



**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WINTER RETREAT  
Gerisch Media Center  
12601 McCann Southgate, MI 48195**

PRESIDENT  
JASON CRAIG

**DATE:** Thursday, January 27, 2022

VICE PRESIDENT  
TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

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

SECRETARY  
DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

TREASURER  
RICK LAMOS

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Irvine

TRUSTEES  
NEIL J. FREITAS  
ANDREW A. GREEN  
SHAWN SAGE

**1. MEETING CONFIGURATION**

Currently, Board meetings are at Anderson high School through February. The Board discussed moving them permanently to Anderson High School. There were concerns about conflicts with plays or concerts. The Board having meetings at AHS when large groups of students would be recognized. If the meetings moved to Anderson High School, the set-up of the stage would need to be reworked.

**2. JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-LAYOUT AND ITEMS**

Dr. Pomponio raised the topic of the annual organizational meeting and the need for committees and board compensation to be reviewed annually at that time. She discussed having a checklist of board tasks that should be used to help plan for the meeting.

**ADMINISTRATION**

SUPERINTENDENT  
SHARON IRVINE

**3. BOARD COMPENSATION ANNUAL REVIEW**

See above.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE  
DIRECTOR  
BARBARA WILSON, CFO

**4. COMMITTEES**

Board members expressed an interest in committees. Mr. Estheimer, Mr. Freitas and Mr. Lamos expressed an interest in participating on the finance committee. Dr. Pomponio, Mr. Sage and Mr. Green expressed an interest in participating on the policy committee. Other ad hoc committees may be put together through the year.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR  
DR. MICHELLE BAKER-  
HERRING

**5. CRT**

Board member discussed how the District would know if CRT was being taught in the school district. Superintendent Irvine offered to cover this with the policy committee in the interest of creating a curriculum review committee if CRT presented itself in curriculum or trainings purchased or planned in the District.

**6. ATHLETIC OVERVIEW**

Board members discussed the importance of a strong athletic department and the need to have strong athletic feeder programs and partnerships with the city. They also discuss the need to ensure that all programs are treated equally, have access to funds and have fundraising carefully monitored. They discussed the need for fall banquets for all athletes. Board members expressed concerns about how athletic positions are posted. Mr. Sage requested a flowchart of accountability and supervision. Other board members also saw the value of having an Organizational Chart for the District that showed who reported to whom.

**7. SOUTHGATE IDENTITY**

Board members discussed the importance of the Southgate Identity, producing many ideas for improving outreach and marketing. Board members raised the importance of finding opportunities for academic recognition.

**8. ADOPTION OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Estheimer raised the idea reinstating the practice of having board members adopt schools. Board members discuss the pros and cons of doing this. Pros included visibility and support. Cons included additional work for administrators and the potential to get too involved in the details of the organization.

**9. 2022-2023 TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATION UPDATE**

Superintendent Irvine provided an update on the transportation recommendation. At that time nearly 300 parents had filled out the survey. 77% thought busing should be reinstated. 58% said that they would use transportation if offered. 50 parents said it would make a difference on whether they considered Southgate Schools in the future. Interest in ridership was spread across all grade levels. When asked about why someone may say no, Superintendent acknowledged that many remember how emotional it was to have it taken away and worry about the District's ability to finance it. Board members expressed interest in having key decision points outlined in the final recommendation with the committee's recommendation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned 8:24 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski*

---

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary  
Board of Education