



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Electronically Held

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

<https://youtu.be/lyy3xa0N50M>

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 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

JASON CRAIG

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Estheimer read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

TRUSTEES

NEIL J. FREITAS

RICK LAMOS

SHAWN SAGE

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020/21-112 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

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

NO:

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Gloria Marquess: The MDHHS is allowing sports to resume contact practice and competition starting yesterday 2/8/21. As I do understand that the board has to follow rules and timelines, I don't understand why the board didn't put the students before the athletes? Why didn't the board choose to make the sports follow the same guidelines as in personal learning? How can My son be safe in a middle school, full of contact athletic program like wrestling, be allowed to roll on a mat with another student while my HS student can't be safe in the classroom, with a mask, socially distanced?! Same District, returning to the same home!! How do you justify this hypocritical decision? Do we have student-athletes or athlete-students?! I want more than anything for my son to participate in a sport but how can I do that if I have to tell my HS student they can't safely return to a classroom?

Derek Jacob Paul Forcier: Hello you guys, I just would like to know how would it be like if we went back to school in person, thank you guys I hope you don't get sick or anything. and have a wonderful rest of your year.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-

HERRING

Robert Pawlowski: Good Evening, It's me again, I would like to thank the Superintendent Ms Irvine for reaching out to me over the comments I made at the last Board Meeting I spoke at in January, But the reason I'm here tonight is that, You guys made the decision back in January to let all students have the Option to go into in person classes or stay virtual, and if students were coming back for in person classes, It would be February 1st. It's now February 9th now and only Elementary and Middle School are the only ones having In person classes, And what I've heard it would be February 18th for the entire district to go back, Now I'm hearing February 22nd for the entire district to go back, Which one is it? This is honestly getting beyond ridiculous at this point, for real. At this point tell the students that they will be going back March 1st at this point, because it is just pointless to send the students back February 22nd when March 1st is only a week away from the 22nd tho, It just doesn't make any sense. What really upsets me is you guys flipping the date around on when we can go back into the schools for face to face learning, That really has to stop because it's getting to the point where it's getting ridiculous at this point, period. Either keep us virtual for the rest of the year or send us back into the schools for face to face learning either March 1st or February whenever? Make the Decision, Which one is it? Just for the record, I'm here saying this for Students and Parents that want students to go back into school for face to face learning, and I honestly feel their pain and their stress of trying to work from home and making sure the internet isn't gonna drop out on them or other things going on around them that makes it hard for them to do their work for their job, Plus staying virtual is a possible great way for a student that does not use or have a cell phone or does not use or have technology in general, Is possibly prone to becoming an Introvert because of the lack of social interaction with friends or peers because we are not in the building for school yet, Think about that for a sec. But I feel their pain and stress completely, And I'm not the only one in Tonight's Board Meeting making comments about face to face learning tonight. But anyway, Please take my comment tonight into consideration and talk it over with the Board Members Tonight or whenever in the future if there is no time during the meeting tonight tho, and I will be looking forward to a phone call back to follow up about tonight's meeting if need be. Have a wonderful rest of your week, and also enjoy your weekend as well, Thank you and take care, Be safe out there.

PRESENTATIONS

None

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Ms. Irvine spoke about vaccinations; we have had 170 of our staff vaccinated on Saturday, 120 staff members previously were vaccinated at an earlier time. We are in great hands, in great shape. She thanked parents for their understanding because we know that the second dose does come with a pretty significant impact. For that reason we have allowed our teachers to move their class to asynchronous for a couple of days after that vaccination so that work can go on and. She appreciates all the parents who have been so understanding about that. As we deal with the impact of the second dose from the February 6 vaccination, we are looking at another asynchronous day on March 1 for the district. She thanked everyone for all the support.

FINANCE UPDATE

None

CONSENT

2020/21-113 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the Minutes from January 19, 2021 Special Meeting, January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting, HR Update and Disbursements for January 2021.

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

NO:

ACTION

1. Approval of the Members of the Board's Finance Subcommittee: Mr. Estheimer explained, at the board workshop on February 2, 2021, Trustees Jason Craig, Rick Lamos, and Neil Freitas volunteered to join a finance subcommittee to receive and provide the Board with periodic updates on the District's financial status. This resolution has been produced to formalize their participation on the subcommittee for the 2021 year.

2020/21-114 It was moved Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the assignments of Trustee Craig, Trustee Lamos, and Trustee Freitas to the Board of Education Finance Subcommittee for the 2021 year.

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

NO:

2. Approval of the Members of the Board's Policy Subcommittee: Mr. Estheimer explained, at the board workshop on February 2, 2021, Vice President Green, and Trustees Dr. Darlene Pomponio and Shawn Sage volunteered to join a policy subcommittee to receive and provide the Board with periodic updates on district policy. This resolution has been produced to formalize their participation on the subcommittee for the 2021 year.

2020/21-115 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the assignments of Vice President Green, Trustee Pomponio, and Trustee Sage to the Board of Education Policy Subcommittee for the 2021 year.

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

NO:

3. Approval of the Board's MASB Delegate for the Board of Directors Elections: Ms. Irvine explained, in March, a representative from the Southgate Community School District Board of Education will attend the Board of Directors Elections for MASB. This representative will cast votes on behalf of the school board. At the February board workshop, Dr. Darlene Pomponio was identified as that representative.

2020/21-116 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the assignment of Trustee Dr. Darlene Pomponio as the delegate of the Southgate Board of Education to vote in MASB's Board of Directors Elections and elect Birgit McQuiston, from Lake Orion as the candidate for Region 8.

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

NO:

4. Approval of the Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet in Person: Ms. Irvine explained, until at least March 30, 2021, the Board of Education is prohibited from meeting in person. Because the Southgate Community School District is currently offering a safe in-person school option, the Board of Education should be able to show its confidence in the safety of gatherings by holding in-person board meetings. The included resolution is available for the Board of Education to communicate this preference.

Ms. Irvine read the resolution to permit school boards to meet in-person:

WHEREAS, school district have been strongly encouraged to begin offering in-person instruction by March 1, 2021 and each local school board has the responsibility to make that ultimate decision for their school district, and

WHEREAS, Southgate Community School District has worked diligently to prepare for and implement the return to in-person learning for all students in grades Pre K, K-12 and post-secondary; and

WHEREAS, all students and staff are permitted by the State of Michigan, including the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, to attend school in person; and

WHEREAS, members of school boards are the only individuals within their school district who are not permitted to meet in person; and

WHEREAS, requiring school boards to meet virtually while encouraging students to attend school in-person and for staff to work in-person sends a mixed message to our community and staff, and

WHEREAS, Southgate Community School District would like the ability to meet in person with strong health and safety mitigation measures in place that are consistent with measures taken for all other school classes and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Southgate Community School District request that MDHHS and the Governor allow school boards to have the option to meet either virtually, in-person or a combination of the two beginning immediately.

2020/21-117 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet in Person as written and direct the Superintendent to send this approved resolution to Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office on behalf of the Southgate Board of Education.

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

NO:

5. Approval of the 2021-2022 USF E-Rate Agreement: Ms. Irvine explained that Southgate Community Schools used Triple R Consultant, Robert Rice, to initiate a competitive bid process for USF E-Rate for switches, firewall, UPS battery replacement and Fiber Maintenance. Ms. Irvine introduced the Technology Director, Wendy Nowak to continue to present information to the board.

Ms. Nowak stated three RFP's were done and three bids were received for each service. Delta Networks was selected for the switches and firewall. Their bid was the lowest at \$229,917.50 for switches, E-Rate will reimburse 80%-\$183,934.00; the district's portion will be \$45,983.50 paid with bond funds.

Three bids were received for the district's firewall and Delta Networks was the lowest bid at \$13,520.00 E-Rate will reimburse 80%-\$4110.08; the district's portion will be \$9,409.92 paid with bond funds.

The UPS battery replacement received one bid from Sentinel. Their prices were comparable to what we have already been purchasing as replacements. The fiber maintenance, E-Rate will cover this as well as any other additional cost should we have a fiber issue. All of these items were in the current bond. Discussion took place about the items to be replaced and the experience we have had with these companies; they were recommended by Wayne RESA and Lincoln Park Schools.

2020/21-118 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the 2021-2022 USF E-Rate Agreements as presented.

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

6. Approval of Southgate Community School's Limited School of Choice Application: Ms. Irvine explained, kindergarten enrollment will begin soon. Annually, Southgate Community Schools opens 50 School of Choice kindergarten seats and various seats, as available, in grades 1-11. By approving this motion, the District will participate in Limited School of Choice for 2021-2022, opening 50 slots to kindergarten students for enrollment beginning March 11, 2021, and closing March 26, 2021, and available seats for grades 1-11 beginning July 29, 2021 and closing August 13, 2021. The application and School of Choice mobility report for 2020-2021 were included in board packets. Enrollment materials are ready to go and we are ready to jump into the kindergarten recruitment season. This is a continuation of how we have handled School of Choice in the past.

2020/2021-119 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the Southgate Community School's participation in Limited School of Choice for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the application presented.

Discussion took place about the dates for the application period, with it being stated that we have a better idea near the end of the year, how many openings we have in grades 1-11. Kindergarten applications are taken in March as parents often plan early for their child's enrollment, this gives us a chance to get an early start on recruiting kindergarten students.

Continued discussion took place around the advantages, pros/cons of School of Choice. Board members expressed their opinions as to why they will or will not support School of Choice.

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

7. Approval of the Metric and Mode of Instruction for February: Ms. Irvine explained, on February 6th and 7th the district met the metric of the average daily new case rate of 5 %. We were at 4.93% on Feb. 6 and 4.9% on Feb. 7 of daily new case averages. The average for Southgate, which constitutes 80% of the metric, is dropped even further down to 3.9%. We are still waiting for Detroit numbers to come in. Our mode of instruction recommendation at this time is to go ahead and offer in-person, remote and virtual to all Southgate Community School students. In doing so we would start our high school offering for Freshmen on the 19th of February, all other programming would start on February 22. At this point we understand that were we to recommend any change to the metric we would have exactly the same results if we simply follow through with the decision that we had in January. She asks the board of education to approve the three modes of instruction; in-person, virtual and remote for all of our students at this time.

Discussion took place about the start date for Freshmen and the rest of the high school.

Mr. Lyons joined the meeting to say the high school would begin with a "soft start" to give the Freshmen the attention they need. Link Crew members would be invited in to assist the Freshmen as they navigate passing times, lunches and so on. The rest of the students would be brought in on the 22nd of February.

Further discussion took place regarding the metric that is used for the daily average cases and the decisions the board has to make are required by law. Every 30 days this has to be reviewed.

2020/21-120 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Green, the board approve in-person, remote, and virtual instruction to all Southgate Community School students in accordance with the established metric.

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

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio thanked all the workers, staff, teachers and administration in our district for all the hard work they do on a regular basis.

Mr. Lamos agrees 100%-thanks to the COLT Team and everyone that had anything at all to do with helping us make this decision. Hopefully we've made the right one, it's been a grueling one but he is very comfortable with the decision we have made tonight because of everyone's hard work; the thinking behind organizing and operationalizing what we are going to be doing.

ADJOURNMENT

2020/21- 121 It was moved by Mr. Green supported by Mr. Craig, the board adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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

