

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED

DATE: May 31, 2016

VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Craig

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Hainrihar, McLachlan, Pastor

Also present: Martha Marcero-Thrun Law Firm

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

TREASURER

MARK KREMER

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2015/16-159 A motion was made by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the May 31, 2016 Special Board Meeting agenda.

YES: Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG
NEIL J. FREITAS
SELDEN GREEN

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE HAINRIHAR

SPSA LETTER

Ms. Reed read a letter she had received from the Southgate Supervisors and Principals Association (SPSA) dated May 18, 2016:

Ms. Reed,

We are writing to express the Union's serious concerns regarding what we perceive as an inappropriate use of your position as an elected member of the Board of Education and your intervention in a disciplinary matter. While the union respects your office and your right to comment, both as a citizen and a parent, your recent conduct was not acceptable and must not be repeated.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

First, you attended a meeting to discuss a disciplinary matter. While you were invited to attend, your presence did not implicate your status as a member of the Board of Education. You were there to express your concern as a parent. However, you departed from that status and were abusive and caustic to an administrator.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

School administrators do not work for individual members of the Board of Education. You have no supervisory or disciplinary authority over any member of our bargaining unit. Your comments at this meeting revealed what we conclude was your lack of understanding of this fundamental principle. In the future, please refrain from any attempt to supervise school administration.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

Second, it appears that you have created an account on a social media platform through which you are advertising your candidacy for public office and expressing your views as a citizen as well as a member of the Board of Education. You have every right to speak as you wish in any capacity. However, be advised that false criticism or defamatory statements will not be tolerated and may be a basis for legal action.

Third, the Union has made mid contact changes on important matters because it is committed to the success of the District but also because it has enjoyed a collaborative relationship with both administration and the Board of Education.

Finally, the Union hopes that dialogue regarding any future incidents will be at a professional level and not be permitted to get out of hand. The Union hopes, and expects, that you will serve our community in the most positive manner and that issues will not again become excessively and dramatically discussed.

*Sincerely,
Southgate Principals and Supervisors Association*

After reading the letter, Ms. Reed recused herself from running the meeting and turned that responsibility over to Vice President Paul Knott.

Mr. Knott addressed the boards concerns over a letter such as this being sent to the Board President and stated the board does not take this lightly. The board wants to clear this up. He asked for someone from SPSA to come to the microphone to answer questions from the board.

Dr. Baker-Herring-President of the SPSA and AHS Principal, Jason Martin-Vice President of the SPSA and AHS Assistant Principal and Dennis Kemp-Chief Negotiator for the SPSA and DMS Principal came forward and seated themselves at the conference table.

Dr. Baker-Herring stated the collaborative relationship the SPSA has had with the board of education is deteriorating rapidly in light of the recent incidences that were highlighted in the letter. The membership got together and agreed to address the concerns in a letter to Ms. Reed, in an effort to turn this around.

Discussion took place about the contents of the letter. Ms. Reed denied the incidents took place, disagreed with statements in the letter. SPSA representatives answered questions about the letters' contents from Mr. Knott. Ms. Hainrihar spoke about the need to focus on the positives in the district and send that message.

No conclusions were made. It was the consensus of everyone involved that many positive things are happening in Southgate and we want to move forward as a district and work together for the students of Southgate Community Schools. All agree that improved communication among all parties is necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

2015/16-160 A motion was made by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Kremer the board adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Green, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

