



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Electronically Held**

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

<https://youtu.be/8GFjSMyxjKc>

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW A. GREEN

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

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Estheimer

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Green read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

TRUSTEES  
NEIL J. FREITAS  
RICK LAMOS  
SHAWN SAGE

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2020/21-133 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio to amend consent Item I-3 so it reads Disbursements for February 2021, and approve the March 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Agenda, supported by Mr. Craig,

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

NO:

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Irvine read a citizen comment submitted through the website:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE  
DIRECTOR  
BARBARA WILSON, CFO

Robert Pawlowski: Good Evening, You guys have been back for a while now and I wanted to say thank you for letting the students go back into the buildings for in-person learning. Thank you to the staff and teachers for coming back to work during this difficult time. This is a start to normalcy. Hopefully, we can keep this normalcy up for the rest of the year and into the next school year. Thank you for acknowledging my comment tonight. I hope you guys have a great rest of your week and weekend as well. Thank you and take care. Go Titans.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR  
DR. MICHELLE BAKER-  
HERRING

**PRESENTATIONS**

Bond Presentation: Summer Renovation Work & Design Development Presentation for the Pool and Weight Room. Rob Kakoczki updated the board on the Natatorium & Weight Room design and development. M. Kakoczki gave the presentation overview; schedule, design development and budget. The historical facts- zero millage rate increase, average building age over 61 years old, previous bond projects were in 1999 and 2015.

The Goals and Objectives of the bond; to provide school safety and security enhancements, update technology for essential 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, preserve educational facilities and infrastructure, to impact every student in the first 2 years.

The Natatorium addition and weight room renovation, design development has been completed by Granger Construction. TMP has completed bid pak #1 construction documents for site work and utilities, structural concrete and paving. Granger is currently preparing bid pack #1 documents to issue for bids. Finishes and color selections being reviewed with Southgate Community Schools for next couple of weeks. TMP to have final check bid pak #2 construction documents complete by late March. Final bid pak #2 bid documents targeted to be complete by the end of March. Bid pak #2 documents to be issued for bids in early April. Contract award recommendations for bid pak #1 to be presented to the Board of Education for approval in April and bid pak #2 to be presented in May. Granger is targeting to mobilize the site and start site work in May. Construction to be substantially complete in August 2022.

Discussion took place about the signage at DMS, when that will be installed, and who is on the committee from the district to decide finishes and colors.

The scope of work on the 2 story 22,700 sq. ft. Natatorium addition will include an 8-lane competition pool, locker rooms, meet management office, coach's office, 2 family changing rooms, storage, spectator seating, mechanical/electrical room and pool equipment storage. There will be a new elevator and stairs to the upper level spectator seating. A new roof-top HVAC unit and dehumidification unit will be installed.

The Weight Room renovation will convert the existing 5,300 sq. ft. natatorium into a weight room/fitness facility. The existing pool will be infilled. Installation of new rubber sports flooring, new windows, paint and lighting, along with a new roof-top HVAC unit will round out the scope of work.

The existing Athletic Lobby will have a new ramp to make the weight room and fitness facility accessible. There will be a connector to the new natatorium lobby. The overall site plans were reviewed and the scope of work explained.

The initial budget for the Natatorium and Weight Room is \$8,977,280.00. The Natatorium Design Development Estimate is \$9,888,815.00. Weight Room Design Development Estimate \$819,003.00. Athletic Lobby Design Development Estimate \$106,970.00. Contingency included=6%. Total Design Development Estimate = \$10,814,788.00. Currently over budget \$1,837,508.00. This is down from the original schematic design estimate of \$11,162,368.00 which was \$2,185,088.00 over budget. There has been progress but savings are still being looked for.

Steps moving forward to address the budget: Cost Control log developed to identify potential cost saving changes without affecting overall design intent-currently identified approximately \$110,000.00 in savings with another \$200,000.00 being looked into further. Series 1 boiler replacement=\$105,000.00, emergency generator replacement cost saving = potentially \$100,000.00. Flooring and painting in the lobby = approximately \$10,000.00. Football turf replacement project savings = approximately \$120,000.00. Granger estimate design contingency (6%)=\$612,158.00. A portion of the cost escalation contingency could be allocated, as well as a portion of owner contingency. Strong bidder participation will also help drive the cost down and Granger is reaching out to the contractors to entice interest in this project. They will continue to seek savings without affecting the overall impact of the pool design.

Discussion regarding; contingency's, the oversight of the project, governance/accountability. Pool questions-salt vs chlorine, HVAC systems, filters, how COVID impacts this system and who is on the committee to make decisions on the design and color scheme of the pool.

Mr. Kakoczki let the board know they will have the award recommendations for Grogan and DMS work presented to them at the next meeting March 23rd. This is for the work this summer. Pricing came in very well. Roofing bids came in today for the work at Grogan and AHS for this summer. The reward recommendations will come before the board at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as well.

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Ms. Irvine updated the board on in-person attendance option for elementary that re-opened after the February 23 meeting. 83 more students took advantage of in-person learning and they have been placed in their home school. 80% of elementary are in-person, 20% are remote. She gave appreciation to the elementary principals for making the connections happen and being as sensitive as they have been. Those families will be able to start right after spring break.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Irvine informed the board the amended budget Ms. Wilson is working on will be given to the finance committee on Monday and to the board as a whole on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for approval.

### **CONSENT**

2020/21-134 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the February 23, 2021 Closed Session and February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, HR Update and Disbursements for February 2021.

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

### **ACTION**

- 1. Approval of the GSRP Contract for 2020-2021:** Ms. Irvine explained, Wayne RESA has provided us information about the unique funding opportunities for the start of a GSRP program in Southgate Community Schools. As presented on February 23, 2021, the GSRP program would provide 72 full-day slots (144 half-day slots) for 2020-2021 (March-June), provided that we have children enrolled and attending; are appropriately licensed; have a qualified and approved Early Childhood Specialist (ECS); have qualified and staff classrooms meeting the adult-child ratio of 1:8; and have a 3-5 star Great Start quality rating.

Crystal Priest will act as our GSRP director at this time and is coordinating the start-up of our four classrooms at Asher. Our current, tuition-based preschool has followed the GSRP model and currently has a 4-star quality rating. In the fall, GSRP would move a preschool program into each elementary, contingent on the ability to fill these spots. We will use a contracted Early Childhood Specialist through Wayne RESA to fill the ECS requirement and to help with our roll-out in the duration of this contract. The use of Wayne RESA Early Childhood Specialist in future years will be contingent on the availability of Southgate staff qualified and able to fill this role. Ms. Irvine has requested an amendment to the ECS contract to add language that would allow the contract to be termed with 30-day notice.

The estimated budget for this program for 2020-2021 is:

#### Revenue:

- \$511,560.00 (Wayne RESA Administration Fee removed)
- \$40,000.00 Transportation Funds

#### Expenditures

- \$80,000.00 Lead Teacher Costs
- \$25,000.00 Associate Teacher Costs
- \$29,000.00 Early Childhood Specialist

- \$ 10,000.00 Assessment Costs
  - \$100,000.00 Playground Upgrades
  - \$ 10,000.00 Licensing/Material Costs
  - \$ 92,000.00 GSRP Director (Relief to General Fund)
  - \$ 40,000.00 Transportation
- \$386,000.00

Rollover to 2021-2022: \$158,560.00

We have started the process with Wayne RESA to receive permission and the capital outlay to fund the appropriate mulching of our playgrounds, install a playground at Asher, and update equipment as needed in our elementary playgrounds. The District has the option to provide transportation for our preschool through Dean. Dean has already begun preparation for routes. We will hold a work session to discuss the capital outlay purchase of buses.

To evaluate the continuation of the program for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 we will use the following metrics:

1. K-1 Enrollment
2. Total Program Costs to General Fund
3. Parent Satisfaction Surveys
4. Academic Performance Tracking in K-1.

Discussion: expenditures from year to year, qualifications the teachers need, the number of teachers/associate teachers are needed, the requirements for enrollment-risk factors/income levels, running a concurrent tuition based program. The district is in the process of getting two additional rooms licensed at Asher. Ms. Priest stated the health and environmental inspections have been passed. She is awaiting additional inspections but does not anticipate any issues. Our current program has already been practicing the requirements as far as curriculum and assessment screening, we have been on track for this for years.

Further discussion: janitorial services & supplies, classroom material & furniture, food service, playground equipment, suspensions and the budget for the director.

2020/21-135 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the GSRP Subrecipient Contract, GSRP Subrecipient Transportation Contract, and GSRP Early Childhood Specialist Contract with Wayne RESA for 2020-2021 as presented.

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

NO:

2. **Approval of the Mode of Instruction for March:** Ms. Irvine explained, since February 7, 2021, the COVID positivity rate has been at or below 5%. On February 6, 2021, we met our weighted average target of 5 or fewer new cases.

As outlined in our metric, we are offering in-person options to all of our students at this time. We recommend the continuation of these options for March.

We recommend increasing our class sizes in elementary to 20, to allow families wanting an in-person option for their elementary aged students may enroll them.

Discussion took place about the number of days per week students would attend in-person.

2020/21-136 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve in-person, remote, and virtual instruction to all Southgate Community School students for March as presented.

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

#### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None

#### **INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Pomponio commented on the importance of the mental health of all of our students; in-person, virtual or remote. She thanked Candace Duane, Karen Dunholter and Kelly Thomas for supporting the students. She encouraged parents and students to seek additional help if needed. The counselors have resources, these can be found on the website. Ms. Dunholter sent out a link to kidsempowered.com that have some important workshops on many different subjects that can be helpful to students during this pandemic. She encouraged those struggling with depression or other concerns to reach out to the counseling department. She reminded everyone that Okay-to-Say is available for bullying issues.

Ms. Irvine wanted to highlight the work that our curriculum director, Dr. Baker-Herring has done in getting our social/emotional learning grant passed and curriculum out to our teachers as well. It truly has been a team effort to make sure that we all have the resources and thoughtfulness in how we support our students moving forward. Dr. Pomponio thanked Dr. Baker-Herring for this as well.

Mr. Green commented that the world has changed a lot and we are trying to do the best for this community under some very interesting times. A year ago we were celebrating a bond that passed, and one year later we are seeing the infrastructure improve; bathrooms, lighting, floors, restructuring the doors, a new football field, we are seeing the fruits of those labors because of the support of the community. Whether some agreed with the decisions or not, everyone in administration and on the board were trying to do their best and he thanked the community for going through the struggles with them. He welcomed the students back. As we move forward together, if things aren't working out, contact us so we can solve the problem and make Southgate truly the best place for your students to be, in the choice that you would like to make. He wished Mr. Estheimer and his family the best and to keep him and his family in your thoughts.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

2020/21-137 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

*Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski*

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Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary  
Board of Education























