



WINTER RETREAT BOARD MEETING
Electronically Held
https://youtu.be/y2jzG_jPWrk

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 6:00 P.M.

VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW A. GREEN

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
Mr. Green joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Mr. Estheimer read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TRUSTEES

NEIL J. FREITAS
RICK LAMOS
SHAWN SAGE

2020/21-110 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the February 2, 2021 Winter Retreat Board Meeting.

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

ADMINISTRATION

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

ORGANIZATION & FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

The board established a Policy Committee and a Finance Committee and board members volunteered to be assigned to each. Board Agendas will include a Finance Update when there is something to report. Perhaps even a quarterly report from the Finance Director to note any trends that might be happening.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-
HERRING

Liaisons will be selected from the board and will sit in on bond construction meetings and report back to the board.

Work sessions will be included on board meeting agendas bi-weekly and follow the board meetings. Special meetings will be held on Tuesdays, the time may be 6 or 7 p.m. depending on what works for board members.

Board pay and stipends will continue to be included on the books. MASB classes that become available, will continue to be forwarded to board members.

Retreats will continue in the winter and summer. Board members agreed these meetings are very productive and helpful to know where we are going and what we are doing in the future. Shorter meetings, fewer topics and meeting more frequently.

Board Self-Assessment: There is an MASB link to take the online survey, the results go to MASB; they can facilitate the conversation around those outcomes. Board members prefer to do this on their own.

Board Goals: Board members discussed long-term targeted goals. Transportation, improving student achievement, analyzing Beacon and Asher programs to be sure we are spending money wisely. Strategic planning regarding athletics working together with other community groups, YMCA and Vikings. Management performance; having a budget, responsibility and accountability. Working on student pride.

Board Communication: What is the best way for the President to get in touch with members; texts, emails. Superintendent communication via a newsletter and having board members submit updates to be included. Superintendent Irvine will answer a question from one board member by responding to all members so there is transparency. This should not require extra work of the superintendent.

Board members asked that any amendments or additions to the agenda be given to the board well in advance of a meeting. Previewing upcoming action items was suggested ie; work sessions gives board members the opportunity to ask questions and to have those discussions openly.

Discussion took place about following up on the items the board has approved for purchase.

Ms. Irvine asked board members to forward parent complaints to her and she will let the board know how it was dealt with. She will also keep track of the responses to citizen comments. She will give board members immediate information when emergencies situations arise, in advance of the Friday update if necessary.

Budget-Timelines: A second amended budget will be pulled together in March which will allow for it to be more precise. Budget priorities will be addressed in April. A first draft of an original budget for the new year will take place in May which will allow us to produce a better quality draft.

Program Funding: we will be analyzing Beacon, Asher and the preschool program for functionality. Kindergarten enrollment and recruiting is taking place. We will review exit surveys from parents who have left our district to find out what would bring them back. Centralizing our enrollment was talked about.

Enhancement Millage: This year we have 1.3 and 1.4 million. Last year was 1.5 million. This is tied to student count. This year it will be attached to the 75/25 weighting system that our state funding is built on. We are protected this year. When 2022-23 hits that is when the Charter Schools and non-public/private schools will share in the enhancement money. We will get 75% of what we are getting now. This money has not been released for spending yet this year.

Cares Act: money received was 1.9 million and we are about to get another 1.9 million. This will help offset some of our COVID related expenditures from our general fund. We are buying more chrome books and touch pads.

Marketing: Enrollment needs to be an overarching goal for the district; what kind of person to person relationships we can draw with our community. We need to increase our social media presence. Discussion took place about; future work session items to include consultation work, bringing in consultants to overhaul the website to make it more user friendly. Signage and marquees were talked about and what is the best branding for our district. The importance of the parent experience and how our employees impact that on a daily basis. Our social media presence is necessary for marketing our district.

Strategic Planning-Work Sessions: Scheduling meetings that would review our current status, facility analysis and what is our cost area, ideas around new programming. Our vision carries lots of different pieces to it. Having work sessions and keeping the board moving with it, are important. We will be looking at international baccalaureate programs the feasibility and what it would take to introduce this. Three highest achieving high schools in the state have these. This could be something Southgate offers that helps us stand out. Discussion took place about past Strategic Planning Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

2020/21- 111 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Lamos, the board adjourn the meeting at 7:46 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

