



**Board of Education**

Jason Craig, President  
Timothy O. Estheimer, Vice President  
Dr. Darlene L. Pomponio, Secretary  
Rick Lamos, Treasurer  
Neil J. Freitas, Trustee  
Andrew A. Green, Trustee  
Shawn Sage, Trustee

**Central Administration**

Sharon Irvine, Superintendent  
Andrew Lindsay, Assistant Superintendent  
Barbara Wilson, Business & Finance Director

13940 Leroy  
Southgate, MI 48195  
(734) 246-4600 • FAX: (734) 283-6791

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
14400 DIX TOLEDO RD.  
SOUTHGATE, MI 48195**

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  
Mr. Craig read the Mission and Vision statements.

**REVISIONS/ADDITIONS OF AGENDA:**

2022/23 – 37 Moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Green, that the Board approve the September 27, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Yes: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage  
No:

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Dean Transportation – September Report

Beth Reaume, Toni Thomas, and Misty Pierce, representing Dean Transportation, addressed the board and gave an overview of the first month of school. Since February, Dean mapped out a plan to be up and running for the first day of school after a ten year hiatus. They are currently 100% staffed which, for most schools, is rare. Some ways that they were able to accomplish this was by holding hiring events, parking buses at schools, using yard signs, and sending out postcards, among other things. A lot of the new hires are members of the community. They have also set up a referral program to get even more drivers. It takes approximately 4-6 weeks from initial contact to when a driver is completely hired and ready to drive. During this time, the drivers are training as well as completing CPR, CPI, and Health 123 courses. Some state requirements have slowed the hiring process.

After school field trips are still a concern because of the timing of the regular routes and when the after school bus needs to depart. Dean will be able to accommodate most of these trips. The staff expressed appreciation to the athletic directors and administrative assistant.

Currently there are ten general education, seven special education, and one vocational routes. When routes are changing, they are communicating this to parents through phone calls. Since the program is computerized, there are times when the routes do need to change. Adjustments were made to stops to avoid delays. Each stop is named an animal so that all students can refer to an animal instead of remembering a bus number.

Mr. Green pointed out that Dean has to get better about covering after school events because of the amount of money they are receiving. Ms. Irvine commented that Dean is covering the cost of outside transportation if it is needed to cover an event that Dean cannot cover. Mr. Lamos expressed concern about how the implementation of transportation was anticipated and stated that Patrick Dean was really the appropriate person to whom concerns should be expressed.

## 2. Spring 2022 M-STEP Results

Mr. Lindsay presented the Spring 2022 test results stating that it is important to remember that throughout the region, testing was disrupted due to COVID. He explained that the M-STEP is a criterion referenced test which is compared to state standards, and is taken one time per year. The NWEA, SAT, and PSAT tests are norm based tests, taken three times per year (for the NWEA), and compared against peers.

The results of these tests are being used to align the district goals of improving academic outcomes through student engagement. In February, a mid-year review will take place. The goal is to set the standard high and build value in these tests so that students take them seriously. Southgate has consistently offered high level, rigorous courses to prepare students for college and provide academic challenges.

Mr. Lindsay also commented that the state provided additional monies for MTSS and we have partnered with Munetrix to help identify at-risk students and provide social/emotional support. He also noted that NWEA scores are uploaded into Munetrix, but not the M-STEP.

## 3. Continuity of Learning Update

Ms. Irvine reported that a Continuity of Learning Update is required by law every six months under ESSER III. We are relying almost exclusively on in-person learning as the mode of instruction with an option for virtual. ESSER III funds in the amount of approximately \$5.4M were given for the purpose of recovering from the pandemic which means identifying those students who didn't come to school and getting them back in school.

Starting up transportation has been significant in assisting with returning these students to the learning environment. In addition, promoting the district through banners on Eureka Road, parking lot banners, branding has been influential. These funds are one-time way to remind the community that Southgate Schools is here and their children should be attending here.

The other focus of ESSER III funds is addressing behavioral and academic impact of virtual learning. Class size reduction is an important topic. A math teacher was hired in the spring to prepare for making rigorous course options available.

Virtual mentors are continuing as well as a social worker and coordinator for virtual learners. In addition to the social worker and virtual mentors, we were able to add behavioral guides and medical assistants. Currently there is one district nurse, one school nurse, and three medical assistants. Ms. Irvine also reported that the enrollment of all of the kindergarten classes is between 15 and 21 students.

Funding for this comes from ESSER monies, not the general fund. There is a lot of spending but the purpose of this grant is to get schools back and track after the pandemic. The district is not just spending to spend. ESSER funds will expire in 2024.

Ms. Irvine reported that we are on pace to gain students this year. Currently we have 92 high school, 22 middle school and 11 elementary students who are virtual compared to 160, 112, and 80 respectively from last year.

The GRSP students who continued to kindergarten and Young 5's to kindergarten will be tracked after count day.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Robert Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski announced that he was selected to be a member of the Wayne County Youth Council, which represents Downriver and District 15.

He also congratulated both the juniors and the seniors on their 8-8 tie in the Homecoming Powderpuff game.

**SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE:**

Ms. Irvine congratulated Robert on his appointment to the Wayne County Youth Council.

She also reported that this week is Spirit Week in preparation for the homecoming game against Carlson. The game is the featured Game of the Week for Channel 4. The homecoming parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. This year, there will be no floats, but instead each class will decorate a booth and have carnival games.

Ms. Irvine also congratulated the AHS volleyball team for their sweep of Allen Park and Carlson.

**CONSENT:**

2022/23 – 38 Moved by Dr. Pomonio, supported by Mr. Green, that the Board approve the September 13, 2022 Closed Session Minutes, September 13, 2022 Regular Session Minutes, and the HR Update.

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

No:

**ACTION:**

**1. Approval of the Bid Award for the Southgate Digital Marquee at Davidson Middle School**

Gary Kent, Plante Moran, CRESA, addressed the board and explained the bid award package. Ms. Irvine explained that this sign would be a Southgate Community Schools sign at Davidson Middle School. The project is part of the original bond plan to replace the marquee at Anderson High School. The decision was made that instead of replacing that one, a district marquee would be housed at Davidson Middle School. It will have messages displayed for the entire district.

The three-sided digital marquee will be on the corner of Leroy and Trenton streets with good visibility from all sides. Masonry piers and electrical is also part of the bid package and will take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete.

The package went out for bid earlier but was postponed due to lack of responses. In postponing, there was a savings of approximately \$94,000.

Ms. Irvine complimented MI Custom Signs for their timeliness of projects. They have been great to work with.

2022-23 – 39 Moved by Dr. Pomonio, supported by Mr. Sage, that the Board approve the bid award to MI Custom Signs for an amount not to exceed 124,141.60.

Yes: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage  
No:

**DISCUSSION:**

None

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES:**

None

**INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Dr. Pomponio acknowledged our staff, crossing guards and employees that are veterans. We honor you and appreciate that you support our students on a regular basis.

“My family is a veteran family, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Army. Not only have I heard of very touching and heartbreaking stories, this one had me and my father in tears. It is very heartwarming to hear that we have deep rooted patriotic veterans working for us and living in our community.

I would like to honor a man named Pepe Marino who has worked as a crossing guard at Fordline elementary school for many years. He is a Vietnam veteran and has asked on several occasions to have the flag flown but was told over the years that there wasn't anyone to do it.

It was brought to my attention and shared with our superintendent. She immediately contacted Vanessa Monsour, the new Fordline Principal. What she did was amazing and when Mr. Marino heard that there will be a flag after all these years, he was happy and in tears as well.

I want to thank Mrs. Monsour and Ms. Irvine, for the quick response and for truly appreciating a veteran and what it means to many people to have the flag flown representing many things to many people.

Mrs. Monsour, with the help of our behavior support guide and Marine Corps veteran Matt Nowicki, have been raising and lowering the flag in honor since this request was made. In addition to that, Mrs. Monsour ordered a solar light. She notified me that the light had arrived Monday and would take three days to be fully charged, then the flag would fly permanently with the spotlight.

To All Veterans and your families thank you for your service!"

Mr. Green wished everyone a fun spirit week.

Mr. Estheimer is unable to attend homecoming, but wishes the Titans best of luck.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

2022-23 – 40 Moved by Mr. Estheimer, supported by Mr. Green, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

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

No:

Respectfully submitted by: Jodi Badder

---

Dr. Darlene Pomponio, Secretary  
Board of Education