeing the food distribution project. He also thanked the fellow board members who have been assisting with this. He commented he has been there to help and it is amazing, the selfless acts and he thanked everyone for their support in putting the food out.

Mr. Estheimer thanked Ms. Pastor for her leadership throughout this whole pandemic and craziness. He thanked our teachers for their professionalism and patience, his wife and fellow board members who are teachers. This is a completely different situation than we have ever experienced. Teachers are not used to teaching like this, but they are stepping up and doing their part. He thanked his fellow board members for their support and reaching out during all of this, he has checked in on them and they have checked in on him. He thinks they have been a pretty cohesive group during this process when this is all the communication they have. This is the first time he has seen their faces since the bond passed, other than those board members he has seen passing out the breakfasts and lunches to the kids. He wished everyone a Happy Belated Easter, it was awkward and different but for those that celebrated Easter it turned out to be a fairly nice experience for him. He is normally the one who entertains everybody so it was an inexpensive and manageable Easter for him at his house. They made the best of it with their kids. He said it sounds like with this plan that was sent to MDE today, we have a plan going forward. If there are questions about it, he encouraged everyone to please reach out to Ms. Pastor and get some information regarding that plan. It's a brand new process and he appreciates her hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

2019/20-109 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

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

