

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Riley Education Center • 9601 Vine Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-827-2150 • 313-827-2151 (FAX)

ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • FEBRUARY 11, 2019 ALLEN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

DRAFT ☐

APPROVED ☒

The regular meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Monday, February 11, 2019, at Allen Park High School, Large Group Instruction Room, 18401 Champaign, Allen Park, Michigan.

Regular meeting called to order/Solicitation of Comment Cards – 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Present: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard

Absent: Moynihan, Warren

19-017	<p>Motion by Sheppard, supported by Loyd, that the consent agenda items be approved as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approval of February 11 agendab. Approval of January 14 and February 4 meeting minutes, February 4 closed session minutesc. Approval of registers: 1/11/2019=\$329,744.15, 1/15/2019=\$159.45, 1/17/2019=\$178,114.03, 1/24/2019=\$150.00, 1/29/2019=\$18,903.40, 2/4/2019=\$80,159.18, 2/8/2019=\$359,498.12d. Approval of wire transfers: 1/9/2019 thru 2/5/2019=\$1,272,364.14 <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard Nays: None Absent: Moynihan, Warren</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
	President's Communications: None at this time.
	Reading of Communications: None at this time.
	Citizens' Comments (pertaining to agenda): None at this time.
	Member Warren arrived at 7:13 p.m.
	<p><i>Special Presentation – School Board Recognition Month</i></p> <p>Superintendent Darga began the recognition program by sharing that January was School Board Recognition Month across the State of Michigan and we join 538 local and 56 intermediate school districts in thanking School Board members this evening for their dedication to quality public education. (January meeting was cancelled due to winter weather).</p> <p>Board members 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. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long, and the thanks few and far between. These are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our community.</p> <p>The State of Michigan is facing many challenges, but the key to a brighter future is a strong public education system. While the political climate in Lansing continues to present challenges for quality public education, Mr. Darga shared his appreciation for the Board members' work in focusing on a common goal – helping students achieve in school and life.</p> <p>On behalf of the entire school community, Superintendent Darga commended Board Members for their efforts and conveyed appreciation for the countless hours freely given to Allen Park Public Schools. New Board members have already immersed themselves by attending the School Law & Finance Seminar sponsored by Plante Moran and Clark Hill and are eagerly signing up for workshops sponsored by MASB, new Board member orientations, and taking advantage of the many learning opportunities available. We are grateful to our re-elected Board members for their continued service to the Allen Park school community. The insight, concern for the well-being of all students, and professional experiences of these outstanding individuals will contribute significantly to the success of Allen Park Public Schools.</p>

	<p>This year's recognition program was led by staff and students from Allen Park High School. Superintendent Darga introduced Ms. Kristi Kruger, APHS Music Director, and the APHS Drum Line provided amazing, high energy entertainment for the Board and audience members followed by a presentation from APHS student reps, Colin Franz, Brendan Brewer and Joseph Dudley. APHS Visual and Industrial Arts students, under the direction of Ms. Jelane Richardson and Mr. Jeff Goulasarian, collaboratively created cherry wood 'treasure boxes' with stunning leaf designs as a gesture of student appreciation for members of the Board of Education.</p> <p>Mr. Darga concluded the program presenting Board members with certificates of recognition from MASB, a proclamation from the Governor, and goodies from MASB in appreciation of their dedication to the students of Allen Park and quality public education. Mr. Darga also thanked Ms. Kruger, Ms. Richardson and Mr. Goulasarian and students for their role in making this a memorable evening for our hard-working school board members.</p>
	<p><i>"In the Spotlight" – Student Presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>APHS Student Representative: Leila Orefice</i> <p>Leila shared class and club activities that include class activities: Senior Class is planning senior night, Junior Class is holding a ham fundraiser and Sophomore Class is planning an ice skating fundraiser. Student Council is finalizing plans for hosting the State Conference, Chess Club is seeking membership, NHS is organizing a blood drive in April and Peacekeepers continue to work on spreading kindness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>APMS Student Representative: Emma Buffa</i> <p>Emma shared highlights at APMS, which included an ice cream celebration for 400 students with no tardies, NJHS completed the Clean Up Bucket Project for hurricane victims, Competitive Cheer wrapped up a great season, the PTSA provided refreshments for staff during conferences, the Booster Club purchased 4 new televisions for APMS, Broadcast Club continues to televise school news and upcoming events, Model UN Conference is February 23 and participants are writing position papers and Spirit Week is planned for late March. Emma also shared heartfelt appreciation for all Principal Lowe does for his students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>APCS Student Representative: Alex Yopez</i> <p>Alex reported that Spirit Week was a tremendous success, Henry Ford College and Michigan Works visited APCS to discuss career paths with the January graduating seniors, Social Worker Michelle Calvillo organizes peer mentoring sessions and Alex concluded his presentation by inviting all to the final two basketball games this season – February 13 and 25 – held at APMS.</p>
19-018	<p><i>Personnel:</i></p> <p>A. Employments/Services – <i>to be approved en masse</i></p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by Sheppard, that the recommendations for employment and services be approved by the Board for the individuals listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jeff Beyst – Varsity Girls' Head Soccer Coach/APHS – Effective 2/12/2019 ▪ Barbara Blaszcak-Buckler – At Risk Instructional Aide/Lindemann – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Jessica Brayman – Lunch Parapro/Bennie – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Megan Budai – Lifeguard/Community Services – Effective 2/20/2019 ▪ Leianne Donohue – Lunch Parapro/Lindemann – Effective 2/11/2019 ▪ Terry Emeigh – Volunteer Assistant Soccer Coach/APHS – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Scott Fowler – JV Girls' Head Soccer Coach/APHS – Effective 2/12/2019 ▪ Keri Krakow – At Risk Instructional Aide/Bennie – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Stephanie Leavitt – Lunch Parapro/Arno – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Shannon Mihalik – At Risk Instructional Aide/Lindemann – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Amanda Omodio – Food Service/Accounts Payable Secretary/Central Office – Effective 2/11/2019 ▪ Brooke Scarton – Lunch Parapro/Bennie – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Beth Sexton – Barracuda Coach/Community Services – Effective 1/22/2019 ▪ Meghan Terry – Learning Lab Supervisor/APMS – Effective 1/7/2019 ▪ Christy Tyra – Lunch Parapro/Bennie – Effective 1/28/2019 ▪ Patrick Ward – Director of Operations – Effective 3/1/2019 <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: Moynihan</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>

	<p>B. Resignations/Retirements: The following resignation has been received and accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patricia Nowak – Food Service Worker/APMS – Effective 1/25/2019
19-019	<p><i>2018-19 Proposed Amended Budget</i> At the January 14th Board meeting, Mrs. Tiffany Keith, Director of Finance, presented mid-year budget amendments for the 2018-19 school year. The changes being recommended are to bring the accounts in line with actual revenue and expenses to date. Mrs. Keith provided a summary of the budget amendments, indicating areas of significant change and the projected fund equity at the end of this school year.</p> <p>It is important to once again note that the estimated June 30, 2019 fund balance of 5.67% includes recording the transfer of \$1,000,000 from 2018-19 Wayne County Education Enhancement Millage funds into the General Fund. Without the enhancement millage fund transfer, the estimated fund balance would be 3.07% at the fiscal year end.</p> <p>Motion by Sheppard, supported by Warren, that the budget amendments for the 2018-19 school year be approved as presented. Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: Moynihan Motion carried.</p>
19-020	<p><i>Voice Amplification Systems for Elementary Classrooms</i> This year we have the ability to purchase elementary classroom voice amplification systems through 31a grant funding. Elementary teachers throughout the district have reported that systems are in need of replacing. Elementary teachers were surveyed to gauge support of updated voice amplification systems – 98.1% of respondents indicated support for an updated system. Dr. John Tafelski provided information regarding the two systems being considered for purchase.</p> <p>Motion by Loyd, supported by Sheppard, that the purchase of Voice Amplification Systems for Elementary Classrooms from 31a grant funding be approved as presented, purchase price not to exceed \$59,400.00. Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: Moynihan Motion carried.</p>
19-021	<p><i>MASB Board of Directors – Region 8</i> This year there are seven open seats on the MASB Board of Directors. The MASB Board of Directors is comprised of 19 members – 16 directors elected from the 8 regions and one director each from Groups V, VI and VII. Directors are elected by active member school boards, and each year, several seats are up for election.</p> <p>Wayne County/Allen Park Public Schools is included in Region 8. Each district receives ONE ballot and upon full board approval, the ballot is cast online on behalf of the district. Completed ballots must be submitted by March 6, 2019. On January 24 Board members received bios/elections statements for the seven individuals who are running for one-3 year term for Region 8 for review.</p> <p>Motion by Loyd, supported by Warren, that a vote for candidate Dr. Darlene Pomponio, for the seat on the MASB Board of Director representing Region 8 for a 3 year term be submitted. Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: Moynihan Motion carried.</p>
19-022	<p><i>Legal Services</i> At the organizational meeting on January 14, 2019, the Board requested time to consider options for district legal services. We have used the Thrun Law Firm PC for a legal matters – labor relations, school finance and special education issues – and have been pleased with the representation from that firm. At the Board's request, calls were made to the firms of: Foley & Robinette, Lusk Albertson & Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton. A comparison chart indicates the hourly rate; retainer agreement, if any; and expertise in areas of Labor Relations, School Finance and Special Education. Additionally, on January 22 a survey was sent out to</p>

	<p>districts in the area soliciting the same information as the phone calls. Discussion ensued among members of the Board of Education.</p> <p>Motion by Miller, supported by Sheppard, that Thrun Law Firm PC be utilized by the District for legal services during 2019, and further, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to exercise his discretion in utilizing the services of other legal counsel based on the legal expertise needed in each instance.</p> <p>Yeas: Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald Absent: Moynihan</p> <p>Motion failed.</p>
	<p><i>Superintendent's Report:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Building Up to Kindergarten Part 2</i> <p>Arno is hosting a district-wide "Building Up to Kindergarten Part 2" on February 21 from 4:00-5:00 pm for parents of 4 year old preschoolers entering kindergarten in the Fall of 2019. Dr. Barbara Chuby, reading specialist, will lead the session along with district Kindergarten teachers, to continue helping parents to prepare their child for kindergarten expectations. District preschool teachers also attend the session, so they can design the preschool program to prepare their students for kindergarten.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reading Under the Sea – APHS Drama Club Program for Elementary Students</i> <p>Elementary students have been invited to participate in a unique program presented by the APHS Drama Club that will pair books, one of our favorite Disney Princesses and an opportunity to create a deeper love for reading in elementary aged students. The cast of the spring musical, Disney's The Little Mermaid, will read to elementary students on four Saturday's and allow them to choose a book at their reading level to take home and keep. Hat's off to Director, Kelly Klug, and the APHS Drama Club for bringing this enchanted opportunity to AP students!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Congrats to PTA/PTSA Founder's Day Award Recipients!</i> <p>The Founder's Day Dinner & Award Ceremony is planned for February 20 at The Prestige Banquet Hall on Allen Road. Founder's Day is a reminder of the substantial role that our PTA/PTSA's play in supporting parent involvement working on behalf of all children and families. It is a time to reflect and take pride in the many accomplishments throughout APPS and recognize exemplary staff, volunteers, community members and local businesses. Please join us to honor those who have dedicated themselves to supporting our schools and PTA's.</p> <p>Congrats to this year's award recipients in the areas of: Distinguished Service, Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Support Personnel, Outstanding Program, and Business Partner. The MS and HS also select an Outstanding Student of the Year. The Council Member of the Year is Bernadette Burgus and a Lifetime Member award will be announced the evening of the event!</p>
	<p><i>Citizen's Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Debbie Liveoak requested a response to audience member questions posed at the November 2018 Board of Education meeting. (The complete written response to collective audience members dated December 7, 2018 will be sent to Mrs. Liveoak; response was also incorporated with November 2018 meeting minutes on the district's website). Mrs. Liveoak also commented on an administrative personnel issue. ▪ Mr. Jesse Warr requested a status update regarding an administrative personnel issue. (Note: The District is not permitted to disclose matters that relate to personnel and, as a school district, must protect employee privacy. The district investigates and follows through on any complaints registered and adheres to due process and appropriate follow up procedures, when necessary) ▪ Mr. Brian Liveoak expressed his admiration of Principal Mark Lowe and welcomed new members of the Board of Education. Mr. Liveoak also requested the response to audience member questions posed at the November 2018 Board of Education meeting. ▪ Mrs. Angela Schonfeld read a statement on behalf of her son, a student at APMS, in support of Principal Mark Lowe. ▪ Ms. Jessica Tremonti, APHS alumni, APMS Cheer Coach and APHS Side Line Cheer Coach, shared that Principal Mark Lowe helped grow the APMS Cheer program. ▪ Mr. Joel Burkey, APEA President, inquired about legal counsel recommending the use of district dispute resolution power to solve any personnel issues. ▪ Mrs. Jeni Sauve requested information and location of Board By-Laws and Policies, citing that the Board of Education is the school district's governing body, whose chief role is that of setting policies

	<p>and providing oversight of school district operations. Mrs. Sauve also asked the status of the Director of Human Resources position, requesting confirmation that Superintendent Darga is also assuming the HR responsibilities for the duration of this school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Glen Hoyt spoke to Principal Mark Lowe's character and asked who procedurally is responsible for making decisions in regard to employment status. ▪ Ms. Morgan Buffa, APHS Senior, shared her personal perspective and observations of Principal Mark Lowe.
	<p><i>Reports of Officers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. MacDonald expressed appreciation to Ms. Kristi Kruger and the APHS Drum Line, Ms. Jelane Richardson, Mr. Jeff Goulasarian and APHS students for the memorable evening. ▪ Mrs. Sheppard mentioned that the price of school lunches was increased slightly this school year, something to monitor annually, and also thanked the staff and students who made School Board Recognition Night amazing! ▪ Dr. Warren stated that the recognition gift was incredible, something she will certainly treasure and that she would read all the written notes from students. The act of kindness and gift made by students means a lot to Dr. Warren. She was amazed by the Drum Line – hearing the performance inspired her school spirit! Dr. Warren also gave a shout out to the APHS Competitive Cheer Team, the team recently won the Downriver League for the 1st time in 11 years and wished them well on the road to States. Dr. Warren also shared that all 3 APMS Competitive Cheer Teams won 1st place at their recent competition and that she follows all sports. Dr. Warren was pleased that the voice amplification system was approved for elementary teachers, and with heartfelt emotion, stated "Elementary Teachers do so much for students – positive rewards to build students up – thank you... I see it." She also went on to say she appreciates every single person who spoke this evening and affirmed that the Board does listen to comments and takes note. "You guys all have heart and that's what makes AP strong." ▪ Mr. Loyd enjoyed the high energy music of the APHS Drum Line and thanked Ms. Richardson, Mr. Goulasarian and students stating that the cherry wood boxes are outstanding! Mr. Loyd also addressed citizens who spoke this evening, letting them know that Board members do listen, and that the process can be frustrating. ▪ Mr. Klein welcomed Mr. Patrick Ward, new Director of Operations, to APPS. Mr. Klein also addressed citizens who spoke this evening, appreciating their passion and thanking them for voicing concerns, and that the process would be followed. ▪ Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Kruger and the APHS Drum Line for the dynamic performance, as well as Ms. Richardson, Mr. Goulasarian and students for the spectacular cherry wood boxes. Mr. Miller also welcomed Mr. Patrick Ward, Director of Operations, and other new hires and closed the meeting sharing congratulations with the PTA/PTSA Founder's Day Award recipients and others who work tirelessly for the benefit of APPS students.
19-023	Motion by Loyd, supported by Klein, that the meeting adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Julia Sheppard, Secretary