



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
With Work Session**

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**Electronically Held**

<https://you.tu.be/Dgv8bkjVH2Y>

PRESIDENT  
TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 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**

2020/21-138 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the board approve the March 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

SUPERINTENDENT  
SHARON IRVINE

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

BUSINESS AND FINANCE  
DIRECTOR  
BARBARA WILSON, CFO

**PRESENTATIONS**

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment: Barb Wilson reviewed the proposed Amended budget for the General Operating Fund, Special Education Fund, Food Service Fund, Community Services Fund and Student/School Activity Fund for 2020-2021.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR  
DR. MICHELLE BAKER-HERRING

Local tax revenue is based on the full 18-mill levy authorized by law on taxable non-principal residence property, except commercial personal which is levied at 6 mills. The State Aid foundation allowance did not change from \$8,111 per pupil. Enrollment is decreased by a net 50.06 pupils from the 2019 Fall Count (this includes Virtual school (23a) enrolling 19.17 pupils). The State has used a "Super-blend" of 75% Fall 2019 FTE plus 25% Fall 2020 FTE. This figure is weighted. Net loss of Funding is \$405,550.00. (Actual loss of 267.64 pupils from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. This would have been a loss of \$2,170,828.00 in revenue, had there not been the Super-blend calculation.)

Additional MIPSERS revenue of \$271,000.00 received due to formula change. A large increase in revenue and expenditures due to COVID funding recognized in

2020-2021 is approximately \$2,000,000.00, plus additional grants. Net impact is 0 to the budget. Employee severance agreement payments for year 3 (final year) will be made in the amount of \$258,871.00. Included is estimated additional severance to be paid \$362,458.00 in General Fund. Hard Cap (Public Act 152) cast increase of 3.3%.

Retirement costs have been budgeted at the average cost of 42.72%. This rate is mandated by the Office of Retirement Services. We do receive MPSERS revenue of 14.51% to offset the total expense. Therefore, the net expense is 28.21%, and increase of .71% over 2019-2020.

Three fewer teaching positions in the district due to a decline in enrollment (one voluntary). Reinstated one administrator for half a year. The Enhancement Millage (year 5 of 6) will be slightly reduced, as a result of projected loss of students. Enhancement dollars allocated \$406,650.00. The projected General Fund balance as a percentage of unrestricted revenues is 12.26% (State Early Warning calculation must be greater than or equal to 5%).

The Beacon budget is approved in January of each year and it is amended 2 to three times a year. Everything that goes in the budget goes out, for a zero balance. \$200,000.00 is transferred in to our General Fund for indirect costs.

Ms. Wilson said there was a slight drop in revenue in the Food Service budget. They will be dipping into their fund balance that was left over from last year. They will still be able to contribute the max indirect costs to the district of \$67,950.00. The fund balance will be \$39,294.00.

Community Services; Latchkey, Preschool, Enrichment Program. Less money will be going into Latchkey with the new GSRP Program, that program is going to move over into the General Fund. Costs from GSRP will not impact the General Fund. There is a decrease in local revenue-tuition. Preschool tuition is down, due to COVID and only a partial year of being open. Zero is going into Enrichment and they are actually giving out refunds due to COVID closing down classes.

Student/School Activity Fund: Last year GASB 84 required, what was formerly student activity accounts, to this fund if they were administered by the district. This budget was based on funding coming in and there is very little funding going into clubs and activities right now.

Discussion took place regarding building budgets the board approved, the tracking of the loss of students and the impact on the budget. Board members questioned the use of the equity fund, the loss of FTE's and the effect on next years' budget. The ORS mandated retirement costs. The board will be addressing fund raising in the district's name; the Policy Committee will be working on this.

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Ms. Irvine recognized the teams that are participating in district and regional competitions; cheerleaders, wrestlers, a varsity bowler. Cheerleaders and wrestlers will be heading to state finals. Varsity Basketball is back, online and in districts which can be livestreamed. Our competitions are live-streamed and can be watched on the YouTube channel.

We are in the middle of kindergarten enrollment, Ms. Irvine welcomed all of the future Titans; we are excited to have them. We have preschool orientation this week. Our very first PTO Co-Council will be this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. All the PTO's will be coming together to talk about how we support our district in a more comprehensive way. Board members are welcome to attend this virtual meeting.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Wilson's update was under presentations.

## CONSENT

2020/21-139 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the board approve the Minutes From March 9, 2021 Closed Session, March 9, 2021 Regular meeting and HR Update as presented.

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

## ACTION

1. **Approval of the DMS Overnight Trip to Washington D.C.:** Ms. Irvine explained, this is an annual trip that was originally approved by the Board in the spring of 2020 and was postponed until 2020-2021, when the schools were shut down due to COVID. The request has been resubmitted to give the Board full opportunity to consider this approval under the current CDC recommendations and COVID risk.

If the Board of Education does not approve this trip, parents who purchased trip insurance will have their money returned to them and the school will have the money that it fundraised returned. Parents, who did not purchase trip insurance, would have their money refunded but reduced by a \$149.00 fee.

Ms. Irvine turned questioning over to Ms. April Schuck, trip sponsor. DMS Administrators, Ms. Tackett and Ms. Hinzmann were also present to answer questions.

Ms. Schuck said the total number of travelers is 114, with 3 buses-which puts them at approximately 38 people per bus. 5 days prior to travel, participants in the trip must have the PCR test. The travel company has a health and safety link on their website. Ms. Schuck reviewed the changes that have been made with this trip from prior trips; grab and go breakfasts, no sit down meals, the attractions are outside, modifications- to the trip in case of a cancelled event, have been provided for. The D.C. mayor is going to have a press conference to address what is open and what restrictions are when traveling to the city. The travel company will make adjustments to the itinerary if necessary.

Discussion took place about social distancing, PPE, lodging accommodations, attractions the students would be visiting and the potential risk of COVID exposure by travelling. Board members expressed concern for the health and safety of the students on the trip as well as those that are not going but would be exposed to the travelers upon their return. Further discussion took place about participants that get sick on the trip and what procedures are in place to care for them.

2020/21-140 It was moved by Mr. Sage supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board approve the DMS Washington D.C. overnight trip as presented.

*Discussion: Mr. Craig commented that numbers are on the rise all around Michigan. He does not feel confident in a test a couple of days before, being enough to make us feel good about putting 38 on a bus for a 10-12 hour trip. He does not know how much is open on the way down or where they stop on the way down. He believes D.C. is at a 25% capacity with most of their places, restaurants and the like. He looked at Brightspark's website and all he could find were virtual tours of things. He knows it's not 2020, but COVID is not over. He can't support this.*

*Mr. Sage commented that he doesn't disagree with what Mr. Craig is saying, and he has to look at it from a parent perspective. The school board will want to keep the kids as safe as we possibly can, but what he doesn't want to do is take the choice away from the parents, that are with these kids day to day. He stated his family was signed up for the trip and have decided not to go. That was a choice they made as a family. He does not want to take that choice away from parents. He will support this.*

*Dr. Pomponio commented that she supports the education of this trip and thinks it is necessary. A lot of parents want to try and slowly get back to normal. She does not want to underestimate our students, our students are being responsible and they are wearing masks, following protocols because they want to get back out there. These are active students who need to have that element of education. We have to leave this in the hands of the parents. With all the information they have been given and trying to remain safe; we can try to move a little bit forward. Unless something major happens it is important to slowly get the kids back out there learning and back to normal.*

*Mr. Green commented that this is a tough one for him. He understand about going back to normalcy. Parents have a choice, but there are 60 kids coming back and they are going into a classroom with somebody else. He has recently been to Washington, it doesn't matter where you go there are people there you're going to be exposed to. But there are going to be people going on spring break too, which he knows the board is not sanctioning that. He asked why this decision had to be made now and when the company needed to have the decision. This is an event the district is sanctioning and putting our name on.*

*Mr. Freitas commented that students have been looking forward to this. It Has been a crazy year and they can still opt out of it later on if numbers start to rise, we don't want to take the option away from them. This is what these students have to look forward to at the end of the year, this is their big hurrah. He has been on this trip a couple of times and loved it. There is no right answer there is no wrong answer. He wants to give parents and students a choice.*

*Mr. Lamos commented this is a tough one. Certainly the choice that we offer those that go; the parents and kids, is an important consideration. On the flip side, kids that are still here when they come back, won't have a choice about who they are associating with, so we run the risk of infections coming back. He sees both sides and this is a difficult decision to make.*

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

- 2. Approval of the Wayne RESA Parent Advisory Committee Representative:** Ms. Irvine had Ms. Kelly Thomas present this item; School districts are required to have a parent representative on the Wayne RESA Parent Advisory Committee. This is a two-year term. We are recommending the nomination of Michelle Muse-Worthy to represent Southgate Community Schools. Michelle has already served one term in this role. Michelle enjoys supporting the District in this way and does a great job representing the parents of our district in the county's implementation of its special education delivery plan. Once the Board approves the nomination of this parent, the Wayne RESA Board will approve the nomination to make this official.

2020/21-141 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board nominate Michelle Muse-Worthy to the Wayne RESA Parent Advisory Committee.

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

- 3. Approval of the Purchase of a CTE Construction Trades Trailer:** Ms. Irvine explained that the district is thinking differently about how we are going to build homes in the Construction Trades Classroom. She had Mr. Marc Hansen speak to the board about this purchase.

Historically, each year, Construction Trades students build a mock house inside the Construction Trades classroom. At the end of the each year, they demolish this house. To reduce the waste, the construction plan is changing. Instead, students will construct two tiny houses, built on two separate trailers; that will be sold at the end of the year. This will bring money into the program and it will bring a sense of purpose to the project.

Construction Trades needs one additional trailer to make this happen. The purchase will be funded from their Downriver Career Technical Consortium (DCTC) budget. The reduced demand for construction materials this year has produced additional funds that must either be used or be permanently eliminated from their budget for years to come.

The Construction Trades teacher has obtained three quotes. The District is recommending the purchase from Kelly & Sons Trailers for \$5,675.00. Because the amount exceeds the \$3,500.00 threshold, it has been brought to the Board for approval.

Discussion took place about the funding coming from DCTC, the use of the trailer for building and transporting, the storage of this trailer, potentially building on property instead of a trailer, inspections/certifications of the build and liability/waivers for the purchasers of the homes.

2020/21-142 It was moved by Mr. Sage supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the purchase of a CTE Construction Trades Trailer in the amount of \$5,675.00.

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

- 4. Approval of the SCS 2021 Roofing Project Award Recommendation:** Mr. Kakoczki explained this is the first of our roofing projects for this summer. Pursuant to the information provided by Plante Moran, (board members received) the District is recommending the approval of the roofing project award to Bloom Roofing Systems as presented. The projects are at Anderson and Grogan. The bid details, award letters, budget summary, bid tabulation and contractor proposals were reviewed.

Discussion took place about who will oversee this project and sign off on the final inspection.

Mr. Kakoczki stated, the roof consultant-Intertek PSI will have a field technician on site throughout the duration of the project with daily inspections and they do the warranty punch list walk-through with Plante Moran and our Director of Maintenance & Grounds, Mr. Galarza-Jimenez. The manufacturer of the roof also comes through; they are the ones that give the 20 year warranty on the roof. Mr. Kakoczki commented that even though Intertek was not our roof consultant during the last bond project, the gentleman overseeing the program from Intertek was actually with our last consultant-Structure Tech. He designed our roofs and is very familiar with our buildings.

Continued discussion regarding the sign-off of this project compared to the football field turf project and avoiding the kind of problem we had with that.

2020/21-143 It was moved Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the award of the SCS 2021 Roofing Project to Bloom Roofing Systems.

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

NO:

5. **Approval of the Grogan Furniture Move Services Award Recommendation:** Mr. Kakoczki explained, the recommendation is for the Grogan Furniture Move Services award go to DMS Moving Systems. This company was used in the moved of Central Office to Davidson Middle School. Supporting documentation was provided to the board. Mr. Kakoczki reviewed the award recommendation letter, bid tabulation and contractor's proposal. The companies were able to view the classrooms and the items that need to be cataloged, moved and stored for the summer and then moved back in after the construction, sometime in August before school resumes.

2020/21-144 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage the board approve the award of 2021 Grogan Furniture Move Services to DMS Moving Systems from 2020 Bond Program funds as presented.

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

NO:

6. **Approval of the Summer 2021 Renovation Work Award and Granger Construction's Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal Recommendation:** Mr. Kakoczki explained, this is for the first big summer renovation work. This work will be done at Grogan and DMS. The award recommendation letter, budget summary, and Granger's Maximum Price Proposal was reviewed. Board members were given all of the supporting documents. The Steering Committee is recommending the approval of the Summer 2021 Renovation Work award and Granger Construction's GMP proposal to the firms listed in the Granger Construction's Award Recommendation Letter, dated March 16, 2021, and the GMP Proposal from Granger Construction. The total project award recommendation for the Summer Renovations at Grogan and DMS, along with Granger Construction's costs and fees is \$2,403,728.00. We are \$15,334.00 under budget for this first phase. A lot of work was done on this from Southgate Administration to the architects, trying to find cost savings without affecting the scope of work.

There will be a project manager stationed in the district with a full-time superintendent dedicated to Grogan and DMS for this project. A project engineer will be stationed on site. Discussion took place about the GMP on the last bond and the oversight of the day to day activities.

*Dr. Pomponio left the meeting at 8:34 p.m.*

2020/21-145 It was moved by Mr. Sage supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the award of the Summer 2021 Renovation Work from 2020 Bond Program funds and Granger Construction's Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal as presented.

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

**7. Approval of the Amended Budgets for 2020-2021:** Ms. Wilson presented this budget at the beginning of the meeting, board members received supporting documentation in their packets.

2020/21-146 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the 2020-2021 amended budgets for the General Operating Fund Special Education Center Program Fund, food Service Fund, Community Services Fund and Student/School Activity Fund as proposed.

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

#### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None

#### **INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Irvine announced that our Figure Skating Team is also going to States.

Mr. Sage also commented on the sports teams; within a short period of time these kids have worked hard through COVID, some not being able to participate due to COVID. He gave his respect to every single one of the athletes, adding it's not just about the athletics, it's about the education. He thanked the teachers, administrators and students. He thanked Mr. Kakoczki stating he is doing a great job.

Mr. Green agreed with Mr. Sage.

Mr. Estheimer thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers for his mother who has had some health setbacks and currently still in the hospital. He passed those on to her. She is a woman of faith and she is very thankful for those thoughts and prayers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

2020/21-147 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Sage, the board adjourn the regular meeting at 8:49 p.m.

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

**WORK SESSION 8:54 p.m.**

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

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Ms. Irvine, Dr. Baker-Herring, Mr. Lyons, Ms. Wilson

## REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020/21-148 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the Work Session Agenda.

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

## CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

## DISCUSSION

Mode of Instruction/In Person Board Meeting Discussion: The board had an opportunity to talk about the Mode of Instruction for the month of April. Current numbers, classes on remote due to exposure, pauses to athletic teams and recommending in-person, remote and virtual options were discussed.

The governor announced all students from 13 to 19 who participate in contact or non-contact sports starting April 2, have to go through rapid antigen testing program. That means one time a week for any sport that requires an athlete to wear a mask and can wear a mask, three times a week if you cannot wear a mask.

Graduation plans-outdoor option on our football field June 2 with an alternate date if it rains.

Mr. Lyons spoke about the details of graduation and prom. The deposit on Yack Arena will roll over to next year. An outdoor graduation for Asher is also being considered on the football field. These events will have health and safety protocols in place. Board members spoke in favor of outdoor graduation.

Discussion took place about COVID numbers going up and potential for going back to remote and the need to be proactive with a plan in place. Contact tracing and quarantine requirements are being followed. Concerns were raised with COVID positivity rates going up after everyone returns from Spring Break. Our hybrid plans allows us to go back to a full remote mode of instruction when/if it is needed. When we need to act, we will follow the guidelines from the governor or call an emergency meeting to make the decision to go remote.

*Mr. Estheimer announced the Cheer Team came in 4<sup>th</sup> place and would be going to states.*

*Mr. Lamos left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.*

In-Person Board Meeting Discussion: Ms. Irvine commented that several attorneys have weighed in on the subject of in-person board meetings. The governor continued to allow boards to meet virtually or a hybrid or in-person with some kind of overflow, meeting the 25 capacity limit until March 31. As of April 1<sup>st</sup> we have to meet in person. We either have the technology for interaction to happen concurrently with us or we do it the way we have been doing it through the citizen's comments where those are spoken. Or we meet in-person only and we don't have a virtual component for people but we have an overflow area that anyone beyond the 25 person capacity can go into, see and watch a live stream. They can be physically present for the purpose of communicating with the board during the time of open comment but can watch from an over flow area.

Discussion took place about what would have to happen to allow for a virtual meeting; state of emergency declared by the county or the city, if a board member has a medical condition-they could participate virtually. Concerns about violating the OMA or health department requirements, by not allowing people the opportunity to attend or allowing too many to attend, were addressed.



Esser II Spending: Ms. Irvine informed the board we have \$2.4 million that is allocated to Southgate Community Schools under the most recent decision with the legislature, only 40% has been released. That 40% can be used for educational technology, building repairs related to air quality, operations in the furtherance of preventing or remediating learning loss; providing academic opportunities for students to prevent learning loss. \$900,000.00 is coming to us, we have to have a plan by April 23. We are putting it all toward chrome books. We need to either repair or replace the chrome books that have gone out to our families this year. Licenses, chrome books are going to use up \$700,000.00 of it. \$200,000.00 will be left for medical assistance, PPE, disinfectant and basic health mitigation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

2020/21-149 It was moved by Mr. Sage supported by Mr. Craig, the board adjourn the work session at 9:41 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Sage

NO:

*Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski*

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Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary  
Board of Education

*For detailed conversation, Board meetings may be viewed in their entirety on our website: [www.southgateschools.com](http://www.southgateschools.com)*























