



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

DATE: October 21, 2014

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMONIO

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

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Hainrihar, Pastor, McLachlan

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG
SUE MURRAY
PATRICK OWEN

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

The pledge of allegiance was recited.
President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

ADMINISTRATION

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE HAINRIHAR

2014/15-277 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall
To revise the agenda to add additional minutes to the Oct 7
2014 Regular Board Meeting minutes to include discussion of
Intruder Alert Drill.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

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

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

2014/15-278 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall
that the board approve the amended agenda for the October
21, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Knott introduced the new Asher Student Representative, Amber Goins and thanked Mr. Mark Kremer for his time and efforts as the previous Asher Student Representative. Ms. Goins is a mother of 5, attends Asher and explained that she is going back to school for her diploma so she can continue on with her dream of becoming a physician's assistant. She is a member of the Asher Student Council. The student council attended the Legislative Forum held at Crystal Garden's on October 20th. Progress reports will be mailed out Oct 22. Parent Teacher conferences will be held on Friday October 24. Advisors are working on strategies to better students' retention. Advisors are also working on every students credit update so students have a better idea of when they will graduate. Ms. Izzi is spear heading several safety committees. Groups are looking for stake holders such as Teachers, Administrators, Students and Community members who use Asher school. Special Education Services are now being offered. Ruth Kemp and Jacki McGowan are working on this project.

Anderson High School Student Representative Ms. Frank announced the Haunted Auditorium will take place October 23rd and 24th, and 30th and 31st. The cost is \$4 or \$3 with two non-perishable food items to donate to the Southgate Food Bank. Quarter 1 will end on Oct 31. Report cards will go out on Nov. 6th. There is a half day on October 23 and no school on Nov. 4th.

Anderson High School Student Representative Mr. Swinehart gave the board an update on the Anderson High School Athletic events. The Boys Cross Country team place 1st Place in the District Competitions.

Mr. Swinehart informed the board Anderson students also went to the Legislative Forum. He stated the candidates from District 1, 3, 4 and 6 spoke on issues including the importance of increasing education. Virgil Smith spoke on K-12 education and the importance of keeping our educated individuals in our state.

Dr. Pomponio asked Asher Rep Amber Goins how often the Safety Committees meet and if these are new committees. Ms. Hainrhar stated that Ms. Izzi is implementing the new safety laws in the building as well as starting work on the crisis response team and manual.

PRESENTATIONS

Curriculum Director Jill Pastor gave the board the required Focus School Quarterly Report. This is to comply with the Michigan Department of Education. The Focus School is Allen Elementary. This school was chosen due to the gap between the highest and lowest performing students. Some of those areas the gap occurred were in Social Studies and Math. Bill Webber from Michigan State University has been assigned as the Districts Improvement Facilitator. He has met with Ms. Hainrihar, Ms. Chilson and Ms. Pastor, where planning began. District analysis, proficiency targets are being analyzed, and where Allen fits in. A resource survey (ERS) is being reviewed to see that we are using our resources appropriately with our neediest buildings. The Advanced Ed report that is due in February has already been submitted.

Ms. Pastor will be at Allen next week to do a data dialogue. That will be on her next quarterly report to the board. We will also be doing the Superintendent's drop out challenge. Ms. Pastor will do a detailed Power Point presentation in January with all of the data.

She stated that she will be reporting three more times to meet the MDE requirements, the format is required and is due in MEGS in January.

Dr. Pomponio inquired about Advanced Ed. Ms. Pastor stated this is the website where we submit our School Improvement Plans and all of our required school diagnostics including self-assessment, Title 1 school wide diagnostic, an executive summary and a school data analysis. Every school has to do this but the Focus School has some additional requirements.

DISCUSSION

Finance Report-Theresa McLachlan reported that on November 11th, at our next Regular Board Meeting, the District's Auditors, Yeo and Yeo, will be here to make a formal presentation on the audit and the results of our operations for the 13/14 Fiscal Year. The lead partner will meet with the Finance Committee on October 30 to go over the details of the reports. As an overview she reported on the General Fund, the increase in the Fund Balance was budgeted at \$400,245.00. Actual increase was \$923,736.00; giving a favorable variance of \$523,491.00.

This is mainly due to lower than anticipated health insurance costs from the closeout of our self-funded policy and lower discretionary spending all the way around. Beacon Day Program is a balancing fund where the revenue equals the expenditures due to the indirect costs that go to the General Fund. The activity was approx. \$388,000.00 lower, however our level of service and the number of students stayed level and the decrease was mainly due to the decrease in the employee benefit costs.

The Cafeteria Fund showed no increase or decrease in the fund balance for the year. The actual activity resulted in an increase of \$87,186.00 mainly due to lower food costs for the year.

The Debt Fund balance increased by \$46,299.00 due to lower than anticipated tax write offs for the year.

Ms. McLachlan reviewed once again the Operating Millage Proposal on the November 4 ballot. The voters of Southgate and South Allen Park will be asked to vote on the renewal of the district's 18mil Non Homestead Operating Millage. The last time the voters were asked to vote on this was 20 years ago, with an additional .25 mills voted on and approved 5 years ago. The 18 mills are assessed on business, industrial and commercial property; that is not the owner's principal residence such as rental homes and apartment buildings. This is a renewal, a continuation of the 18mils that has been assessed for the operation of the school district for the last 20 years. It is not a new tax and there is no increase in the actual millage rate.

Under Michigan School Law, even though the 18mils is not assessed on an individual's principal residence voters must approve the renewal. The 18 mills represent 10.5% of the district's General Fund revenue, approximately \$4.5 million per year. The ballot language does state the amount being renewed is 18.1262 mills, however only 18 mills will be levied if it is approved. The additional mills would be available so the district will still be able to levy the 18mils annually if in any year we had to reduce the 18 mills because the taxable value increases more than the rate of inflation. That is what is referred to as the Headlee Rollback. The renewal is for ten years. The State of Michigan assumes that every school district will assess the 18 mills, so that amount is subtracted from each districts payment of our State Aid Foundation Allowance. The allowance is made up of our State Aid and property taxes. If it is rejected the state does not make up the difference and the district will lose this funding. This would have a significant impact on the operations of the district and our deficit elimination plan.

Failure to renew the millage over the course of 10 years is the equivalent of losing \$45 million. This millage renewal is very important for our district and the education of our students. We want to make sure everyone knows this is a renewal and this millage does not affect the property taxes on the principal residence for homeowners and it is not an increase for the properties subject to the tax.

There will be no change in property tax bills because of this renewal. Please contact the business office if anyone has questions.

Mr. Hayhurst asked about the increases in fund balances, Ms. McLachlan stated that they were due to the fact we were self-funded and now we are fully funded. When you pay based on claims you have to keep that policy open for two years. In the budget is an estimate of those costs, and the costs were not as high as budgeted.

Superintendent's Report- Ms. Hainrihar reported that she is continuing to track student enrollment numbers. Asher is still tracking because they are on a different schedule; worst case scenario, if we lose the 60 students Asher is tracking we will be at a loss of 274 students. If all of those students appear we would only be losing 214 which would still be under our DEP figures of 250.

Ms. Hainrihar attended a New Superintendent's meeting with State Superintendent Flannigan and several directors and deputy directors from the Michigan Department of Education. She was provided with some updates on Spring Testing and Teacher Evaluations. Superintendent Flannigan spoke of the challenges that face us now compared to years past.

The Superintendent's Facebook page has pictures of W.A.T.C.H. Dogs posted which prompted questions about that program. It is a national initiative that provides positive male role models for students. It also provides an extra set of eyes and ears in the buildings to enhance school security and reduce bullying. Allen and Shelters have held their orientation night and have been scheduling their W.A.T.C.H. Dogs during the day. Fordline has received their materials and is working with their PTO to schedule their orientation night. Grogan has reviewed and ordered their materials and expect them to arrive in November. The W.A.T.C.H. Dogs have been well received by students and staff and she is very excited to see this program and the elementary buildings are expanding.

This year we have added an At-Risk Counselor to AHS as part of their Intervention Strategies that focus on increasing student academic success. Other strategies include lunch time academic assistance for 9th grade students missing assignments or failing core classes. They are referred from a 9th grade team of teachers that identify students. Titan Time is a voluntary after school tutoring program supported by Staff and Honor Students.

There is an elective class, for credit, called Guided Academics, geared toward Freshmen who qualify for At-Risk services per Federal Guidelines. They were all enrolled into this program. If a student failed one or more classes in the 8th grade that was also placed on their schedule. A student could also be recommended by a teacher, parent request or per IEP or 504 plan. There are limited spots for upper classmen, mostly placed there due to 504 plans or extended medical issues that may have prompted a lot of absences. There are older students who are placed in those to assist with tutoring.

Dr. Baker-Herring , Dawn Olson and the Guided Academics teachers have developed a consistent progress monitoring strategy, they have a Wiki page of all their resources, developed a consistent grading policy and meet regularly to report their progress.

Research tells us that nationally if a 9th grader fails even one semester class in their first year of high school they are four times more likely to drop out or not graduate on time. So the focus at AHS is to really wrap around the 9th grade and provide early intervention.

Ms. Frank commented that she is a tutor in the Guided Academics Program and it really does help students boost their grades. It gives the students beneficial support that they need.

Ms. Goins also appreciates the supportive programs that are available to students.

Mr. Hayhurst asked if this was a new program. Ms. Hainrihar said the At-Risk counseling is new, but we had Link Crew last year.

Ms. Murray stated in 1998 she had asked for programs to help At-Risk students and she is pleased that this has come to fruition.

Mr. Knott thanked Ms. Hainrihar for going to Lansing and spending time with Mr. Flannigan, especially during our DEP.

CONSENT

2014/15-279 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board approve the minutes from the October 6, 2014 Special Board Meeting and the October 7, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

YES: Hayhurst, Knott, Murray, Owen, Pomponio, Reed-Hall

NO:

ABSTAIN: Craig

2014/15-280 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the HR updates as presented.

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

NO:

ACTION

2014/15-281 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall to approve the Resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of Southgate Community School District 2015 Refunding Bonds.

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

NO:

Ms. McLachlan explained this is to refund 2005-2006 refunding bonds from our original bond that are now eligible for refunding again. The total principal being refunded is \$24,355,000.00. The bond payments go for 10 years and over the ten years we will have a savings of \$2,859,000.00 due to lower interest rates we will be getting.

2014/15-282 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the Field Trip Request for students to attend the Virtual Enterprises International Trade Show in Pigeon Forge, TN.

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

NO:

2014/15-283 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the Teachers as presented by HR who have successfully completed their probationary period and be placed on continuing tenure status as of the date presented.

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

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mark Kremer addressed the board and thanked them for the opportunity to work with them;

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hayhurst reminded voters to look on page two of the ballot and approve the renewal of the millage for Southgate Community School District. This is a renewal not a new tax. This affects property taxes on all property except your principle residence. It is not a vote to increase any taxes and it does not change the property taxes on your home.

Ms. Reed-Hall concurred with Mr. Hayhurst. She also wanted to comment on the political blog that she has with 8000 followers. "As we approach the election we need to keep in mind and keep our eye on the actual issue at hand. Union or no union, each teacher makes a choice every day to inspire and lead our children our students and our future. We need to inspire and uplift those who are shaping our future. If you do not have a strong school system you have no community. Good and bad fall in all things, and if we chose to dote on the positive instead of nit-pick and shame the negative then the better will always pull up the lacking. Our current governor has decided to fulfill his own agenda at our public schools expense and is discouraging educated, motivated, passionate educators to work in our state".

"He continues to negate Proposition A, seems to enjoy breaking the structure of the brick and mortar education system and wildly misinterprets what has and has not been done for our state, specifically our education system. Many top rated graduates from UM and other colleges and many other amazing schools in the state, 80% are no longer working in Michigan. We have some of the brightest and best in what will be their fields and Southgate isn't offering them somewhere to work and stay. We all have the same core values, task at hand and we need to let the fluff go as we work it out".

"We all need to understand that everything is a part of a trickle-down effect that comes from the Governor, not this board not the superintendent and not the wonderful teachers who make up all of our schools in this district. There is not one man or woman who can save our state, we all have to take part and in some cases that may mean crossing party lines. We need to become a party of the people and we need to become a party of Southgate. If you are unhappy about your child having to leave the state of Michigan to go to an affordable school or a better career opportunity, you should be writing letters and emails to your reps and elected officials"

Ms. Reed-Hall said she 'thinks teachers are getting tired of being spoken at and not to, and tired of being seen as a "union". Early education is not just about explaining a math problem or diagramming a sentence. It is preparing a future generation while navigating every social problem that exists, with not one but hundreds of young people a day. We are forcing schools to do this with less and less and yet enforcing higher and stronger means of measurement and evaluation all of which have nothing to do with closing the achievement gap. We expect educators alone to instill knowledge, manners, social skills, motivation, attention span control, emotional stability, equality in a fish bowl of life and when

that doesn't happen it seems we are attacking teachers and administrators and we call them bad people. For some it is a job for others a career, but for those that teaching is their lives and realize and understand every word, mannerism and unspoken behavior on our future, she will defend, support and acknowledge. She asked that people take these things into consideration. That Rick Snyder has an agenda against our teachers and Mark Shauer said the first thing he will do is not give money to our schools but give back what has already been taken'.

Dr. Pomponio stated that it is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. We did create an Anti-Bullying Policy which will be updated and reviewed. It is mimicked from the Legislation from 2012 which is Matt's Safe School Law. She said it was created with the ideas and elements with the State Law in mind which include reporting, investigating written records. She asked Ms. Hainrihar to get the building reports for the annual review. During the policy making for the Anti-Bullying Policy, which was law driven, The investigation part which is the incident reports which have to be reported to the state through the Education Committee. She would like to keep in line with the legal requirements.

She wanted to remind parents, teachers and administrators that those reports have to be used to track all of the incidents as a written record which is part of the legislative requirement.

Anyone interested in becoming a Girl Scout, Shelters is looking for volunteers to help out with a troupe and for girls wanting to join. The city recreation department has Fall Skating registration, the deadline is Friday Oct 24.

Ms. Murray stated that there is a write in candidate for the upcoming school board election. You can check with the clerk's office for more information on that candidate.

WORK SESSION

Mr. Knott informed the viewing audience that the board would move into a Work Session at 7:45 p.m. and would not be back.

ADJOURNMENT

2014/15-284 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall the board adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

NO:

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

