



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG
MARK KREMER
PATRICK OWEN

DATE: Mach 24, 2015

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Hainrihar, McLachlan, Pastor

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

The pledge of allegiance was recited.
President Reed-Hall read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE HAINRIHAR

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

2014/15-351 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott that the March 24, 2015 Regular Board Agenda be amended to correct the date in Action Item #1 to read 2014/2015, include Rowing and Drum Line Field Trips in Action Item #2. and revise the minutes to include Dr. Pomponio and Ms. Reed-Halls names in the paragraphs regarding discussion.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

2014/15-352 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott that the board approve the amended March 24, 2015 agenda.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Anderson High School Student Representative Ms. Frank reported on Spirit Week at AHS; Monday-Pajama Day, Tuesday-Country Western Day, Wednesday-Sports Fanatic Day, Thursday-80's Day, Friday is Titan Pride Day. Friday will be the Winter Assembly. Third quarter ends on 3/27/15. Anderson Drama Club will present "Back to the 80's" on March 27 and 28th in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and staff and \$7 for the public. March 25 will be 3rd hour Power Hour when students will take time to focus on their grades in that particular hour. There will be a half day on March 26.

Anderson High School Student Representative Mr. Swinehart reported on the Boys Varsity Basketball team beating Carlson 38-32 to win the District Championship. They unfortunately lost in the first round of Regionals against Ypsilanti. This was the second straight year they boys won the District Championship. Boys J.V. Baseball and Girls J.V. Softball will begin their seasons tomorrow. Girls J.V. and Varsity Soccer season will begin tomorrow as well.

PRESENTATION

Allen Focus School Update-Jill Pastor updated the board on what a focus school is; Focus Schools are identified as the ten percent of Michigan schools having the widest gap in student achievement between their lowest and highest performing students. The staff at Allen conducted a discussion and completed the School Systems Review for the EdYES! Report. They participated in group work and the chalkboard splash of the standards in the School Systems Review. They came to the determination the area of Standard 3/Indicator J-Student Involvement in Assessment is only in the beginning of implementation. In the area of Standard 4-Instructional Leadership and in Standard 6-Organizational Management they determined they are in sustained implementation.

Allen staff concluded they will continue to work on implementation of engagement techniques and higher order thinking skills. This will be accomplished by the use of Total Participation Techniques, which allow students to learn how to assess themselves and monitor their progress.

The School Improvement Team is looking at a process to collect data that will show how teachers are implementing Total Participation Techniques as well as High Order Question Stems during classroom lessons; tracking how often it is done and the frequency.

The staff did look at the bottom 30% of students and made sure those students would be receiving intervention from the Title 1 Interventionists. This 30% was determined by the state and local assessments. Allen is in the beginning stages of these services and do not have any results at this time. One barrier in providing these services is student attendance.

Allen staff analyzed the data from the Data Walks that the building principal conducted for the 2nd quarter. Through the collection of Data Walks it was evident we were struggling to engage students; our teachers focused their effort in the lower-order thinking skills. Students were only engaged 43% of the time, and only using the higher order thinking skills 6% of the time. After the second round of Data Walks, students were engaged 73% of the time and were using the higher order thinking skills 16% of the time. The data shows that we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Kremer asked about higher order thinking. Ms. Pastor said when a student doesn't just refer back to the text in a book, but relying on creation and analysis of information, that is when they are using a level of higher order thinking.

Dr. Pomponio questioned if we know why these gaps occur, if it is related to demographics or School of Choice. Ms. Pastor stated it is the gap between the highest achieving and the lowest achieving, it was not noted whether it was coming from any other areas.

Ms. Reed-Hall asked about our schools that have been in the 10% of Focus Schools in the past. Ms. Pastor stated that Chormann Elementary has been a Focus School.

Mr. Hayhurst commented that if we had a school that had a higher learning segment and an autistic segment, it would almost guarantee a focus school.

Ms. Hainrihar stated that we can have a very high achieving school but it is the gap between the highest and lowest 30% that places us in that Focus group.

Mr. Owen asked if the data was based off of test scores from last year. Ms. Pastor stated it was the Fall of 2013. This would include the 5th graders that are no longer in that building. Ms. Pastor stated we stay in the Focus school cohort for 4 years.

Ms. Hainrihar stated we still appreciate the resources that were made available to us through this Focus School designation. District wide there have been positive aspects associated with it

Ms. Reed-Hall asked who monitors what is to be selected or judged and do we have input. Ms. Pastor stated the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability which is a part of the Michigan Department of Education determines the matrix to measure this, and we have not been afforded the opportunity to comment.

Ms. Reed-Hall asked how a parent can find out about Focus Schools. Ms. Pastor stated that MDE has a link on their website, and all parents of Allen students received letters explaining the Focus School designation.

Asher Adult and Community Education- Director Judy Cock reviewed the mission and vision statements, and presented the board with information on the Leisure and Enrichment programs and Community Outreach available at Asher. Sarah Hurley is the coordinator for the program. The enrichment program is tuition based. Those participating are looking to improve on skills or take up a new hobby. Computer classes are increasing. Foreign Language classes benefit those who may be planning on traveling and need to increase their foreign language skills. Multiple fitness classes continue to be popular and are held in the gyms across the district.

Asher has a partnership with Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital where students can go and take 160 hours per semester for home health care provider training. It is Home Health Care Provider I and II. Many students are successful in finding employment after the completion of these classes. They do vitals, rounds through hospital, checking bedside and phlebotomy. Medical Terminology Class is held on Saturday at Wyandotte Hospital and familiarizes students with the terminology of anatomy and physiology for when they go on to CNA or Home Health Care classes.

There has been contact with Asher regarding a pre-Physical Therapy Tech-Aid Program which would help students prepare to go into that type of field.

Dr. Pomponio asked how many classes a student can take based on the fee per semester. Ms. Cock stated they attend a 16-week course for 10 hours a week at the hospital. Dr. Pomponio asked about the certification they receive. Ms. Cock stated they receive a certificate listing the skills they have earned, and they take a comprehensive test at the end of their course. This is not a State Certified program.

A positive outcome of Community Ed gets resident's into our buildings, they view the buildings as their own, and care about them.

Ms. Cock reported Asher has linkages with local businesses that have utilized the programs to enhance their employees skills; National Steel, Wyandotte City Offices, Tax services and local auto dealerships. There are also 3rd party partnerships with AARP and Michigan Rehabilitation who pay for services to help their students with skills they need to assist them with finding jobs.

Mr. Kremer asked about the students who receive jobs at the hospital even though they don't have certification. Ms. Cock stated some may assist with wheelchairs, bedside, rounds through the hospital; it's a basic education that will help prepare them for the next level. Mr. Kremer asked how we could become a certified program. Ms. Cock said we would have to look into getting a different instructor and go through Work Force Development and the Michigan Department of Education.

Dr. Pomponio asked about the partnership with the hospital. Ms. Cock said they let us use their space and we provide the instructor, they are also a major volunteer program for Asher.

Community Outreach Programs include the Downriver Literacy Council; began in 1986 by former Superintendent Stan Mazur. This program has been modeled to the Work Force Development. There are 100 trained volunteers. Adults with reading levels from grade zero up to grade 4 can attend classes 2 hours a day 4 times a week. These literacy volunteers are also helping Asher special education students.

The Golf program offers many advantages to Asher students, not only does it teach the appreciation for the game but teaches life skills; how to behave on a golf course, what to wear, how to treat others. In 2006 Ruth Kemp, Scott Stacey and a member of the TPC, Kathy Wozniak received a grant from USGA. We developed a partnership with Chris Grandy from the South Winds Golf Course. Grants and fundraising support the golf program. Annual golf outings with local law enforcement including Tom Coombs, a strong supporter of the program, help build student and community relationships. The Kiwanis bus helps transport students for a reasonable fee.

SACE cares includes our Food Bank, Angel Tree and the Jan Jarvis Memorial Garden. This program is a 501C-3 and is supervised by Terry Lauber. 10-15 food boxes are passed out weekly. 180 boxes were distributed during Christmas, Easter 160 and Thanksgiving 160. The Angel Tree helped 300 + children during Christmas. For twenty years the Southgate Food Co-Op has been helping those in need by providing a bag of groceries for \$10. Whole sale fruits and vegetables and cheese are purchased, as well as donations from Gleaners. Students and senior citizens help pack the bags every other Tuesday. Many volunteers help to make these programs work.

Every school in the district does something to assist with the food bank and Angel Tree. Downriver businesses also donate and promote the programs.

Dr. Pomponio asked about the Kiwanis bus. Ms. Cock stated the Kiwanis organization will transport any group no further than 100 miles. They are fully insured.

Ms. Hainrihar commented that Asher is filled with an army of quiet, passionate volunteers and complimented Sarah Hurley for all of her work with the enrichment programs.

DISCUSSION

Finance Report- Theresa McLachlan gave the board an update from Lansing's budget which will affect our current budget. On February 11, 2015 along with the release of the 2015/16 budget, the governor also issued an executive order and proposed a supplemental budget bill for 2014/15. PA 5 of 2015 was

passed by the house and senate and signed by the governor on March 10, 2015 to resolve a General Fund/General Purpose shortfall of \$456 million in the fiscal 2014/15 State Budget. There is a combination of reductions and fund balance shifts, which totals \$250 million to the General Fund/General Purpose fund balance.

These changes affect the school aid, community college and higher education. For the school aid budget there was a \$71 million dollar reduction to recognize revised taxable value data and reduce pupil memberships for every district across the state. The largest impact to the current school district budgets is an \$88.4 million dollar reduction in the Mipsers one-time payment under section 147 D. To eliminate the remaining balance in the line on our state aid status report which was intended to provide an additional one time, unfunded, liability payment for Mipsers. In our total Mipsers retirement rate, there is a portion that this funding was offsetting. What this means for Southgate, is on our monthly status report the original amount we were supposed to get for the year was \$344,793. The revised amount we received which we won't receive again is; \$62,683. This is a reduction to our revenue of just over \$282,000. With that, there is also an offsetting reduction in our retirement expense. We are required to report our entire revenue which covers all of our retirement costs across the district in the General Fund. All of our payroll costs are not in the General Fund. We have our Cafeteria/Food Service Fund and the Special Education Act 18 Program. The approximate difference between the two is still a shortfall of \$100,000 for the district for this year's budget that was just enacted in March.

Over the course of the last six months the state has talked about changing the deadline for our audit and FID reporting, moving it up a month from November 15 to October 15. The final language changed the due date to November 1. She will update the board on next year's budget at the next meeting.

Mr. Kremer inquired about the \$282,000 and whether that was state wide or just a reduction in our revenue. Ms. McLachlan confirmed it is a reduction in our revenue.

Mr. Hayhurst asked what the total amount was that we would be losing. Ms. McLachlan stated it would be approximately \$100,000.

Dr. Pomponio asked if these cuts were related to the new Best Practices. Ms. McLachlan stated for the 2014/15 no, but for the 2015/16 it would. The governor's proposal was to reduce the Best Practices from \$50 to \$20 per student.

Curriculum Report- Jill Pastor updated the board on the M-Step; The manual was released and stated that in June 2014 the Michigan Legislature required the Michigan Department of Education to develop a new test for the Spring of 2015; Creating a need to reduce a normal 3 year test development process to 9 months.

The testing begins on Monday April 13, 2015 when we return from Easter break. Accommodations can be set and testing tickets can be printed beginning at noon on Friday April 3, 2015. This is the period of time when Wayne County districts are closed for break. Some staff members are going to be meeting Ms. Pastor on Good Friday to help get some of that work started. In the test directions it states that students may click ahead and hit the begin test button before being directed to do so. Some students may begin the test and when they realize they have gone too far, there is a tendency to click out of the test. It is not uncommon for the student to click the "end test" button. If this occurs the test will become locked and cannot be unlocked, resulting in a submission of a test with no responses. It is a known problem and the solution is to lock the assessment.

Ms. Pastor did want to share some good news. The Michigan Department of Education gave the district the opportunity for our on-site review. Since October Ms. Pastor's sole focus has been on this audit. The MDE visited Fordline on the first day observing classrooms unescorted. They observed students highly engaged in group work and paired sharing; this evidenced the schools commitment to implementing its school wide reform strategy to increase the level and quality of student engagement. Some classrooms were engaged in direct instruction with most classrooms utilizing adults well by having two people in a room to assist student learning. Classrooms and hallways were rich with posted work and posted learning aids providing resources to the lessons. Teachers are observed during Data Walks. These many observations identify the needs of staff which impact student learning. The staff collaboratively agrees on observation points which include; the learning environment, student thinking relative to Blooms Taxonomy, depth of questioning, level of student engagement, instructional strategies and assessments. Summary reports are generated which provide data on areas that are progressing well and areas requiring attention which direct the next actions to be taken by the staff.

The staff prepared quite thoroughly for the on-site review. At Fordline we had one change required that involved supporting staff to build capacity for effective parent involvement. Ms. Pastor, Ms. Schiappaccasse and Ms. Chilson met last week and already have a plan they will be submitting to MDE.

On March 10th the MDE spent time at the district level and some observations included; the district exemplifies collaboration, this was evidenced during the on-site review by the participation of principals, Interventionists and a parent, as well as the superintendents' participation during the review and during the preparation meeting. The district Professional Development Plan is of high quality aligning closely with the professional development standards adopted by the state of Michigan. A substantial amount of quality evidence was presented during the review, which resulted in a very, very unusual occurrence of 'no changes required'.

Ms. Pastor stated this is a relief.

Dr. Pomponio commented that she was present for the reading with everyone involved and was impressed by the tears and emotions she witnessed, knowing how much hard work went in to preparing for this.

Mr. Owen concurred stating it was a very proud moment for the district and he was proud to be there.

Superintendent's Report-Ms. Hainrihar reported that we have shown a noticeable increase in student engagement across the district and very positive results in higher order thinking skills. She said this is very rewarding to see that our efforts are showing results in the classroom.

Ms. Hainrihar commented on a Free Press article that featured comments from several parents that were going to "opt out" of the M-Step. She wanted to share with our parents that we are required by law to give these tests. They provide an opportunity for us to learn whether or not your children are proficient in the tested subjects. They help us make the best instructional decisions on behalf of your children. Students who do not take the state wide test are counted as not tested, and we risk the loss of Federal Funding to the district.

Ms. Hainrihar encouraged any parent that has concerns about the M-Step test to contact their building principal. She also asked community members to look for the Southgate Community Schools insert that was included in last Sunday's News Herald. It features the special programs in our Elementary buildings. Copies are available at the Board Office.

On May 5th citizens will be asked to vote on Proposal 1. This proposal is complicated and Ms. Hainrihar encouraged everyone to learn as much as they can about this ballot issue. It is important for all voters to know that this proposal constitutionally guarantees that the school aid fund will be used only for K-12 schools, community colleges and career and technical education. In Southgate nearly all of our children attend a public K-12 school at some time in their career, many of them attend a community college or access career and technical education programs. This funding will have a very significant impact on the kids of Southgate. Ms. Hainrihar asked that everyone please vote on May 5th.

CONSENT

2014/15-353 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the revised minutes from the March 10, 2015 Regular Board Meeting.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

2014/15-354 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the HR Updates as presented.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

ACTION

2014/15- 355 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the adoption of resolution of compliance with requirements of Best Practices Incentives for 2014/2015.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

2014/15-356 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the special trips for Anderson Baseball teams, Shelters 5th grade trip, Anderson World Language Program Europe Trip, Anderson Rowing, and Drum Line.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

Ms. Hainrihar stated that these are annual trips these groups have gone on in the past and approved by the board.

2014/15-357 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott that the board adopt the following Resolution in support of Proposal 1 on the May 5th ballot;

WHEREAS, Michigan public schools continue to face difficult economic and budget challenges, and

WHEREAS, these challenges today have resulted in circumstance that directly and negatively affect our children's education, learning and ability to compete for 21st century jobs, and

WHEREAS, these negative circumstances range from more crowded classrooms, the elimination of critical programs, shortages of basic supplies and other challenges, and

WHEREAS, these challenges are the result of funding shortfalls that directly impact children, parents, teachers, school staff, administrators and the local community at large, and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the best way to support our local schools and help our children learn is to restore funds to our classrooms, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has place before voters Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot that would protect funding for classrooms and guarantee funding for safer roads and bridges, and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot would guarantee every penny in the School Aid Fund goes to K-12 schools and community colleges and generate \$300 million in additional funds for public schools annually, and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot is a bipartisan road funding solution that will protect students, parents, teachers, and staff as they travel to school and work, while protecting school funds so our children can receive a quality education that can prepare them for college and a career, and

WHEREAS, one penny on the dollar is worth safer roads for everyone in Michigan,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Southgate Community Schools' Board of Education supports Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot; because we strongly believe in restoring funds to our classrooms so all children have an opportunity to learn and compete for 21st century jobs, and that safe, well-maintained roads benefit everyone in Michigan.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

Mr. Knott stated that he, Mr. Hayhurst and Mr. Owen attended a meeting at RESA regarding the May 5 ballot proposal. He reiterated the fact this is a bi-partisan proposal as well as the fact this constitutionally guarantees school funding.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hayhurst read his commentary; 'If you don't believe that Lansing has made a concerted effort to promote for-profit charter schools in this state for the past 5 years. Then ask yourself why has Mike Flanagan, outgoing State School Superintendent, waited until after he announced his retirement to come out strongly in favor of a moratorium on the opening of any new charter schools in Michigan. According to Mr. Flanagan-

The state needs a moratorium on the opening of new charters in order to provide enrollment stability for Michigan schools, and it must address the needs of high-poverty students and the districts that are spiraling into financial disaster.

Flanagan's remarks came as he delivered his quarterly report on deficit school districts in Michigan. He noted that 56 school districts and charter schools are now in a deficit.

On charters, Flanagan said, "There's enough now to give appropriate choice to parents."

He questioned the Legislatures' decisions in recent years to allow an unlimited number of new charter and more online schools to open, saying that while he doesn't criticize the merits of it, the timing was wrong given it happened "at the time of our most unstable enrollment."

Enrollment in Michigan has been on the decline for years. But while there are fewer students to go around, more schools are opening.

The Charter school and online school concepts were intended to give parents choice in where they send their children to school. Lansing appears in the last 5 years to be trying to transition Michigan education from a public school based system to a FOR PROFIT Charter school and online schooling based system.

Since all education in Michigan is paid for with your tax dollars I'm sure the owners of these for profit charter school and online school corporations are thrilled about what has happened here in the past 5 years.

How happy are you with the way Lansing is spending your tax dollars?'

Ms. Pastor reminded everyone that kindergarten packets are available for pick-up; we are registering kindergarten students at this time.

WORK SESSION

Ms. Reed-Hall announced that the board was moving into a work session at 8:13 p.m. and would not return to the viewing audience

ADJOURNMENT

2014/15-358 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

