



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

DATE: March 25, 2014

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMONIO

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

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

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

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

2013/14 - 146 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education amend the March 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Agenda and add Action Item #2- Resolution in Support of the Classrooms and Kids Budget Proposal.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

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

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

2013/14 - 147 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the amended March 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting agenda

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

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

ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Destiny Frank-AHS student representative reported March 26 is Freshman Orientation, for students and their families. March 28th Link Crew is having a movie night at AHS. Spirit week is coming up and there will be a pep assembly. 3rd marking period ends this Friday.

PRESENTATIONS

Jill Pastor reviewed the MEAP results with the Board. We have had improvement in 7 areas, decrease in 11 areas. We are above State Average in 4th Grade Reading; above State Average in 4th and 6th Grade Math; above State Average in 4th Grade Writing. We are below State Average in both grades for Science and Social Studies. Allen, Shelters and DMS celebrated increases in Reading scores for 4th, 5th and 8th grade students. Allen, Grogan, Shelters and DMS celebrated increases in Math scores for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Ms. Pastor commented that students with disabilities continue to struggle with proficiency on the MEAP assessment, the gap between students with disabilities and those without ranges from 11% in Science to 52% in Writing.

Ms. Pastor stated that while there is no official communication from the Michigan Department of Education, we are preparing for the spring 2014 assessments to be the SBAC for Reading and Math for students in grades 3 through 8 and 11th grade. She reviewed with the board what sample questions may look like and how a student would take the test online. Knowledge of the mechanism for dragging answers into their appropriate slots on the test will be necessary as well as typing skill for 8th graders who have to type their answers. Preparation has begun with a portal sent to staff to give them cues as to how to get kids ready. There is concern about how students will react to this type of testing; it is far more than just filling in a bubble. There are built in fail safes so kids cannot end the test without completion. This test was based on Common Core. Ms. Pastor expressed concern that without phasing kids into the type of thinking required to take this test, it will be hard to be successful.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Grusecki updated the board regarding the Budget Amendment. He spoke about the make-up days; we are waiting to get through March. After April 1st there is forgiveness for any weather days due to it being so late in the year. The district goal is to not go past June 13. Mr. Grusecki mentioned that he and Mr. Hayhurst attended MASB/MASA Legislative Day which was very informative and interesting. One point of interest was EAA- The governor may have difficulty getting support for expansion. The proposal by Tri-County for Classrooms and Kids has garnered a lot of steam. There seems to be support of that in Lansing, but Legislators are concerned with some categorical funds.

Snow Days-There is absolutely positively no forgiveness on days due to the harshness of the winter.

The state is very interested in putting in a place a warning system for schools that are struggling financially so that they do not go into deficit, and giving more latitude to districts for efforts to repair deficit. Looking at each school individually and not make "cookie cutter" rules and guidelines for districts to follow. Our district is suffering effects of cuts and concessions. In the 10/11 school year we had our State Aid reduced by \$470 per pupil, which was a \$2.5 million loss. Since 2010-2011 we have suffered an \$8 million loss to our district between State cuts and student loss. Mr. Grusecki commented that the district did not do what was needed at that time to address the loss.

Today Mr. Grusecki met with State Superintendent, Mike Flannigan and Wayne RESA Superintendents; they discussed setting up a Task Force to look at struggling districts. Mr. Grusecki has volunteered to

be a part of this. Unlike Lansing, he knows, through firsthand experience, the pain of loss and concession. It's time the pressure was put back on Lansing. State Superintendent Flannigan met with Governor Snyder and asked for more money to be put in the budget for the schools and the governor denied it. Superintendent Flannigan understands that cuts and concession can no longer fix the problem. The level of frustration is on the rise, people will start leaving districts with their children.

Mr. Grusecki hopes to be a part of the Task Force that will hit this issue hard with Lansing; the correction needs to come from there. He also mentioned he met with Senators Hopgood and Smith as well as Representative Kandrevas and spoke of what is important to us in Southgate and asked for the political games to stop.

FINANCE

Ms. McLachlan presented the 2013-2014 Amended Budget. This is the third amendment for the General Fund and the first amendment for the Cafeteria Fund and Special Education Center Program Fund. She reported on the line items and how those figures were arrived at. This amended budget needs to be approved and sent to Lansing for our DEP or we are not in compliance with the plan.

CONSENT

2013/14 -148 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

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

NO:

ACTION

2013/14 -149 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education Approve the Amended 2013-2014 Budget.

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

NO:

2013/14 -150 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education Approve the Resolution in support of the Classrooms and Kids Budget Proposal.

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

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Mark Gaffney- Local 214 Representative, spoke on behalf of the Administrative Assistants Union stating they still do not have a contract agreement. He highlighted the value of the work these employees provide to the district, the importance of their presence in the offices of each building. One issue he wanted to bring to the board's attention was the step increases which have been frozen

for 3 years. The union is asking for the steps to be unfrozen for only 7 of their members which would amount to \$5000. Pointing out the fact that steps have been unfrozen for teachers and administrators, he asked the same consideration be given to the Administrative Assistants. This would only be 1/8 of 1% of the deficit, but honoring the request to unfreeze the steps for a few members would recognize the value of these employees.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION

Mr. Knott mentioned the boards desire to create a Negotiation Team so the board gets a better feel for what is going with contract negotiations, and promote more dialogue between the Unions and the Board of Education.

Dr. Pomponio announced that Sue Murray would be receiving an award at the 2014 Wayne County Association of School Boards awards dinner. There will be a meeting on March 27 regarding internet safety. She commented that double parking and blocking the flow of traffic is causing contentious behavior at the buildings and asked for parent cooperation.

Mr. Hayhurst reported the Finance Committee has met regarding the budget; copies were given to the board. Inequities still exist in the per student allotment. The state has devastated districts with their cuts.

Ms. Murray congratulated the Winter Guard for going to Nationals.

Ms. Reed-Hall mentioned the Asher boys basketball team was going to States.

Mr. Grusecki commented that the anniversary of Tyler Nichols' suicide was a difficult day for many. On that day the News Herald reporter met with him, Mrs. Nichols and Ruth Kemp. There was good dialogue regarding Mrs. Nichols' work with suicide prevention programs. An article was written for the News Herald regarding this meeting.

Mr. Knott and Dr. Pomponio showed the Board art projects they brought from the Grogan Institute of Arts show. They complimented the students on their fine work. Both mentioned how much they enjoyed the event

CLOSED SESSION

2013/14 -151 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, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

2013/14 -152 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, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

2013/14 - 153 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, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

Dr. Darlene Pomponio, Secretary
Board of Education

