

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ▪ JANUARY 25, 2021

DRAFT ☐

APPROVED ☒

The virtual regular meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Monday, January 25, 2021. The district live streamed the meeting via the district YouTube account.

Virtual regular meeting called to order/Instruction for Public Comments: Mr. Gordon Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Present: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren

Absent: None

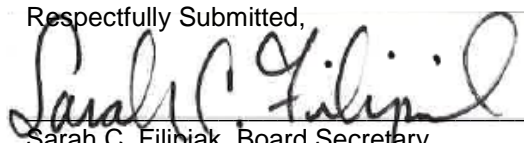
2021-120	<p>Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the consent agenda items be approved as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approval of January 25 agenda▪ Approval of registers: 1/8/2021=\$155,535.18, 1/13/2021=\$3,747.06, 1/14/2021=\$6,839.71, 1/19/2021=\$326,453.29▪ Approval of wire transfers: 12/11/2020 thru 1/21/2021=\$1,726,565.27 <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
	<p><i>President's Communication:</i> None at this time.</p>
	<p><i>Reading of Communications:</i> None at this time.</p>
	<p><i>Citizens Comments: (Pertaining to agenda items)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Xina Bagger thanked Arno Principal Zielinski, Superintendent Darga and the Board of Education for their dedication to the students of APPS throughout this pandemic situation. Ms. Bagger expressed concerns regarding the quality of an educational experience and instruction for her child given the necessary and restrictive precautionary measures required for in-person instruction.
2021-121	<p><i>Personnel:</i></p> <p><i>A. Employments/Services:</i></p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that that the recommendations for employment and services be approved by the Board for the individuals as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Joey Dudley – Volunteer Wrestling Coach/APHS – Effective 1/26/2021▪ Grace Sabo – Volunteer Swim/Dive Coach/APMS – Effective 1/26/2021▪ Matthew Wilson – Volunteer Wrestling Coach/APHS – Effective 1/26/2021▪ Shainna Yacoub – Volunteer Swim/Dive Coach/APMS – Effective 1/26/2021 <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><i>B. Retirements/Resignations</i></p> <p>We have received and accepted the following retirements/resignation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Michael Cipriani – Teacher/Lindemann – Retirement Effective 7/1/2021▪ Paul Grix – Teacher/APMS – Retirement Effective 1/5/2021▪ Jennifer Hanik – Food Service/APHS – Dismissal Effective 1/20/2021▪ Joseph Rama – Teacher/APMS – Retirement Effective 7/1/2021▪ William Robinson – Teacher/APHS – Retirement Effective 7/1/2021▪ Brian Visintainer – Head Custodian/APHS – Retirement Effective 1/30/2021 <p>Superintendent Darga took the opportunity to wish Mr. Grix and Mr. Visintainer much happiness in their retirement and thanked these gentlemen for the invaluable contributions they have made to Allen Park Public</p>

	<p>Schools over their tenure. Mr. Grix has served Allen Park Public Schools for 22 years as an educator, and Mr. Visintainer has served the district for the past 35 years, most recently as the Head Custodian at Allen Park High School.</p> <p>As a Technology Education Teacher at Allen Park Middle School, Mr. Grix shared that “On it’s worst day, it was the best job in the world. Over 22 years, I had the pleasure of teaching 13,437 students that enriched my life, hopefully as much as I did theirs. I will miss all of you, everyone from administrators and principals, to lunch supervisors and maintenance staff. You have been a family of the finest professionals that I have ever seen working together, and I am a better person for knowing all of you.”</p> <p>After 35 years serving Allen Park Public Schools, Mr. Visintainer shared, “Thank you for affording me the opportunity to have been a part of this wonderful community for so many years.”</p> <p>Superintendent Darga said, “Paul and Brian, your hard work, dedication, and expertise has greatly benefitted students and staff, and you have the sincere appreciation of the entire Allen Park school community. It has been an honor and privilege to have you as members of the Allen Park School Family. On behalf of the Board of Education, best wishes for a retirement filled with good health, joy and fulfillment. Relax and enjoy your next adventure – play lots, travel when able, and take frequent naps! An “Award of Excellence” plaque will be sent to your homes. Please join me in sharing our gratitude through applause for these outstanding staff members for their hard work and dedication to an uncompromising commitment to excellence!”</p>
	<p><i>Presentation:</i> <i>APPS Racial Awareness & Equity (RAE) Task Force Updates – Sarah Szalai, Michael Harris</i> RAE is an organization to advance racial equity through education, reflection, research, and dialogue by adding capacity from the community. RAE will develop systems centered on equity, catalyze positive internal change, and develop a community rooted in collaboration. RAE is committed to normalizing conversations about difficult topics with a humanizing approach. The presentation provided areas of focus, guiding principals as well as next steps.</p>
2021-122	<p><i>2020-21 Budget Amendments for General Fund, Food Service Fund & Capital Projects Fund</i> Mrs. Tiffany Keith, Director of Finance, presented mid-year budget amendments for the 2020-21 school year. The changes being recommended are to bring the accounts in line with actual revenue and expenses to date. The presentation included a summary of the budget amendments, indicating areas of significant change and the projected fund equity at the end of this school year. Following the presentation, board members were afforded the opportunity to pose questions.</p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the budget amendments for the 2020-21 school year be approved as presented. Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren Nays: None Absent: None Motion carried.</p>
2021-123	<p><i>Resolution Calling for Bond Election & Approval of Ballot Language</i> Mrs. Tiffany Keith, Director of Finance, provided a financial overview of the 2021 Bond Proposal, which includes ballot language for a proposition at a special election to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Following the presentation, board members were afforded the opportunity to pose questions.</p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the Resolution Calling for a May 2021 Bond Election and Approval of Ballot Language as presented. And further, that on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2021, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District.</p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the budget amendments for the 2020-21 school year be approved as presented. Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren Nays: None Absent: None Motion carried.</p>

2021-124	<p><i>Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave (FFCRA Leave)</i></p> <p>The Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave, implemented April 1, 2020, expired December 31, 2020. The FFCRA created two new paid leave benefits for eligible employees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> EPSLA - Emergency Paid Sick Leave - Full-time employees could receive up to 80 hours of paid leave, with certain pay caps depending on the reason for the leave, for an eligible COVID related absence. EFMLEA - Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act - An employee needing to care for a child due to COVID related school and child-care closures could receive leave for up to 12 weeks and receive partial pay for up to 10 of those weeks. <p>It is important to note that any APPS employees who were directed by the district to quarantine as a result of a possible exposure, were paid during the quarantine period (14 days). The employee did not need to apply for a leave through EPSLA. Employees with COVID, or those who were exposed outside of school/not directed by APPS to quarantine, applied for EPSLA.</p> <p>At this time, a school district MAY continue providing leave in accordance with the expired provisions of the FFCRA if they wish to do so; board action is required. Public school districts did not receive additional federal funding to cover this act. Allen Park Public Schools is 'all about' family first; the district values and supports quality family life. To this end, we are seeking to extend the FFCRA leave for all employees, union and non-affiliated, through March 31, 2021 if the board supports this action.</p> <p>Motion by Miller, supported by Warren, that the Allen Park Board of Education elect to voluntarily permit represented and non-represented employees to use any unused FFCRA leave between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021 as presented.</p> <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, Luecke, MacDonald, Martin, Miller, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><i>Superintendent's Report:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January is School Board Recognition Month <p>January is School Board Recognition Month across the State of Michigan, with roughly 600 local boards of education that work to enrich the lives of students through education and directly influence instruction in Michigan's public schools. Our board members are truly super heroes contributing to the success of our students – ordinary citizens with extraordinary commitment to public schools.</p> <p>This year, especially, we acknowledge the enormous challenges board members have met during these unprecedented times. Our dedicated school board members have worked tirelessly to implement innovative and effective solutions to ensure our students have the resources and support they need to learn and engage with their teachers and peers on digital platforms.</p> <p>These exemplary individuals, and those who served in 2020, have been under immense duress, pressure and challenge to deliver the best possible education to all students during a global pandemic, with the safety of students and staff at the forefront of every decision.</p> <p>Board members also establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure our schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. School board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complex enterprise of maintaining and running our public schools.</p> <p>The insight, concern for the well-being of all students, and professional experiences of these outstanding individuals contributes significantly to the success of Allen Park Public Schools. I appreciate and value the civility and collaborative work in focusing on a common goal – <i>helping students achieve in school and life</i> – and am truly grateful for what each of you brings to the team, so we can ultimately make decisions and keep the district moving forward.</p> <p>On behalf of the entire school community, your efforts are to be commended. We thank each of you for your</p>
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	<p>dedication to your school community and to quality public education.</p> <p>Board members have received a certificate of recognition from the Michigan Association of School Boards, a proclamation from Governor Whitmore, a Resolution from the Wayne County RESA Board of Education and a small token of appreciation in recognition of the commitment, dedication and passion of these remarkable civic-minded citizens. We applaud the positive impact your efforts have on our students and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APHS Charity Week <p>The Allen Park High School Student Council, under the leadership of Mrs. Cas Melville, have planned “Charity Week” from February 8th through February 12. Ordinarily this event would be held in school with competition among the classes-occurring within the classrooms, cafeteria and gym. I am so proud and pleased that the program will continue thanks to the creativity and flexibility of Mrs. Melville and her students. All funds collected during charity week will be donated to “KIDS-TALK” – A Children’s Advocacy Center” in the downriver area. Activities include a raffle of gift baskets, video game competition, Applebee’s fundraiser and pet dress up contest. The week will conclude with a ceremony video. Daily posts will also allow for more participation! The entire school community will receive info via eblast about this fun week to benefit a great cause... thanks to our Jags!</p>
	<p><i>Citizens Comments: (Pertaining to non-agenda items)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joel Burkey, APEA President, offered context to recent data following a survey to APPS teachers regarding a return to face to face instruction.
	<p><i>Reports of Officers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Klein is excited about RAE, thanked the two leaders for their efforts and thanked all those involved. Mr. Klein congratulated APHS 9th graders, Amelia Luecke and Amanda Abraham, on going to state level competition for diving! Mr. Klein also noted that he has received emails from parents looking for support in the virtual learning environment and challenges the district to think of creative ways to help support them with APPS teachers. ▪ Mrs. Filipiak extended a thank you to the volunteers and coaches in our community and congratulated the retirees! Mrs. Filipiak enjoyed hearing the great update from RAE and sent a shout out to Mrs. Melville, Mrs. Gabon and members of the APHS Student Council for transitioning a program (APHS Charity Week) to virtual! ▪ Mrs. MacDonald congratulated the retirees and wished them well. She also thanked Tiffany Keith for a well-structured report that was easy to understand. Mrs. MacDonald also thanked those who reached out and contacted board members and reiterated Mr. Klein’s earlier sentiments in finding creative ways to support students in the remote/virtual environment. Lastly, Mrs. MacDonald is excited to work on the 2021 Bond proposition and see where the bond issue takes us! ▪ Dr. Warren thanked presenters, Sarah and Mike, and shared appreciation with all those involved in RAE. Dr. Warren thanked teachers for everything they do, day in and day out, and noted the creativity of Mrs. Melville and her students as an example. She also agreed with Mr. Klein and Mrs. MacDonald in a desire for an option for high risk students who cannot return to in-person learning. ▪ Mr. Martin echoed sentiments expressed by fellow board members. He thanked Tiffany Keith for a great job with the budget/amendments, Sarah and Michael for an outstanding presentation, and Mrs. Melville for her efforts. Mr. Martin is very excited about the bond proposal for work that is really needed to provide our kids with the best possible opportunities and keep property values competitive. Mr. Martin would also like to explore possibilities of ways to enhance the virtual learning by involving AP teachers remotely. ▪ Mrs. Luecke thanked Tiffany Keith for her presentation and appreciated the great RAE update from Sarah and Michael. Mrs. Luecke gave a shout out to the APHS Charity Week Crew for their high level of commitment. She also congratulated the new hires and thanked the retirees for their service. ▪ Mr. Miller thanked Tiffany Keith for her steady hand and leadership of the Finance Department. He applauded Sarah, Michael and the RAE team-the future is bright when we see leaders like this! In light of School Board Appreciation Month, Mr. Miller extended appreciation to former board members, Mr. Shearer and Mr. Moynihan, for their service. It’s been a difficult 12 months for all; we are taking a breath, but have a long way to go. Mr. Miller appreciates the thoughtfulness and efforts of all, and is honored to serve with fellow members of the Board of Education.
2021-125	Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the meeting adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah C. Filipiak, Board Secretary