

# ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • JULY 13, 2020

DRAFT ☐

APPROVED ☒

The virtual regular meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Monday, July 13, 2020. 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, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren

Absent: None

2020-070	<p>Motion by Warren, supported by Moynihan, that the consent agenda items be approved as presented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approval of July 13, 2020 agenda</li><li>Approval of June 22, 2020 meeting minutes</li><li>Approval of Check Registers: 6/24/2020=\$1,280.84, 6/25/2020=\$5,050.73, 6/29/2020=\$3,100.00, 6/30/2020=\$79,488.61, 7/2/2020=\$108,945.98, 7/6/2020=\$318,254.80</li><li>Approval of Wire Transfers: 6/4/2020 thru 7/9/2020=\$1,470,599.64</li></ol> <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
	<p>President's Communications: None at this time.</p>
	<p>Reading of Communications: None at this time.</p>
2020-071	<p><i>Ratifying Resolution for 2020 Refunding Bonds</i></p> <p>In June, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of the 2020 refunding bonds. The 2020 bonds are being issued to refinance a portion of the outstanding School Loan Revolving Fund balance.</p> <p>As part of the bond sale process, the district's bond rating was reviewed by S &amp; P Global Ratings, and I am pleased to share that the district received the strong bond rating of "A." This is a compliment to our financial and management practices, under the direction of Mrs. Tiffany Keith.</p> <p>Competition was strong as a total of 8 bids were received for the bond issue. Robert W. Baird &amp; Co. Inc. submitted the lowest true interest cost bid of 1.593585%. Baker Tilley budgeted a SLRF interest rate of 3.50% for estimated savings and the present interest rate is 3.0%.</p> <p>The 2020 bonds achieved lower yields ranging from 0.35 to 1.70%. <b>This resulted in an estimated total gross savings of \$1,478,214 to our school community.</b> Board members have received the following schedules: a summary of 2020 refunding bonds, estimated interest cost and millage savings, pricing summary, estimated proposed millage study and an estimated existing bonds millage study for review</p> <p>Motion by MacDonald, supported by Moynihan, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the Ratification Resolution for 2020 Refunding Bonds as presented.</p> <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
2020-072	<p><i>Board Meeting Schedule for 2020-21 School Year</i></p> <p>Motion by MacDonald, supported by Warren, that the regular meeting dates and work sessions for the 2020-21 school year be approved as presented.</p> <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None</p>

	<p>Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
2020-073	<p><b>Memberships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Michigan Association of School Boards – MASB</i></li> <li>○ <i>Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of School Studies, Inc.</i></li> <li>○ <i>MHSAA – Michigan High School Athletic Association</i></li> </ul> <p>Motion by MacDonald, supported by Warren, that memberships with MASB and Metropolitan Bureau of School Studies be renewed for the 2020-21 school year. And further, that the attached Michigan High School Athletic Association membership resolution for the year August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021 be adopted.</p> <p>Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren</p> <p>Nays: None</p> <p>Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
	<p><b>Superintendent's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Return to School Roadmap – Updates</li> </ul> <p>Superintendent Darga reported that the Michigan Return to School Roadmap is the result of the work by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force on Education and the Return to School Advisory Council. It contains guidance for districts to create plans to return to in-person instruction this fall. The Governor also issued <a href="#">Executive Order 2020-142</a>, which speaks to how to create a "Preparedness Plan" and the suggested timeline.</p> <p>The Governor's office has put out a <a href="#">frequently asked questions document</a> to go with the Roadmap and indicated that it will be putting out more resources. Additionally, we are working to get answers to some of the questions that have not yet been addressed.</p> <p>Superintendent Darga indicated that tomorrow he would be meeting via Zoom, with the 32 Wayne County Superintendents and Dr. Tafelski would be meeting with AP building principals to further discuss the preparedness plan. Return to school options will include in-person instruction, hybrid and full online. 50 AP families have requested full online instruction for 2020-21 at this time, with a duration commitment through a natural break – trimester or semester. Dr. Tafelski has indicated that AP will be educational partners with our families, whether they opt for in-person instruction or full online. Enrollment numbers for full online instruction requests will be closely monitored to determine whether mentor teachers are third party, or AP teachers. The goals include maintaining staffing, lower class size if possible, and accommodate parent requests. Should the entire district move toward full online/virtual instruction, delivery will be from AP teachers.</p> <p>Two Focus Groups have been formed- Elementary Focus Group, Secondary Focus Group. The groups are comprised of teachers, parents and administrators. Parent and staff survey data will be carefully reviewed and considered.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding protocols to come from Wayne County Health Department for various scenarios of staff/student/household member illness, as well as offering a more robust virtual curriculum than last spring, in the event we move to online instruction. Last spring the district was reacting quickly to a crisis, but we have now had more time to prepare and plan for potential online instruction.</p> <p>Discussion also included CARES Act Funding to be used for electronic devices and other district needs, as well as concern for adequate staffing related to the already problematic sub teacher shortage.</p>	
	<p><b>Citizens' Comments:</b> (Read by Dr. John Tafelski)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maureen Klein</li> </ul> <p>Good Evening - my name is Maureen Klein and I am a 4th grade teacher at Bennie Elementary. First, I'd like to state that I appreciate Mr. Darga's email to the Allen Park School families on June 5th regarding the death of Mr. George Floyd and the national response to racial injustice. Mr. Darga stated, "Allen Park Public Schools will continue to host our Community Conversations, we will continue to learn and grow together and we will continue to strive for equity and equality in our schools and community." I am wondering what specific steps the district is taking to address the implicit and explicit racial biases in our school system. As educators, we must continuously work toward becoming agents of positive change.</p> <p>(Note: Community Conversations with Virginia Winters, Wayne RESA School Culture and Climate Consultant, will continue with parents, but will extend to staff and students in 2020-21 school year. In addition, the district is working on next phase plans/training for all staff with Dr. Ramon Griffin. Dr. Griffin worked with APHS staff during the 2019-20 school year and we received very positive feedback from APHS staff. From a hiring perspective, the district is adjusting bid pool timelines in an effort to attend early spring</p>	

*job fairs and secure new hires from a larger pool of highly qualified, diverse candidates. Book Clubs will explore books with more diverse themes/authors.)*

- Katie Borrello

I am a parent of two elementary aged students in Allen Park, and I'm also an elementary public school educator in a neighboring district. I would like to know if the Allen Park Board of Education has considered reducing class sizes for elementary students. The classes at our home school have over 25 students. I have great concerns about this, specifically at the lower elementary levels. My concerns revolve around academic instruction, relationships, and now health/safety, specific to the spread of COVID-19. Research supports smaller class sizes to improve all three of these. I understand that per pupil dollars will inevitably be reduced this year, so I propose that the district consider eliminating consumable materials that may not be fully utilized in the classroom in order to hire additional highly-qualified teaching staff. I look forward to hearing your additional solutions for reducing class sizes. When Wayne County returns to in-person instruction, I hope that I will be able to say I know my children are safe because the district has reduced class size. If you need specific research, or a parent to participate in discussions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out.

*(Note: Class size is definitely an important consideration; however, even if the district were to eliminate all consumable purchases, it would not generate enough funding to reduce class size.)*

- Jennifer Jacobs

Sports Complex- On June 5th my husband Thomas Jacobs received an email response from our question at the May meeting regarding the sports complex, stating this regarding .... "The district had secured Barton Malow, and a committee comprised of district administrators, school board members, teachers and coaches have met several times to discuss and develop plans. Unfortunately, the original estimated cost submitted by Barton Malow was \$1.5 million, but after further discussion and surveying our needs, the estimated cost is now approximately \$5 million. At this time, this project is on hold." Our concern about this is, other Downriver Districts have some amazing complexes. I know our district is committed to providing excellence to our students and community. With that said, we feel our district will lose new families considering moving here to our great city of Allen Park, due to other districts having complexes that are much nicer than our district. With the amount quoted of \$5 Million, what steps has the Board taken to get more quotes for a facility, that is going to serve families of Allen Park?

*(Note: At the October 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Work Session, two final companies provided the Board of Education with presentations as the potential project manager for the Athletic Facilities Renovation Project; both presentations included estimated costs. At the October 22 Board of Education meeting, Barton Malow was approved as project manager. The scope of the project has changed, altering the original estimates. Revenue from the Wayne County Enhancement Millage will not generate enough funding for this much needed project. The district is exploring a bond in May 2021 to fund this project, as well as many other enhancements to aging our equipment/facilities.)*

- Amy Massella

If students choose going to school online, will they still be able to participate in school sports?

*(Note: We will follow any guidelines set by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.)*

- Amy Massella

Why can't teachers stream from the classroom for "virtual" school?

*(Note: This could lead to a violation of FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.)*

- Amy Massella

If there are what, 3,800 kids in the district and 20% roughly want online, that's over 750 kids. I'd think there'd be enough room for social distancing. Can you utilize the lunchroom and gym? Maybe some outdoor courses, weather permitting?

*(Note: We are closely monitoring the number of families who opt for full online instruction, but it may still not be enough students in any one given grade level/across the board to free up classrooms. We are currently using all available space.)*

- Amy Massella

The ingredients in the cleaning products being used SHOULD BE a major concern, especially knowing the myriad allergies kids have nowadays. I think releasing the MSDS sheets on the cleaners would be extremely beneficial. That could sway some parents' decisions about whether or not our kids return to school.

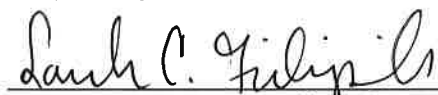
*(Note: By law, we are required to post all MSDS sheets on cleaners. The information can be found on the district website under the "Public & Legal Notices" page following the above link. We can certainly make mention of this in our next communication to our families.)*

- Amy Massella

THANK YOU Mrs. MacDonald for asking about hiring subs as district employees!!

	<i>(Note: The district is securing additional long-term subs for each building; and confirmed that long-term subs receive incremental pay increases. Long-term subs in Allen Park also receive a 'bonus' every 30 days they sub as an added incentive to sub in Allen Park. If long-terms subs cannot be secured through the district's 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor, the board may consider direct hiring to ensure adequate teaching staff.)</i>
	<p>Reports of Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Shearer posed questions regarding PPE, potential for outdoor classes, number of virtual meeting viewers (35), emphasize to parents that data material sheets (Massella comment) are located on the district website as required by law, video screening of teacher candidates for open positions and implicit bias training/professional development (which has been scheduled for all staff for September 1 with Dr. Ramon Griffin)</li> <li>▪ Mr. Klein thanked AP staff for getting ready for opening – whatever that may look like – during these very stressful times; Mr. Klein also thanked the 35 viewers this evening!</li> <li>▪ Dr. Warren echoed Mr. Klein's remarks and further commented on the stress associated with creating a plan to keep thousands of people safe.</li> <li>▪ Mrs. MacDonald expressed appreciation to the parents and staff for volunteering their valuable time to work on the Focus Groups. She also thanked all who submitted comments this evening, as well as thanked the viewing audience for their interest. In closing, Mrs. MacDonald thanked all for their commitment to the district and our students.</li> <li>▪ Mrs. Filipiak was experiencing connectivity problems and was unable to share comments at this time.</li> <li>▪ Mr. Miller stated that implicit bias training is an important topic and that Board, Central Office and all district staff should be included in the training. Mr. Miller thanked the viewing audience and in closing, shared that this is not an easy time and that all are working hard and in good faith.</li> </ul>
2020-074	Motion by Moynihan, supported by Warren, that the meeting adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah C. Filipiak, Board Secretary