



**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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

PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

DATE: TUESDAY, December 14, 2021 7:01 P.M.

VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREW A. GREEN

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine, Baker-Herring, Wilson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Estheimer read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

TREASURER

JASON CRAIG

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TRUSTEES
NEIL J. FREITAS
RICK LAMOS
SHAWN SAGE

2021/22-67 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the December 14, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

NO:

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Billie Schultz-Thanked Ms. Irvine for meeting with her to come up with a process to review library books. She addressed; school safety and the type of locking system used in the District, bullying and mental health.

Dominique Henson-Addressed the Board on behalf of her daughter regarding the way she is being treated at Allen Elementary. She commented that no one is doing anything to change the situation and her emails go unanswered.

April Schuck-Addressed the Board about the Southgate Education Foundation; giving the history of the foundation and announced next years' event on Friday, April 22, 2022. She asked the Board and community for their support in seeking sponsorships from local businesses and community members. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 12, 2022 and all are welcome to come help in any way.

Robert Pawlowski-Addressed the Board about enhancing security in our District. Congratulated Ms. Irvine on completing her first year in the District and thanked the Board for their work. He spoke about Adopt-A-Stop, which is volunteering to clean up a SMART bus stop.

PRESENTATION

Dean Transportation 2022/23-Ms. Irvine introduced Patrick Dean and explained that the District is considering general bussing for 2023 and Dean Transportation put together an analysis for the Board. Mr. Dean provided a power point presentation for the Board detailing this analysis.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

SHARON IRVINE

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILSON, CFO

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DR. MICHELLE BAKER-
HERRING

The Scope of Project:

- Develop Route Planning to Reinstate General Education Transportation-Determine Number of Buses/Staff Required
- Consider Pre-K and Young 5 Transportation Options
- Analyze Special Education and General Education System Together
- Estimate Cost of General Education Transportation

Mr. Dean explained the technology and planning platforms that would be used for mapping, boundary planning, route time/route stops/mileage. Tyler Technology-Versa Trans is industry leading student transportation planning software.

The process:

- Determine Boundaries and Eligibility
- Determine Eligible Riders
- Development of Routes
- Determine Arrival and Departure
- Bus and Driver Requirements
- Develop Cost Projections
- Project Timeline

Base assumptions:

- 1 Mile Eligibility Boundary for All Buildings
 - Exception for Main No Cross Roads (Dix Toledo, Eureka, Northline, Goddard)
 - Note: Options provided on radius (.75 mile and .5 mile) and all Pre-K and Young 5 eligible.
- Elementary
 - Eligible for Transportation Based on Boundary School
 - No Out of District/Out of Boundary Transportation
 - Young 5 Districtwide (Allen/Grogan)
- High School and Middle School
 - Districtwide
 - No Out of District Transportation

The development of the routes is based on a desired 30 minute, with 45 minute maximum route time. A tiered structure is considered in the development of the routes. In one tier the high school and middle school students ride together, elementary is separate. In a three tier system, high school, middle school and elementary have their own routes.

Stop considerations; high school/middle school- group stops. Kindergarten to 5th grade- groups stops. Pre-K and Young 5's would be curb to curb. The boundary lines and routes were reviewed in detail. Student data was analyzed to determine the number of eligible riders based on a .5 mile walk zone, .75 mile walk zone and a 1 mile walk zone, which will determine the development of the routes.

Arrival and departure times are determined based on what tier structure is used. Bus and Driver requirements would also be based on the tier structure that will be used.

Cost Projection Key Assumptions:

- 15 Daily Runs (2-Tier System)/ 11 Daily Runs (3-Tier System)
- 17 Bus Fleet (2-Tier)/ 13 Bus Fleet (3-Tier)
- 77 Passenger Buses
- 180 Academic Days (General Education)

- \$2.25 (Net Tax) Fuel
- Facility Provided by Dean, Parking at Southgate Lot (Hybrid)
- Route Planning Software, GPS Tracking, HD SSD Cameras

For a 2-Tier system for 2022-2023 with Dean providing the buses, \$1,041,795.00. With District Provided Buses, \$904,743.00. The buses would be lettered with "Southgate Community Schools".

Key Considerations:

- Distance Policy (Boundaries, Eligibility)
- Actual ridership will impact the number of buses needed, analysis assumes 100%
- Riders outside of boundaries may impact times and buses
- Supply chain of vehicles impacting delivery dates (Summer 2022)
- Staff recruitment and community involvement is key to success

Project Timeline:

- Analysis Presentation December 2021
- Approval of Plan February 2022
- Staff Recruitment March 2022
- Technology Deployment April/May 2022
- Driver Training & Route Practice June/July 2022
- Start of Operations August 2022

Discussion: driver shortages/backup drivers, parochial busing, security on the buses, partnering with Okay-to-Say, field trip/athletic busing, risk assumption if the district purchases buses and can't find drivers, Bus security and training for drivers who are the eyes and ears of the district. Ridership and eligibility. The need for bus fleet numbers to fluctuate as our rider numbers change.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Ms. Irvine wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. There is a band and choir concert tomorrow at AHS. She announced the bus presentation will be available to the community with an opportunity for parents, staff members and students to ask questions.

FINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Wilson gave an Esser III status update. We filed the state required documentation on December 13. Based on the Esser survey that went out for stakeholder input, the top three priorities were; hiring additional staff, addressing facility cleanliness/air quality and mental health resources.

We were required to budget 20% of the funding to go to learning loss:

We budgeted \$500,000 for additional personnel for academic intervention and support during the school day and after school tutoring and or summer programming. \$200,000 for additional personnel for behavioral intervention and support. \$267,505 on personnel coordinator, oversight for student attendance and engagement, tracking and programming for academic loss supports. \$500,000 was budgeted for district transportation for school program. All of these address the learning loss. \$500,000 for increased staffing, technology, software and material to provide instructional services to virtual learning/Atlas Program. \$350,000 budgeted for increased cost to provide bullying substitute coverage.

COVID Mitigation and response:

\$200,000 budgeted for medical personnel support for COVID contact tracing. \$10,000 for PPE.

\$100,000 for legal fees for the enforcement of health department directives. \$500,000 for increased custodial costs associated with maintaining a custodial workforce.

Facilities:

\$500,000 was budgeted for HVAC repair/replacement/additions and air duct cleaning.

This all amounts to about \$3.6 million which is the two thirds that have been released at this time.

CONSENT

2021/22-68 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the November 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and HR Update.

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

ACTION

1. Approval of the Security Camera Bid Package Award Recommendation: Matt Lindner-Plante Moran, walked the Board through the process for bidding this contract. Based on the urgent need for a new solution due to failures in the existing system as well as a desire for expanded coverage, Southgate Community Schools asked Plante Moran to identify a suitable solution that would be available from an existing competitively bid contract. The REMC bid vehicle, which complies with the competitive bidding process, was used. Presidio Inc. is recommended. The total recommendation is just over \$700,000.00, of that \$664,000.00 would come from the bond program. The remaining \$36,000.00 for the maintenance building would need to come from general fund. A 7% contingency is also being asked for which would be a total of \$46,500.00 in contingency. This recommended award is under the amount budgeted for this project under the technology portion of the bond program.

Discussion; timeline for implementation, access for the police department, number of camera's and their placement.

2021/22-69 It was moved by Mr. Green supported by Dr. Pomponio, the Board approve the security camera bid package award recommendation as presented.

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

2. Approval of the Overnight Student Council Trip: Ms. Irvine explained, on behalf of Christine McKenna-Student Council Advisor, the leadership conference in Grand Rapids is held every year for MASC/MAHS. At this statewide leadership conference students will attend leadership and community building breakout sessions and keynote speakers. They will then bring that information back to the school's council to implement new strategies for community building at Anderson high School.

This year the conference is taking place in two sessions due to COVID restrictions. We will be assigned one of the two sessions. Students attending will pay \$35 to cover their food and other expenses on the way there. We will be sharing a bus with Lincoln Park. The cost of the conference and the hotel will be paid for by our Student Council and the money earned from our Homecoming Dance.

2021/22-70 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the Board approve the overnight Student Council trip as presented.

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

3. Approval of the General Fund Transfer to Capital Projects: During the 2020-2021 school year, the District saved nearly \$2M in utility, facility, and custodial costs. Because this is a one-time savings to the operational budget, it is recommended transferring a portion of the savings to be available for facility and capital projects that do not place annual operational stresses on the District. Planning for this transfer, our 2021-2022 amended budget includes the transfer of \$1.5M to capital projects. \$200,000.00 was transferred in August 2021. This leaves \$1.3M to be transferred by Board approval, earmarked for capital facility projects. Ms. Irvine is recommending the Board of Education transfer \$1.3M from General Fund to Capital Projects.

2021/22-71 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the transfer of \$1.3M to Capital Projects from General Fund as presented.

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

4. Approval of the Nomination of Board Member to the MASB Board of Directors: Mr. Estheimer presented the information to the Board; Dr. Pomponio has been committed to Board training and development for almost 13 years. She has been active with MASB, NSBA, and the Wayne County Association of School Boards. Throughout the years, she has participated in many classes, committees, and testified in Lansing for education legislation. She has obtained every certification and award available through MASB, including the President Award. In 2019, the Southgate Board of Education nominated her for the MASB Board of Directors. She was elected to the Board of Directors by Wayne, Oakland and Macomb County school boards. She is now seeking a second term.

2021/22-72 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the Board nominate Dr. Darlene Pomponio to the MASB Board of Directors.

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

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Green- wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He sent his love to the people of Oxford. He spoke about District security, winter sports, clubs and activities and wished his fellow board members happy holidays.

Dr. Pomponio-Happy Holidays to everyone, stay safe and enjoy the holiday season. Her heart and condolences go out to the Oxford community. She commented that while we cannot foresee any danger as heinous as this tragedy and the loss of life so young, but we can and do provide increased security, safety protocols and training for our staff and students to further safeguard our children. In Southgate we are protecting and safeguarding our students. With this tragedy we are moving forward with newer steps and providing more security four our students.

Mr. Estheimer asked for a moment of silence for the folks at Oxford' staff, students and the community and those that tragically lost their life that day.

CLOSED SESSION-Attorney Client Privilege

2021/22-73 It was moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Craig, the board enter Closed Session at 8:40 p.m.

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

Discussion: Attorney Client Privilege

Mr. Lamos and Dr. Pomponio left Closed Session at 9:30 p.m.

The remainder of the Board exited Closed Session at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

2021/22-74 It was moved by Mr. Sage supported by Mr. Green, the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, 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