



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

DATE: April 15, 2014

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Hayhurst, Kremer, Murray

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Grusecki, McLachlan, Pastor

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG
AMANDA KREMER
SUE MURRAY

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

ADMINISTRATION

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

2013/14 - 157 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education approve the April 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Kremer-Asher Rep reported that March and April is ACT/MME testing time. Asher participated in the Downriver Family Expo. There will be a college workshop for Non-traditional students.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

Mr. Isue reported Asher graduation will be on Friday, June 13 at the Taylor Sporstplex. April 16 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a Talent Show at Asher. Spring Break begins this Thursday and runs through April 25. A Happy Easter was wished to all.

PRESENTATIONS

Technology Plan 2014-2017

Mr. Toschi presented the 2014-2017 Technology Plan to the Board. This is a 3 year cycle that expires in June. Board Approval of the plan is needed in order to acquire grants. The mission of the District Technology Department is to develop and implement a comprehensive technology plan which meets the technological educational needs of the students, staff and community. SCSD provides resources for the development of a comprehensive technology program contained in this plan. The purpose of this plan is to create a blueprint for effectively providing students, staff, and community members in our district with opportunities to use educational technology in a meaningful and productive manner.

The Technology Plan evolves from the needs of our students, staff and community and continues to align with the District's mission and school improvement plans. SCSD began the process of Strategic Planning in October of 2010 as a result of an NCA Quality Assurance Review completed March 2010. As part of the Strategic Plan process, four sub-committees were formed: Creating Systems of Communication and Continuity, Student Learning and Data, Technology, and Changing Demographics/Infrastructure/Financial Needs. The findings and goals are listed in the Board approved 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Discussion took place regarding VOIP. Mr. Toschi explained the e-rate funding we could get through Priority 2 funds.

Mr. Grusecki commented on the SBAC, the first round of TRIG purchased chrome books to satisfy the amount of devices needed to fulfil the needs for testing. Discussion took place regarding the prep for the test and feedback coming in from interim assessments and how this test is being received by students.

K-5 School Improvement Plan

Shannon Plocharczyk, Melissa Kochanoski, Ali Kopp, Andrea Schiappacasse, Allison Hanna and Tamara Nagy presented the Board with the K-5 School Improvement Plan. Highlighting the targets and the "I-can" statements; so the children know exactly what they are learning and why. Teachers will focus their lesson plans based on this and the common core. Through collaborative Professional Development; ELA training, Math training and TIPS training this will keep that focus.

Looking toward the future the goal is to encourage the student's best achievement. Learning Targets, Student Engagement and Higher Order Thinking Skills will help achieve that goal. Increased community involvement has resulted in positive feed-back from parents. Surveys indicate they are pleased with where we are as a district. Principals are doing Data Walks.

Positive points of interest: The collaboration that has come about through the perseverance and resiliency of teachers, administrators and support staff throughout all the changes with the consolidation of buildings and loss of students are schools have become a much closer community. We are working together better to offer the absolute best to our students.

Moving forward, we have embraced the changes that were necessitated for this school year, they may have varied from person to person and building to building but everyone was affected and shared in this experience. In light of all the changes that left everyone in new circumstances, through it all teachers reassured their students and families everything would be just fine. Everyone has settled in to their new schools and with new families, the changes now mean nothing more than having 'more colleagues, students and families to know and love'.

The Southgate elementary teachers, administrators and support staff have proven this year and for the past several years that we will do more with less, bend but not break, and we will never sacrifice the quality of education we provide for this community. The teaching staff, administration, support and secretarial staff work with the dedication and conviction that would rival any of our downriver communities or any other district. They are proud to be a part of the foundation of our students Scholastic Journey, a journey that begins at home.

Parents were acknowledged for their support and thanked for their emails, kind words and friendly hellos as everyone settled in to new surroundings. Their involvement is greatly appreciated and encouraged so they may continue to see the accomplishments that the schools are so proud of.

It's time to spread the positive word about all the great things that are going on in Southgate Community Schools. The staff believes it, lives it every day and wants everyone to know the kids and families are worth it. A year ago there was worry and concern during the restructuring of the district, concern for the educational opportunities. Today those educational opportunities are still intact; RTI, Reading Recovery, after school tutoring, technology integration. There is still strong PTO involvement, W.A.T.C.H. Dogs, enrichment instruction, Data Teams, Title One Parental Involvement Nights-Math Bingo, Bingo for Books, March is Reading Month, Love and Logic, Stories Scissors and Scoops and many more. Through the collaboration of staff, administration and community this proves we still have a dedication to our students, their education and to show we have the best education in the downriver area.

Discussion took place about the positive message that was presented by the K-5 School Improvement Team. The group was commended for the job they did and focusing on 'what we are, not what we aren't'.

Discussion took place about Data Walks. This program is funded through a grant. Administrators tour classrooms to look for student engagement, I-Can statements, is the learning objective posted. Data Walks increase administrator visibility and provide information for school improvement purposes. Training took place and administrators were given I-Pads so they can fill out the data forms electronically. The goal was to Data Walk every teacher, every week. It can be difficult with all the other daily tasks that an administrator is responsible for.

6-8 School Improvement Plan

Shannon Swauger-Co-Chair for the Middle School Improvement Team reported on the goals for the Middle School. Proficiency in Math, Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening, Social Studies and Science, the proficiency is measured by a standardized test, typically the MEAP. Whatever the cut scores are determined, they strive to be consistent with or above state standards as well as the downriver area.

The progress of this plan is dependent on crafting the lessons to the prior experiences and interests of this age level or it becomes difficult to achieve student engagement. The collaboration through Professional Development to meet not only grade level, but by discipline, assures the progression in learning is fluent and consistent.

To help achieve the goals at DMS; each discipline has their own department-Math, Language Arts, Social Studies etc...they have discussions and meetings within their own department. They have a common grading scale but there is leeway based on what is developmentally appropriate. In 6th grade Social Studies grading is based on 50% assessment 50% daily work. At 7th grade it becomes 60% assessment 40% daily work. In the 8th grade it becomes 70% assessment 30% daily work. This progression shows a student they need to retain the knowledge for the assessment, ready to perform and it also gets them ready for the secondary requirements when they get to the High School. Each department is striving to achieve this.

At risk students are showing tremendous gains. The Interventionists are instrumental in finding the techniques that are key to the student's success to achieve the next level and perform successfully.

Looking ahead to next year and the SBAC; the concern is whether we are ready for it and the rigorous administration of the test that the students will have before them. Are we aligning everything the way it needs to be in order for students to achieve success. We need to be persistent and determined so we can prepare the students to be decision makers on these tests, not just multiple choice decisions.

The success stories at DMS are not just focused on Athletics. A wide variety of offerings allows students to have a sense of being a stake holder and have a voice. The pan cake breakfast honored over 500 students, over 50% of the student population, for having GPA's of 3.0 or higher. The book fair made such a huge profit, they decided to split those profits and give half to the Library and half to the Language Arts department for free books. Honor Society, STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) are just a few of the groups students can be involved in. A DMS student became a published author and was honored in Grand Rapids for a story she wrote. This was the first time we had a student published and it was a great honor.

Discussion took place regarding how to engage students in Higher Level Thinking Skills. With limited resources, we are trying to educate students the best possible way using what we have.

9-12 School Improvement Plan

Erica Baily, Dawn Olson, Kristen Stewart, and Jennifer Furkas represented the 9-12 School Improvement Team. They listed three goals; 1.) All students will be proficient in mathematics. 2.) All students will be proficient in Literacy. 3.) All staff will work to improve the culture and climate at Anderson High School.

The math goal is the number one district goal this year. We have Wayne State Math, emerging scholars program with several teachers being trained in that. Daily homework club runs until 4 p.m. every day. Students work with a teacher or a Wayne State rep so they can get the help they need and not go home frustrated. Math essentials, that our CTE students are using, are being funded by DCTC. They are bringing in individual tutors to help our DCTC students with math skills and gains are being seen in this area. Language Arts Department; they are working on synthesis essays where multiple pieces of text are being read and the student pulls together the information to write their own work based on the evidence they have drawn out of the texts. They are based on grade level; it becomes more complex writing as they progress through high school.

Science is doing DEAL-Drop Everything And Lab, every science student does labs based on ACT passages, answering questions that would be similar to those found on the Science ACT. Social Studies is implementing a mid-term project.

CTE is using Key Train; it is being used extensively with Building Trades. It is offered to us through DCTC. Academic vocabulary; working toward making academic vocabulary more consistent throughout the building using the same terminology for the same information.

The Standardized Test Prep Program started in January. Teachers are integrating questions in their core classes that would be seen on the MME and the ACT. Juniors were given a practice ACT in January. Scores were reviewed individually with the Juniors and they were given strategies for improving their scores. The departments were also given data so they could establish targeted review sessions that they could implement in their lessons to prepare the students for the March ACT/MME exam.

Just prior to the MME in March, students were given ZAPS, an ACT after school program. Over 100 students showed up.

The evidence of the progress from the STEPP showed improvement in scores. In January, 307 students took the practice test with a composite score of 19.1, with the highest score of 31, the top score would be 36. In March the ACT/MME was taken and so far 265 results have come back and our average composite at this point is 20.2, with our highest score a 32. Of the 265 students, 170 had increased their score by 1 point or more, total of 64%. 20% had no change. One student had an 8 point increase. This has been a team effort throughout the school.

To achieve the Culture Goal, a mentoring program, LINK, has been implemented. Juniors and Seniors are connected with incoming Freshmen. There were 84 leaders chosen and they teamed up in pairs and were in charge of 8 to 10 incoming Freshmen students. This program is designed to help decrease anxiety that Freshmen have coming into the High School. This is a year-long commitment.

Some of the activities include Freshmen Football Tailgate, Ice Cream Social, Movie Night and a Coca and Cram where LINK members tutored Freshmen on how to study during finals. Future Freshmen night was a huge success, 225 8th graders and their parents attended.

In the future there will be continued work on Blended Learning with additional courses added next year. Focus on Bell to Bell instruction. There is a plan to have a traffic study by students which will allow them to research the problems and solutions for the traffic congestion around the building.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION

FINANCE

Ms. McLachlan reported on the move of the Beacon program to the Gerisch building. There are some modifications to be done at that building to meet the needs of the program. The construction costs did exceed the bid requirements so we put out RFP's for the project. We had 4 companies that came to our pre-bid conference in March, which was a requirement. Of those 4 companies we received two bids. One company stood out between the two. This company also did the work when the program moved to River Rouge 5 years ago. She told the board they are very qualified and it is the recommendation that the board approve this bid. ACT 18 covers 100% of the cost of this project.

She just completed the second budget amendment for the ACT 18 program with RESA. There will be slight modifications when they receive the last budget amendment in June.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Mr. Grusecki reported on the Classroom and Kids Budget which is being supported by MASB, MASA as well as the Tri-County Alliance. May 5th there will be a presentation from Representatives of each district to discuss this proposal. A location has yet to be determined. Each school district is being asked to have their Superintendent, School Board Member and several parents in attendance. By May 15 the governor's budget will be finalized.

The SBAC will be rolled out a year from now and the push is for the state to provide more funding for that. The governor finally signed the snow day legislation to give forgiveness to those districts who had 179 to 180 days of instruction scheduled going in to this school year. Southgate was one of those with 180 days of instruction scheduled. As long as a district is above 174 they are good. We are at 176. At this time we will finish our school year as planned. Once the MDE directive is received we will finalize this information.

Mr. Grusecki thanked the administrators and teachers for their work on School Improvement Teams and the presentations tonight. He is very proud to be their Superintendent.

A revised DEP was sent to Lansing a few weeks ago. Mr. Grusecki, Ms. McLachlan and Mr. Hayhurst and Ms. Hainrihar took a trip to Lansing to address the MDE and Treasury. In an effort to slow down the flow of loss of students we asked for latitude. Without knowing what the state will give us for a foundation grant we wanted to be able to put together a plan they would accept. Lansing agreed our plan was unreasonable and more time was needed. They will allow us until the board adopts a 2014-2015 school budget giving us the opportunity to know what we will receive from Lansing in foundation grant money as well as the opportunity to discuss with our bargaining groups. The only variable we cannot count on is what our enrollment will look like next year.

We will have until July 31, 2014 to turn in our DEP. We have given accurate numbers to Lansing, we have not hidden anything and been on time with reports, so that helps tremendously.

CONSENT

2013/14 - 158 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education approve the disbursements for March 2014.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

2013/14 - 159 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting and the Minutes of the March 31, 2014 Special Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

ACTION

2013/14 - 160 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution in Support of the Regional Enhancement Millage.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

2013/14 - 161 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to award the contract for the building modifications required for the Beacon Day Treatment Center move to Gerisch Middle School to ARJAC Inc., with a contract amount of \$102,528. All construction costs will be funded by ACT 18 through Wayne County RESA.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mrs. Gear-Travis, parent of Devin a senior at AHS, addressed the Board of Education regarding the age restriction for Prom. She asked the restriction to be lifted to allow her daughter to bring her date whose age exceeds that limit. Discussion took place regarding policy. No deviations will be made to that policy at this time.

INFORMATION

Dr. Pomponio thanked Ruth Kemp for starting the Suicide Prevention Committee. The first meeting took place and policy is being reviewed from other districts. Andrew Kandreas has a link on his website called Fightschoolcuts.com, comments can be posted on that site. There is also a list of those that voted for and against school cuts.

She also wanted to remind parents of safety in and around the schools. She mentioned a horrific accident in Canton that led to the death of a 9 year old child.

Mrs. Pastor announced to the Board that the District Art Show is May 7th through May 22nd at the City of Southgate Library.

Mr. Knott wished everyone a safe and Happy Easter.

CLOSED SESSION

2013/14 -162 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education Enter Closed Session at 8:45 p.m.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

2013/14 -163 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education Return to Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

2013/14 -164 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

YES: Craig, Knott, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

