



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT
REBECCA REED

DATE: August 4, 2015

VICE PRESIDENT
PAUL C. KNOTT

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

SECRETARY
DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

TREASURER
W. KIRK HAYHURST

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Hainrihar, McLachlan, Pastor

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

TRUSTEES
JASON CRAIG
NEIL J. FREITAS
MARK KREMER

The pledge of allegiance was recited.
Ms. Reed read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

2015/16- 13 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Hayhurst the board revise the August 4, 2015 regular board meeting agenda to include item E-1 Swearing In of newly appointed board member Neil J. Freitas.

SUPERINTENDENT
LESLIE HAINRIHAR

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed
NO:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
DIRECTOR
THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

2015/16-14 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the revised August 4, 2015 regular board meeting agenda.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
JILL PASTOR

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed
NO:

HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR
MARY HILDEBRANDT

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Janice M. Ferencz, Southgate City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office; as Member of the Board of Education, to Mr. Neil J. Freitas.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Mary Hildebrandt-Director of Human Resources- presented the board with the names of the recent district retirees who received certificates of appreciation. Ms. Hainrihar read kind words from co-workers regarding Mr. Eric Carlson-Principal of Davidson Middle School and Ms. Jeanne Cummings-Physical Education teacher Davidson Middle School who were unable to attend. Mrs. DeBlasio-Fileccia-Fordline Elementary teacher was presented to the board and received her certificate of appreciation and kind words from her co-worker, read by Ms. Hainrihar. The board thanked and congratulated each retiring district employee for their years of dedication and service to the district and community.

Plante Moran CRESA-Jeff Atkins gave a presentation to the board on the Bond Informational Campaign. He explained the need for a committee that would include the community and address finance, voter resources and communications. The district cannot use school district resources to promote a yes campaign. Everything has to be informational and factual, give the information to the voters and let them decide.

Over the next several months the committees will be organized so each group can focus on their part; communication, community resources and finance. A theme should be developed with the same talking points, addressing safety and security, keeping up with technology, maintaining our investment in the facilities and No New Taxes.

Brochures can be designed with this information. Social media is another resource but should be managed so as not to allow for arguments over the internet. Web postings and presentations to keep the community informed. Building boards should be developed and displayed in buildings and distribute the same information throughout the district.

The timeline leading up to and the preparations for, the November 3, 2015 election were reviewed.

Dr. Pomponio asked questions about the presentations, committee meetings and absentee voters. Mr. Atkins said he will attend as many presentations as he can. He will be at the committee meetings to guide them as to what they can and cannot do, and also made suggestions as to how to reach out to the absentee voters.

Ms. Hainrihar said she will be addressing the staff on September 1, 2015.

Mr. Knott requested the PTO officer's list.

Ms. Reed stated many families are already aware and excited to get the word out.

Mr. Kremer complimented Mr. Atkins on the clarity of the presentation.

DISCUSSION

Finance-Ms. McLachlan reported that she submitted the DEP to Lansing on July 24, 2015 and did receive notification they received it. It typically takes six weeks to get the approval letter, which will be sent to the president of the board, the superintendent and herself. The finance department is still working hard to close out the year end and preparing for the auditors arrival on August 17, 2015.

Curriculum-Ms. Pastor updated the board on the status of summer school. It has wrapped up for the year; 104 students in grades 6-12 received scholarships through 31-A funds (49 were in math); 2 Title I scholarships were given to a homeless student for a total of 106 scholarships. The summer school administrator will give a full summer school report to the board in the near future.

Mr. Knott asked about the scholarships. Ms. Pastor stated that students are required to pay a \$50 deposit and upon passing the class that is refunded and the scholarship pays the full summer school class. This year's need was so great each student only received one scholarship.

Superintendent-Ms. Hainrihar told the board the 'pass and completion rate' for summer school was very high. It was a successful summer school program. She wanted to congratulate the district employees, through their concessions; we have paid down over \$1.5 million of our debt. There is just a small amount left for this school year and we pay off a much smaller portion next year. She repeated; this is 100% through employee concessions. We are on track for paying this debt off.

We are continuing to get ready for the next school year. Custodial and maintenance staff members are completing projects before school begins. The professional development calendars continue to be worked on as well as contracts for non-represented employees. There have been re-calls of employees due to retirements as well as job postings in the Special Education Department.

CONSENT

2015/16-15 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the July 21, 2015 regular board meeting minutes.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

ABSTAIN: Freitas

2015/16-16 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the HR Updates as presented.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

ABSTAIN: Freitas

ACTION

2015/16-17 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS:

1. In the opinion of this Board it is necessary and expedient to ask voters whether to approve a bond project consisting of partially remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, equipping and re-equipping school facilities; acquiring, installing and equipping instructional technology for school facilities; constructing, equipping, developing and improving athletic and improving athletic facilities and playfields; and developing and improving sites.
2. This Board estimates the necessary cost of the project to be Twenty Million Ninety-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$20,099,382).
3. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of Twenty Million Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$20,080,000) and issue the bonds of the District therefor, the remaining funds be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.
4. This Board intends to submit a proposition at a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

5. On or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District (the "Election Coordinator").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. A special election of the school electors of the District be called and held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.
2. The proposition to be voted on at the special election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit "A".
3. The Election Coordinator is requested to:
 - a. Utilize The News Herald, a newspaper published or of general circulation within the District, for publication of notices in accordance with the election law requirements.
 - b. Utilize ballot proposition summary information, as prepared by legal counsel, in the forms of the notices of last day of registration and election in the form as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.
 - c. Provide a proof copy of the ballot to the District and its legal counsel in sufficient time to allow the ballot to be proofread prior to printing.
4. This Board estimates the period of usefulness of the improvements for which bonds of the District in the amount of Twenty Million Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$20,080,000) are to be issued to be not less than twenty-five (25) years.
5. The Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Election Coordinator and with any Election Clerk or clerks designated to conduct elections within the District by 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.
6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ms. McLachlan informed the board the Michigan Department of Treasury did approve our bond application, a letter was received July 31, 2015 stating this.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Dr. Pomponio, Ms. Reed

NO:

ABSTAIN: Freitas

This was a roll call vote.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hayhurst had a commentary: "I recently had the occasion to listen to a long interview with The Honorable Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of California. Needless to say California like many states is struggling with the overall quality of education. His position in California unlike ours, is an elected office so when he asserted that politicians who tell you that money can't buy a better education for your kids or that more money for education isn't necessary like the politicians in Lansing have been saying for almost 8 years now.....I was surprised because he is a politician.

I guess just because you keep saying something over and over doesn't make it true if the facts don't back your assertions. So I decided to research this subject a little, like our representatives in Lansing should be, and it didn't take much checking to give me some very revealing statistics.

I wanted to be careful where I got my data from so in deference to the ruling party currently in Lansing I extracted my information primarily from the conservative Wall Street journal.

I have a lot of facts and figures regarding this subject and if you want more details please contact me and I'll make my research available to anyone who asks, but to sum up my findings:

According to the most recent comprehensive statistics available the top 10 states in the country (which by the way, are primarily New England and the upper East coast states) spend an average of just under \$15,000.00 per student per school year. With the lowest outlay per student being almost \$12,000.00 and the highest being nearly \$19,000.00

Michigan's is just below the mid-point in terms of quality of education and averages around \$10,000.00 per student statewide.

Southgate receives \$7,174.00 to educate your child."

Ms. Hainrihar commented that several of her friends that live on the East Coast, have told her they pay their taxes directly to their school districts. She said it is a substantially higher amount of money than we receive. She also added it is past the time to engage in a conversation about "support". Teachers, educators have taken a beating lately in the media and from many legislators, most of it undeserved. It has been a long time since she has attended any state led meeting or conference where someone has asked "how can we help?"

Ms. Reed stated that we offer the most AP courses in the downriver area, have a wonderful graduation rate and we have done a lot with very little. We are recovering without touching or diminishing any of our programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Reed announced the board would be entering a work session at 7:50 p.m. and not returning to the viewing audience.

