



**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
14400 DIX-TOLEDO RD.  
SOUTHGATE, MI 48195**

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

**DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 7:04 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:**

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

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

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**

2021/22-44 It was moved by Mr. Green the Board revise the agenda to remove Item M-Closed Session and approve the October 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Agenda, supported by Dr. Pomponio.

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Becky Farmer-Southgate Alumni and current teacher, addressed the Board about choosing Southgate schools for her daughter and the positive experience it has been. Teachers and support staff are the reason they choose this district.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

Beth Altizer-Southgate Alumni, parent of two Southgate graduates and current Southgate teacher spoke on the positive experience she and her children had in the district. Is thankful for all of the teachers and administrators who had such an impact on her and her children's education.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-  
HERRING

Danielle Contos- Addressed the Board about mandating vaccines and masks. Asked that Board members research VAERS.

Billie Schulz-Expressed her concerns about mask mandates, vaccine mandates. Spoke about books in the library's that are inappropriate for students and the need for parents to make themselves aware of what is being offered to students.

Shannon Seco-Spoke in support of teachers and students and her concerns about mask and vaccine mandates. The county is not being truthful with the numbers and she is against mask mandates.

Ben Lewandowski-Served board members with a Federal Lawsuit.

Robert Pawlowski-Stands with teachers and supports salary increases for them.

## PRESENTATIONS

1. Audit Presentation-Yeo & Yeo- Mr. Mike Georges, CPA, gave the Board a presentation detailing the audit procedures and outcome for this year's audit. Board members received the Single Audit Report and Financial Statements. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of American and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

The unmodified opinion: Highest level of assurance. The Schools' financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented, and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Mr. Georges reviewed the 10-year enrollment trend analysis and the 10-year foundation allowance trend analysis. Future challenges include; State economic/political condition, retirement rate increase, state revenue fluctuations, enrollment trends, rising healthcare costs, pension/OPEB obligation over \$97 million and new accounting pronouncements.

Discussion: Increase in assets, internal control testing and evaluation, student count.

2. Bond Update-Plante Moran CRESA-Mr. Rob Kakoczki reviewed the 2020 Bond Dashboard Report. Goals and Objective: Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community. Overall bond program budget; \$59,475 million. Zero tax rate increase. Every student could be impacted within 2 years. Help the District foster a Whole Community of learners, including students, staff, parents and residents. Safety and security enhancements to ensure students, administrators, and visitors are entering a safe and secure environment. Preserve the educational facilities and infrastructure. Update technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Support fine arts and fitness programs which help foster emotional and physical wellbeing of the students.

Mr. Kakoczki shared the details of the cash flow/finances and the funding allocations for the projects. November, December and January's schedule of renovations, bid proposals and awards was reviewed. This 4 year project began in 2020 and will continue through 2024, the Board was given the project phasing schedule explaining what projects are yet to be completed.

Discussion: Technology upgrades and security camera installation.

## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Ms. Irvine congratulated Shelters for scoring in the top 30% of Michigan's elementary schools. A formal award will be coming in the near future. The District PTO meeting will take place 7p.m., Thursday Oct. 28. The Board is invited to Anderson High School's pancake breakfast. It will be held Friday Oct 29 at 8 a.m.; to recognize student achievement. Friday is a half day.

## FINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Wilson informed the Board we have one more item to complete the close-out of the year; the Financial Information Database which is due Monday. We are working on that now that the audit is complete.

## CONSENT

2020/21-45 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Craig, the Board approve the Minutes from October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting with Closed Session and the HR Update.

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

NO:

## ACTION

**1. Approval of the Redirection of Bond Contingency Funds to Baseball Infield Restructure:** Mr. Kakoczki explained the scope of work to address the drainage issues at the Anderson High School Baseball Field. Four inches of new Dura Edge Classic mix will be installed to the infield and warning track to allow those areas to drain to the grass where the underground drainage systems exist along with rebuilding the pitcher's mound and home plate area. The Project Team is recommending Backer Landscaping to perform this work. Backer Landscaping is already on-site completing the drainage installation, the most efficient and effective way to complete this work is to award a change order to the existing contract with Backer Landscaping and this work would be funded from the owner's contingency for the bond program. The total fixed fee for the scope of services is \$73,594.06.

Discussion: What caused this issue and why it wasn't a part of the original project.

2021/22-46 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the redirection of bond contingency funds to the restructure of the baseball infield as presented in the amount of \$73,594.06.

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

NO:

**2. Approval of the Revision to Policies 2007 and 5003:** Ms. Irvine explained the revision to policies 2007 and 5003.

2007-Health and Safety: Pertaining to energy drinks. Most energy drinks are federally prohibited from sale during school hours because of their sugar content. However, they are permitted if the drink uses a sugar substitute. Due to poor regulation of the caffeine content of energy drinks, or other energy ingredients, the policy subcommittee does not believe that the sale of energy drinks by the district, or any organization selling food or drinks to students during the school day, should be permitted.

Policy 5003-Purchasing: The current policy requires Board approval for specific types of purchases. Although the state law provides for emergency purchases for facility repairs, Board policy does not. The proposed revision builds in the conditions under which an emergency purchase is made. This language anticipates that there will be some situations in which an emergency is not immediately impacting health, safety, or facility danger, but delaying until the next available board meeting would. In these cases, the Superintendent may call a special board meeting to seek the necessary board approval.

2021/22-47 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the revisions to policies 2007 and 5003 as presented.

Discussion: Language in the policy, the inclusion of "special meeting", the intent of the language, when an emergency meeting is needed and when to call for one. Dr. Pomponio expressed concern that the discussion of the Policy Subcommittee included a reference to the words "special meeting". Because a special meeting was not included in the wording of the policy, she cannot support the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

NO: Pomponio

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

Kristy Vilardi-Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, addressed the Board regarding the decision she and her husband, high school teacher- Frank Vilardi, made when it came time to choose a school for their kids. They choose Southgate Schools over Woodhaven Schools because of the teachers.

Jackie McKay-Current high school teacher, addressed the Board regarding the decision she and her husband, high school teacher-Jamie McKay, made to choose Southgate Schools over Woodhaven because of the teachers.

**INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Freitas wished his daughter, McKenna, a Happy Birthday. Congratulated all those that took the PSAT test today. Thanked everyone that helped mold and be a part of their high school career.

Dr. Pomponio commented on how much she appreciates and admires the teachers, and never tires of saying that. Is one of the teacher's biggest cheerleaders and supports them 100%. The teachers have been a big part of her kid's education and she sees how much hard work they do.

Mr. Green announced Trunk or Treat at the Burger King on Eureka Rd. in Southgate this Saturday from 3:30 until 6:30 p.m. He attended the Trunk or Treat at Fordline, they did a wonderful job. He congratulated those that took the PSAT today. The news about Shelters is fabulous and he congratulated all the sports teams. He has listened to the Band practice and they are amazing. He is very proud of his daughter and the people at Davidson and congratulated those that were put in the National Junior Honor Society. He appreciates the teacher's being here, you're passionate and he is confident we are going to get this done.

Mr. Estheimer thanked everyone for attending and staying for such a long meeting, he looks forward to the formal recognition for Shelters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2020/21-48 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, 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)*