

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ▪ DECEMBER 14, 2020

DRAFT ☐

APPROVED ☒

The virtual regular meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Monday, December 14, 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: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren

Absent: Filipiak

2020-123	<p>Motion by Moynihan, supported by MacDonald, that the consent agenda items be approved as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approval of December 14, 2020 agenda▪ Approval of meeting minutes for November 9 work session and regular meeting▪ Approval of registers: 11/10/2020=\$1,159,519.85, 11/12/2020=\$3,826.45, 11/13/2020=\$900.00, 11/17/2020=\$28,500.00, 11/19/2020=\$1,600.00, 11/24/2020=\$147,134.46, 11/30/2020=\$988.20, 12/1/2020=\$4,449.30 12/10/2020=\$745,441.83▪ Approval of wire transfers: 11/6/2020 thru 12/10/2020=\$1,820,286.37 <p>Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: Filipiak</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
	<p><i>President's Communication:</i> None at this time.</p>
	<p><i>Reading of Communications:</i> President Miller read a communication from Superintendent Darga that was sent to all APPS staff and families on December 2, 2020 regarding the APPS May 2021 bond planning, specifically to the pool at Allen Park Middle School:</p> <p>Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members,</p> <p>I wanted to share a quick update regarding our AP Bond Plan and the status of the Middle School Pool. Based on information shared during our November Board Meeting, I've spoken with our Bond Planning representatives at Barton Malow regarding our APPS Bond Plan and have asked them to add into our plan "a new addition that would house a "Multi-Use space (STEM / Robotics / Gym)". By adding this extra space into our plan now, we have created state approved flexibility down the road to make better informed decisions on how our school community would like to proceed with funds allocated for Allen Park Middle School.</p> <p>Pending finances and bond approval, we may have an opportunity to create a win/win scenario. We may be able to create a multi-use space (new construction) as well as make appropriate updates to the middle school pool that will allow us to continue our current programs as well as expand on the pool's use for our students and our community members.</p> <p>As a timeline, pending the Bond vote in May, changes at Allen Park Middle School are not scheduled to take place for the next 3-4 academic years. This gives our school community plenty of time to create a focus group (if needed) to re-evaluate the decisions made during the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan where it was first introduced to close the middle school pool and expand an area for multi-use space.</p> <p>I appreciated the emails sent from students, teachers and parents. I've also seen the "Save The Pool" signs throughout our neighborhoods. Allen Park is a passionate school community, one that I am proud to serve as the superintendent of schools.</p> <p>As time passes, so do our priorities. What sounded like a solid plan back in 2018 might not reflect the priorities of our school community of 2020 and beyond. We will continue to keep our options open and continue to make community-based decisions that best serve our students.</p>

	<p>Here are a couple bullet points to keep you informed and updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Middle School Pool is not on the December Board of Education Meeting Agenda. Board members <i>will not be voting</i> to keep the pool open or closed. This decision will take place at a much later date. Members of the Board of Education have approved “additional space / new construction” to be added to the Bond Plan for Allen Park Middle School. This allows us future flexibility to make better informed decisions. <p>I hope you found this information helpful and transparent. Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any additional questions or concerns. darga@appublicschools.com -or- 313-827-2150</p> <p>And remember, if you didn’t hear it from me - Mike D., it’s just a rumor!</p> <p>Sincerely, Michael H. Darga</p> <p>P.S. - If you would like to learn more about the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, please visit the following link: https://1.cdn.edl.io/1EonMglHdjZfOFciOGxgHmbx6MRUsqitMQeUX0DYCuVS3l54.pdf</p>
	<p><i>Citizens Comments: (Pertaining to agenda items)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather McBeth thanked all for their hard work during these extremely unprecedented times and asked about the possibility of a hybrid model. She also expressed displeasure with the Edgenuity platform for virtual learning for her students, and as an educator, commented that the Calvert Program for kindergarten/elementary is not very interactive. Jennifer Menzer asked about numbers/data for a safe return to in-person instruction.
	<p>“Award of Excellence” – In Honor of Dedicated Service to the Board of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Shearer (Appointed 2019) Rick Moynihan (2006-2020)... and a very <i>happy birthday to Mr. Moynihan this evening!</i> <p>Superintendent Darga extended his sincere appreciation to Mr. Shearer and Mr. Moynihan for their dedication and passion to the Allen Park Public School District.</p> <p>President Miller thanked Mr. Shearer for his voluntary service to the school community, sharing that it has been a real pleasure to have him as part of the board. Mr. Shearer brought focused energy and attention to the kind of details that are difficult for some of us to necessarily get to at times. Mr. Shearer’s temperament and the way it conducts himself with colleagues is first-class and professional, and he’s been an absolute pleasure to work with.</p> <p>President Miller wished Mr. Moynihan a happy birthday and thanked him for his lengthy term of responsible stewardship to the Allen Park school community, sharing that Mr. Moynihan conducted himself with civil, quiet leadership, and based his decisions with kids in mind first and foremost. President Miller stated that the most important attribute of Mr. Moynihan over the years was that Mr. Moynihan was the voice of financial prudence. President Miller went on to share a massive thank you to Mr. Moynihan for all his efforts throughout his 14 years of service to the school community.</p>
2020-124	<p>Personnel:</p> <p>A. Employments/Services:</p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by Moynihan, 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"> Jacob Barry – Yearbook Advisor/APCS – Effective 12/15/2020 Jon Crawford – Food Truck Driver/Operations Utility Driver – Effective 11/23/2020 Jim Danosky – Varsity Girls Bowling Coach/APHS – Effective 12/14/2020 Christina Johnson – Freshman Sideline Cheer Co-Coach/APHS – Effective 12/14/2020 Katrina McKay – Volunteer Girls Bowling Coach/APHS – Effective 12/14/2020 <p>Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: Filipiak</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p>B. Retirements/Resignations</p> <p>We have received and accepted the following retirements/resignation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Jeffery – Food Truck Driver/Operations – Resignation Effective 10/30/2020 Christine Lyson – Food Service/APMS – Retirement Effective 12/15/2020 (17.5 Years of Service)

	<p>Superintendent Darga recognized Christine Lyson for 17.5 years of exemplary service to the students and staff of Allen Park Public Schools, in addition to 3 years of subbing throughout the district prior to becoming a member of the Food Services Department in 2003. Chris, your hard work, dedication and positive attitude have greatly benefitted the students you served, and you have the sincere appreciation of their families and the entire school community. On behalf of the Board of Education, we hope that your retirement will bring you good health, joy and fulfillment; an “Award of Excellence” plaque will be sent to Christine’s home. We wish you the very best, Chris!</p>
2020-125	<p><i>Old Business:</i></p> <p>1. <i>Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan – Re-Confirm Instructional Delivery Plan</i></p> <p>Since the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan was approved, the board must meet to: reconfirm delivery of instruction, solicit public comment on how instruction is going to be delivered, and publicly announce weekly 2-way interaction rates every 30 days.</p> <p>The district shall report to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), the instructional delivery method that was reconfirmed, how that instruction will be delivered for each grade level offered by the district, and whether or not, as determined by the MDE, in consultation with CEPI, the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for English language learners, special education students or other specified populations.</p> <p>Conversation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wayne County Community Spread Level – Allen Park is Risk Level “E” ▪ Wayne County Department of Health, Human & Veterans Services–November 20, 2020 Announcement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Issued a public health advisory that made a strong recommendation that schools in Wayne County should temporarily shift to remote learning model through January 15, 2021 due to case rate increase, resulting in a second wave that is at a level higher than the first peak in April 2020. ✓ We must also take into consideration the onset of colder weather, and the greater likelihood of indoor, interpersonal activity. ✓ The district is also cognizant that the holidays may bring more people, not living in the same household, together indoors. ✓ 2nd semester for secondary students ends on January 22, 2020. ▪ APPS Mitigation Plan – Preparedness Plans (Reviewed by Wayne County Department of Health & Human Services – 100% Passing Score) ▪ Surveys: AP Teachers, AP Students Grades 6-12, AP Families ▪ Weekly Engagement Percentage Reports (Two-Way Communications) & Attendance ▪ Note: The instructional delivery plan can be re-visited more frequently than the 30-day period, if necessary/desired. <p>Motion by Klein, supported by MacDonald, that the Allen Park Board of Education re-confirm the mode of instruction, which includes the continuation of remote learning, while monitoring the 14-day rolling average for Wayne County, utilizing the COVID Act Now site, for 14 consecutive days at a positivity rate of less than 5%, for a safe return to in-person instruction per the COVID Extended Learning Plan. And further, for parent/guardian planning purposes, the district will not return to in-person learning prior to January 22, 2021 and will continue to monitor data trends. The Board of Education will reconfirm how instruction will be delivered every 30 days.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: Filipiak</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
2020-126	<p><i>Resolution to Approve the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds</i></p> <p>As we continue to move forward in planning for a bond election in May of 2021, a meeting was held with the Michigan Department of Treasury, along with representatives from French & Associates (Architecture Firm); Barton Malow Company, the district’s designated construction management firm; Baker Tilley Municipal Advisors (district’s financial consultants) and Thrun Law Firm to finalize the Preliminary Qualification of Bonds Application. This application still provides flexibility in regard to the pool at the Allen Park Middle School.</p>

*Resolution to Approve & Certify the
Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds*

That the Allen Park Board of Education hereby certifies that at a regular meeting of the board, which was conducted and for which public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act 276 of the Public Acts of 1976, on this 14th day of December, 2020, took the following action:

Resolved to apply for preliminary qualification of bonds by the State Treasurer for the purpose of financing the school construction description in this application.

That said application is presented to the State Treasurer for action prior to the official action of the Board of Education calling the election on said bond issue.

Resolved that this Board of Education will present a final qualification application to the State Treasurer for qualification of their bonds after this bond issue has been approved by the electors of said district.

Read this application and approved all statements and representations contained herein as true to the best knowledge and belief of the Board.

Authorized the Secretary of the Board of Education to sign the Preliminary Application and submit same to the State Treasurer for review and approval.

Motion by Moynihan, supported by Warren, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the Resolution to Approve & Certify the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds as presented

Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Filipiak

Motion carried.

NEXT STEPS:

- Thrun Law Firm will request preliminary qualification approval not later than January 18, 2021
- Board of Education meeting, January 25, 2021 to adopt the resolution calling the election
- Forward ballot wording and resolution to Election Coordinator by February 9, 2021

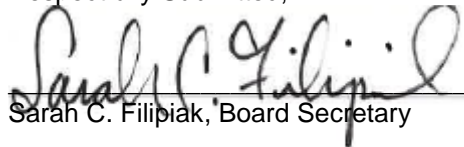
Superintendent's Report:

- Kudos to AP Staff & Students: Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams, AP Gift Card Drive, Building Up to Kindergarten Fall 2021, Social-Emotional Well-Being & Resources, Virtual Spirit Days/Weeks...
 - Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams – Sponsored by APMS National Junior Honor Society – Many sick children are unable to leave their rooms and can feel isolated in the hospital as the rest of the world continues without them. With the help of the community, we can make sure they go to bed with smiles on their faces. The families of APMS sent a virtual message to the kids at Beaumont Royal Oak, wishing the children a night filled with sweet dreams. Families gathered in front of APMS the evening of December 9th, dressed for the weather and bearing flashlights to make Moonbeams, sharing their best wishes.
 - Helping Others During the Holidays in AP continues with a safe alternative to the annual AP Holiday Toy Box Project. Ms. Michelle Kean and Mrs. Karen Mallett are serving as organizers of a gift card collection event to help local families in need this holiday season.
 - Virtual Students of the Month are still being identified at APMS!
 - PTA/PTSA's continue with plan to recognize exemplary individuals in the areas of distinguished service, outstanding educator, outstanding student, outstanding support personnel, as well as outstanding program and business partner through the Founder's Day Celebration.
 - The Kindergarten Team at APPS has created the first of a three-part series offering a virtual experience for families with incoming kindergarteners for Fall 2021 to better help families get their child ready for kindergarten.
 - Counselors and social workers continue to reach out students as a result of the recent "Universal Social Emotional Survey" as well as provide students with strategies and resources to help them through stressful times by sharing a powerpoint filled with great information such as virtual tutoring opportunities, tips for organizing a school day at home, counseling support services, ways to interrupt the stress cycle, things you can do to change your mood and much more!
 - Virtual spirit days or weeks are held in all buildings!

	<p>There are so many inspiring, great things happening in AP – evening during a pandemic - and I have the privilege of working with dedicated individuals who are committed to making APPS the best district it can be through these programs and so many more.</p> <p>As we near the holiday season, I am so grateful for all the children that make up APPS – whether they are in-person, remote or learning virtually and am equally grateful to the parents, grandparents, and caregivers for being supportive and flexible partners with our schools, because we cannot do it alone. Without you, we would not be the beautifully, diverse community that we are.</p> <p>Although this year has been a challenging year for all of us, I ask that we remember to use caution and be safe as we celebrate this holiday season. You are all an important part of AP, so let your AP pride shine brightly. Make a positive difference this holiday season in the life of someone else.</p>
	<p><i>Citizens Comments: (Pertaining to non-agenda items)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Karen Villanueva had questions for the Technology Department regarding students at APMS and 9th graders switching over to HP Chromebooks as opposed to Lenovo. ▪ Amy Massella asked for consideration to alter the positivity rate threshold (Currently below 5% for 14 consecutive days) to allow students to return to in-person learning. ▪ Jennifer Jacobs gave a shout out to APPS teachers who are going above and beyond to educate our students! Mrs. Jacobs also expressed concern for the 5% positivity rate we are following, as well as concern for the mental health of our students. ▪ Jessica Keaton asked when teachers would be teaching virtual from their classroom again and also asked for consideration for a full day on Wednesdays.
	<p><i>Reports of Officers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Moynihan enjoyed his 14 years serving on the Board of Education and thanked the community for the support over the years, and also thanked all past board colleagues. In closing, Mr. Moynihan shared that the district is in good hands and he was honored to serve the school community. ▪ Mr. Shearer appreciated the patience of all while he had a lot of questions during his first year of service to the school community. He applauded the recent AHS career conference and new format of the online newsletter, the spectacular holiday projects to help those in need, and was glad to see the social/emotional surveys for students/families. Mr. Shearer appreciated buildings holding 'spirit weeks,' providing a sense of normalcy for students and kudos to the Technology Department for improvements on the district website as well as establishing drop in hours for tech support. In closing, Mr. Shearer stated that he is proud to be associated with Allen Park Public Schools. ▪ Dr. Warren thanked Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Shearer for their service to the school community. She congratulated new hires and retiree and shared appreciation to the Technology Department for offering the drop-in tech support hours. Dr. Warren also thanked staff, the administrative team, teachers and teachers of elementary 'specials' for their extraordinary efforts. Educating our students is much better in-person, but everyone is doing an amazing job given the circumstances. Dr. Warren is excited to have another discussion about the return plan so we are ready to go when the time is right, and glad to hear the district is not reporting any school associated spread of COVID-19. Happy Holidays and hold your families a little tighter! ▪ Mr. Klein offered thanks to Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Shearer – each of us brings something different to the party and the board is really a diverse group that works well together, Mr. Moynihan bringing the business piece and Mr. Shearer with his engineering mindset – they will be missed. Mr. Klein thanked the teaching staff, students, families, administrators, and hoped they can recharge and relax over break and return to some normalcy in 2021. Silver lining in all this – the millennials are watching board meetings online! Have a great holiday, everyone! ▪ Mrs. MacDonald stated that it has been an honor and privilege to work with Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Shearer. She also gave a shout out to the Technology Department for their assistance! Mrs. MacDonald also congratulated Chris Lyson on her retirement and thanked the Hybrid Planning Committee for their efforts. Mrs. MacDonald applauded the continuation of the Holiday Toy Box Drive, a program near and dear to her heart. She was glad to see the modification this year in collecting gift cards rather than individual items so the program could continue. In closing, Mrs. MacDonald thanked the teachers for their hard work and wished everyone a happy holiday. ▪ Mr. Miller conveyed a final thanks to Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Shearer. He wished all a happy, and more importantly, a healthy new year. Mr. Miller reminded all to stay vigilant and in looking for 'silver linings,' as shared by Mr. Klein, the engagement with younger millennials in their school community is definitely one of them. He also went on to say the Juniors and Seniors have lost a lot, but have

	developed a resiliency and adaptability coming out of this that will serve them well. Their future is more digitized with more options in their lifestyles, more choices. While trying to hold on to the positives coming out of this, Mr. Miller acknowledged that there has been a lot of loss this year and it has been difficult for all. He is thankful to be serving with fellow board members, as they are collectively putting the safety and health of the students at the forefront of their minds, and hoping for a better 2021.
2020-127	<p><i>Closed Session: (Roll Call Vote)</i></p> <p>Motion by Klein, supported by MacDonald, that the meeting be recessed at 8:21 p.m. to consider attorney-client privilege information in compliance with Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent in compliance with Section 8(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren</p> <p>Nays: None</p> <p>Absent: Filipiak</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
2020-128	Motion by Warren, supported by Moynihan, that the closed session be adjourned and return to the regular open meeting at 9:40 p.m.
2020-129	<p><i>Superintendent's Evaluation</i></p> <p>Motion by Moynihan, supported by MacDonald, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the completed year-end evaluation for the Superintendent.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren</p> <p>Nays: None</p> <p>Absent: Filipiak</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
2020-130	Motion by Moynihan, supported by Shearer, that the meeting adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah C. Filipiak, Board Secretary