



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

Electronically Held

<https://youtu.be/RSO9AMmX47w>

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 7:00 P.M.

VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW A. GREEN

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Estheimer

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Green read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

Mr. Green offered condolences to the family of Star Baxter and asked for a moment of silence to honor her.

TRUSTEES

NEIL J. FREITAS

RICK LAMOS

SHAWN SAGE

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020/21-171 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board revise the agenda, adding Action Item #5-Approve the indoor mask wearing requirements until August 20 and approve the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

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

NO:

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

PRESENTATIONS

Plante Moran CRESA Bid Awards: Mr. Kakoczki reviewed the bid for hard construction costs for the Natatorium & Weight Room. The initial budget was \$8,977,280.00, schematic design estimated is \$11,162,368.00. The total projected contract award for Bid Pak 1 and Bid Pack 2 is \$12.3M to \$12.6 M, requiring a budget reallocation of somewhere from \$3.3M and \$3.6M.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-

HERRING

Mr. Kakoczki explained our options with contingencies that we had built into this project.

We could move forward with the project and allocate the funds as noted:

- Allocate funds from cost escalation budget
- Allocate funds from owner contingency budget
- Reduce project contingency from 10% to 8%
- Explore VE options from subcontractors to reduce overall cost
- Would allow for the project to be completed by Aug/Sept 2022

We could pause the project and re-bid in 6 - 18 months:

- Look for areas to redesign the project
- Would delay the completion of the project
- May or may not result in an overall project cost savings

We could reduce the scope of the project through Value Engineering:

- Delete the weight room and lobby renovation from the project
- Reduce the size of the pool and deck space.

Mr. Kakoczki mentioned that steel is very hard to come by right now, taking about 50 weeks to get steel decking and steel joists. Across the nation there is national steel shortage. The actual low bidder has a local supplier that has the material in stock that could get us on track to have this material on site by November of this year.

Discussion took place about the steel shortage, the supplier that has available steel and the need for holding a special meeting to get an order placed so the project can stay on track. Additional discussion; the natatorium costs and contingency funds and pausing a project and re-bidding is not a guarantee the cost will go down. Board members agreed to hold a special meeting virtually to address the steel bid.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Ms. Irvine recognized all who came out for the Beautification Project and expressed her appreciation to all of the volunteers and our community. She shared photos with the board. June 5 will be the next project day. The hope is to have all of our athletes and student groups doing a fall and spring beautification project so we can keep this cycle going. So we are always in a place where our students are investing in our school district and feel a sense of ownership and pride in what it looks like. She congratulated the tennis team for making it to states. Ava Peryam had a perfect season; 22 wins 0 losses. She brought the Titan fear to every school district around.

FINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Wilson presented the board with a draft of the 2021-2022 Proposed Original Budget. This budget document reflects the revenues and expenditures associated with the continued operations of the outstanding programs of the Southgate Community School District. With continuing financial pressure on the resources of the District, several cost containment measures have been implemented in order to meet these ever-increasing financial challenges. However, despite these challenges, this budget is based on essentially the same level of programming the District has offered in prior years.

The 2021-2022 General Operating Budget is based on the following assumptions:

- Local tax revenue is based on the full 18-mill levy authorized by law on taxable non-principal residence property, except commercial personal.
- The foundation allowance is projected to increase by \$150 per pupil.
- Fall 2021 enrollment is projected to be 2,797 pupils
- Employee severance agreement payments with EPC have ended. This is a reduction in General Fund costs of \$258,871.00.
- Projected severance is budgeted at \$200,000.00, based on an estimated 10 teacher retirements.
- Hard cap cost increase 3.7%
- Retirement costs have been budgeted at the average cost of 28.23% (43.28% net of UAAL 15.05% offset).
- 5.5 fewer teaching positions with an estimated cost savings of \$660,000.00.
- The transfer of the Young 5's program to At-Risk. This represents a savings of \$290,000.00.
- General Fund Staff transferred to ESSERNII grant. This represents further savings to the General Fund of \$225,000.00.
- Enhancement dollars allocated at \$301,000.00.

- ESSER I, GEER, COVID 103 and 11p funds fully expended in 20-21. ESSER II funds budgeted at 43% of total award per State. This represents \$1,055,000.00.
- Projected General Fund balance as a percentage of unrestricted revenues is 8.04% (State Early Warning calculation must be greater than or equal to 5%).

The following are unknowns at this time:

- The commercial personal debt levy calculation is expected to be known by 6/1.
- The foundation allowance per pupil is not determined yet. State is required to complete their budget by July 1.
- ESSER II 57% (\$1,366,683.00) of remaining allocation has not been released or distributed across the budget expenditures.
- ESSER III estimated allocation of \$5.4 million has not been released or distributed across the budget expenditures.
- Bargaining unit contracts will be negotiated for 2021-2022.
- The impact of fewer Free and Reduced count based on reduced reporting requirements.

The revenues and expenditures were reviewed and explained. Ms. Wilson has projected \$1,371,488.00 in expenditures over revenue. That offset against our last amended budget for 2021 leaves us with a new fund balance of \$2,176,000.00. This is where the early warning percentage came from. If you were to divide that as a percentage of our unrestricted revenue it comes out to 8.04%.

Discussion took place about the fund balance and what the enhancement dollars are based on- which is the pupil count.

Ms. Irvine said there will be more fine-tuning of this budget and then it will come to the board for approval at a future board meeting.

CONSENT

2020/21-172 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the Minutes from May 11, 2021 and the HR Update.

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

NO:

ACTION

1. **Approval of the Delegation of the Southgate Board of Education vote for the Wayne RESA Board Election:** Ms. Irvine explained, on Monday, June 7, Wayne RESA will hold its board election. One candidate is running, incumbent, James Petrie. Election votes are cast by the local boards of the member districts of Wayne RESA. In this action item, the Southgate Board of Education will need to determine who it will support for the board seat and who will cast the vote on behalf of Southgate Community Schools. The resolution was included in board packets.

2020/21-173 It was moved Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve the resolution designating local district's Wayne RESA Election Representative as Dr. Pomponio and alternate Mr. Estheimer.

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

NO:

2020/21-174 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board select Mr. Petrie to receive Southgate's vote for the Wayne RESA Board Election.

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

- 2. Approval of the Bid Award for Summer 2021 Renovation Asbestos Abatement Remediation:** Mr. Kakoczki explained this package is for asbestos abatement related to the summer renovation work that will be done at Grogan and Davidson. Arch Environmental is the district's abatement consultant. They did a survey of the buildings, they also reviewed the construction documents to determine the impact of construction to any abatement that was in the building. They identified the areas they could see, that would be affected and put together an RFP for abatement contractors to bid. They reached out to 5 qualified abatement contractors, received pricing on May 17 from four of the firms, based on that, are recommending Environmental Maintenance Engineers Inc. for the abatement at DMS and Grogan for a total award recommendation of \$4500.00. The board received the letters of recommendation, the bid tab, and the bid from Environmental Maintenance Engineers. Discussion took place about this bid being for removal not encapsulation.

2020/21-175 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the selection of Environmental Maintenance engineers, Inc. for Summer 2021 Renovation Asbestos Abatement Remediation at Davidson Middle School and Grogan Elementary.

Mr. Green asked about receiving all of the bids that were received and not just the bid that is recommended for approval.

Dr. Pomponio asked if there are cost increases for labor being seen.

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

- 3. Approval of Material Testing Services for the Anderson High School Natatorium and Grogan Elementary School Summer 2021 Renovations:** Mr. Kakoczki explained this is for a material testing engineer. This is a professional service that will test concrete footings, stone base for parking lots, concrete slabs, they will test our masonry and steel. Anything construction wise that needs to be tested between the Natatorium addition, weight room renovation, the filling in of the existing pool and any concrete there and the site work at Grogan. All of that work was included in the material testing engineers RFP that was put out for bid. On March 3rd a formal request for proposal was issued to five qualified testing firms. Proposals from all five were received on March 18 and each were evaluated. They are bidding on a time and material basis, they get called out as-needed for testing and estimate what they think will be the number of trips they will make to the site based on the schedule. Whenever a construction manager needs something tested, the materials testing agency is called out. The rates can be hourly or half/full day. Intertek PSI is recommended for the material testing services with an amount not to exceed \$27,195.00. Intertek PSI is also the consultant designing the roof projects, separate from bond construction. It's a different entity within their firm but they are already in the district doing the roof consulting, they are also the building envelope engineer for the natatorium addition. They are invested in the project and familiar with the bond program, they are already a part of the team in our district.

2020/21-176 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the selection of Intertek-PSI for the required material testing involved in the Anderson High School Natatorium and summer renovation work at Grogan Elementary.

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

- 4. Approval of the Southgate Board of Education Policy Update Package:** Ms. Irvine explained, at the May 11 board meeting, the board was presented with the first read of the policy update package that was that was initially approved by the Board of Education policy committee. The District is now recommending the approval of this package.

2020/21-177 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the policy updates as presented at the regularly scheduled board meeting on May 11, 2021.

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

- 5. Motion to Continue Indoor Mask-Wearing Requirements through August 20:** Ms. Irvine explained, on June 1, the Department of Health and Human Services will effectuate its newest Gathering and Face Order, eliminating mask-wearing requirements for vaccinated individuals indoors. Businesses and organizations may sidestep this by approving policy that continues mask-wearing requirements.

MIOSHA also released its latest guidance, continuing indoor mask-wearing requirements for employees.

To avoid sorting students and the public entering our facilities by vaccination status, the District is recommending passing a policy that requires face masks when inside of a Southgate Community School facility regardless of vaccination status.

To accommodate rapidly-changing MDHSS requirements, the District only recommends this policy through August 20, 2021, the end of the summer school session. The Board will have an opportunity to reconsider this policy at its first meeting in August.

2020/21-178 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Lamos, the board approve an indoor face mask-wearing requirement in Southgate Community School facilities through August 20, 2021, regardless of vaccination status.

Mr. Craig commented that he hopes we see an end to mask wearing at some point, encouraging more people to get vaccinated so it becomes less of an issue. We may at some point, have to sort kids by who is or is not vaccinated. He hopes we don't get to that point and that we get to a point where most are vaccinated. Until then, it's important to continue with the masks.

Mr. Sage agreed with Mr. Craig, more so on the basis of not having the kids separated or a differentiation between the kids. He believes we should just stay the course until this date.

Mr. Green stated he is on the same page with Mr. Craig and Mr. Sage. This is a touchy subject with everyone- if you should or shouldn't wear masks. We already have a routine with the masks right now. We stay the course a couple more months until the end of Summer School and see where we are, at that point.

Dr. Pomponio agreed, we shouldn't discriminate against one or the other and she is all for keeping on the course right now.

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

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

Mr. Lamos left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio read a message: To Our Southgate Titan Seniors, Class of 2021-

You have not only endured many obstacles and new things to worry about way too young. The road that led you here to this point has been one that is full of memories. You have many teachers, staff, administrator, link leaders, clubs, sports, band, art, robotics, ROTC and other school memories that will stay with you a lifetime.

Always remember that you are Titan strong and whether you have one friend or many, **you** will be the one to pave the new road to the rest of your life. There are many people that we share in our lives that make up your family and you are part of ours. It doesn't matter what you do, you will do great! We are your Titan family and will be your cheerleaders for your health and happiness.

Congratulations Class of 2021---Go Take on the world!

Mr. Sage echoed Dr. Pomponio's comments also offering congratulations, bright futures ahead. He also thanked the board, the kids are in Washington D. C. right now, thoroughly enjoying themselves and this board gave them the opportunity and the chance to go and they are having a blast. Hopefully they are learning a lot while they are there. He also commented on the young lady that passed, Ms. Baxter, our hearts and prayers go out to your family.

Mr. Green echoed the comments of Dr. Pomponio and Mr. Sage, on the success of the 2021 Class and wished them all the best in any avenue, any field that they decide to go into. The underclassmen too, for all students that have been engaging for the last year and a half. All those engaged in extracurricular activities; band, robotics, sports, congratulations to all. Wished the softball, baseball and tennis teams' good luck in districts/states. The track team showed well in regionals last Friday. He looks forward to seeing the spotlight on the top students on the Facebook page. He asked for Mr. Estheimer to be kept in or thoughts and sent good thoughts to his own family member and to anyone that may be struggling he offers his prayers. He hopes everyone realizes we are all in this together. Again, Congratulations to our Seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

2020/21-179 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Sage, the board adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

NO:

WORK SESSION

CALL TO ORDER: 8:22 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Freitas, Green, Lamos (arrived at 8:24), Pomponio, Sage

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020/21-180 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Sage, the board approve the work Session agenda as presented.

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

NO:

DISCUSSION

1. Mode of Instruction for 2020-2021-Ms. Irvine spoke to the board about the vote on the Mode of Instruction coming up in June; continuation of In-Person, Remote and Virtual. Summer School 2021; K-8 In-Person at Asher 3 days per week for 8 weeks. 9-12 In-Person and Virtual option.

Dr. Baker-Herring explained the elementary summer school goal was to re-connect students with school and their peers. Over 40 staff members met and came up with fun and engaging content. Grades 9-12 will work on recovering credits for the classes they received "I's" in.

2. Mode of Instruction for the Fall-Ms. Irvine addressed the considerations for the fall; Pupil accounting requirements will be re-instated to 180 days/1098 hours. The importance of social, emotional, and soft-skill remediation and support-decision-making, structure, executive functioning of students. Flexibility needed for high COVID rate/quarantines.

The recommendation for the fall:

- a. In-Person 5 days per week
- b. Qualifying Remote with Intermittent In-Person Requirement for quarantine, qualifying reason, attendance and performance standards.
- c. Virtual
Concurrent Hybrid in place of shut-downs if positivity rates escalate.

Board discussion; students struggling with virtual, wanting kids to succeed and having discussions with parents to encourage the need for students to be in-person.

Further discussion about having classes with no remote students, completely in-person and all-remote classes, teachers wouldn't be doing concurrent.

Ms. Irvine announced that our tennis team is traveling to Midland for State Finals.

Mr. Lamos thanked the Washington D.C. group for the t-shirt.

ADJOURNMENT

2020/21-181 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Dr. Pomponio, the board adjourn the work session at 8:39 p.m.

YES: Craig, 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

