



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

City Council Chambers

14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

DATE: September 12, 2017 -7:00 p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT

JASON CRAIG

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

SECRETARY

ANDREW A. GREEN

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

TREASURER

JASON R. KUPSER

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Chretien, McLachlan, Pastor

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

TRUSTEES

TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

NEIL J. FREITAS

REBECCA REED

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dr. Pomponio read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dr. Pomponio removed work Item #3, Mr. Kupser added Branding Standards to the Work Items. Dr. Pomponio added a Presentation by Mr. Morin-Director of Human Resources.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE CHRETIEN

2017/18-24 It was moved by Mr. Green supported by Mr. Craig, the board approve the September 12, 2017 Revised Agenda.

YES: Craig, Frietas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of New Employee: Mr. Morin-Director of Human Resources, introduced new AHS Biology and Chemistry teacher, Danielle Misovich. Ms. Misovich graduated from Grand Valley State, spring of 2017. She has worked at Grand Rapids Public schools; UPREP at Grand Rapids High School, Reading Interventionist at Grand Rapids Elementary Schools. Student teaching took place at Coopersville High School. She is excited to bring her experience here. The board welcomed her.

DIRECTOR OF

HUMAN RESOURCES

GERARD L. MORIN

Mr. Morin will bring another new employee to the next board meeting to introduce to the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anti-Bullying- Dr. Pomponio-meeting will be rescheduled.

Finance-Mr. Kupser-A finance committee meeting was scheduled for August 26, 2017 and discussion was held as to whether this committee will be removed from the agenda. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

Policy-Dr. Pomponio- Working on the review of three separate policies; the committee agenda and policy for logos. The policies being worked on should be completed by the beginning of next month.

Legislative -Ms. Reed-currently there isn't any meeting established. She will let the board president know to have that posted when the next meeting will be.

Curriculum-Dr. Pomponio-No report.

Personnel- Mr. Green-due to the fact Mr. Estheimer could not meet today, the meeting was rescheduled for next month at a date to be determined.

Grounds & Maintenance- Dr. Pomponio-Nothing to report.

Mr. Kupser asked about the process for getting committee meeting agendas and minutes on the website. They should be forwarded to Ms. Grzechowski for posting on the website.

All committees hold open meetings at Southgate's board offices or other location that will be posted. Dates of meetings, committee members, agendas and minutes are posted on the web page.

Mr. Estheimer arrived at 7:12 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Finance- Theresa McLachlan-Year end is still wrapping up. The budget report that is normally attached to the check register for the month was not included due to the fact the reconciled activity would have been as of the end of July. The revenue and expenditures that get paid in July and August are actually required to be put back into the prior year and with the timing of the reversals, July and August should be together. This report will be given the beginning of October with a year to date for July and August.

In lieu of additional reports tonight the cabinet is going to go over our five year plan, which is our current working document.

Curriculum- Ms. Pastor & Superintendent-Ms. Chretien (combined reports)

Ms. Chretien, Ms. Pastor and Special Services Director, Kelly Thomas presented the board with the 5 Year Plan. This was given to the board as well as placed in the Google Drive for them. This plan was developed by the Administrative Team to match the work we are required to do as well as our district and building initiatives to mesh with our Strategic Planning. This is a standing agenda item at Staff Meetings. The Plan includes:

- Illuminate
- MTSS/3rd Grade Reading Law
- Student Growth
- Evaluation
- Curriculum/Atlas Rubicon
- Tool Kit-Requirement
- Coordinated Early Intervening Services (Social Emotional Learning-SEL) & Panorama
- Special Education & Least Restrictive Environment
- College & Career Readiness (CCR)

In each of these areas, the requirements and supports were reviewed and explained. This was an overview of initiatives both required and by choice. It has been placed in a 5-year document because we want to keep this in front of everybody. We want to make sure that all of our decisions financially, from a technology standpoint are all supporting the next step in all of these initiatives. This will be a standing item on our Administrative Team agendas. The buildings will have many of these items on their monthly staff meeting agendas.

One thing that will be added to the 5 Year Plan, after speaking to Mr. Toschi, there needs to be a technology focus. For example the Chrome Books that we purchased several years ago are into their life cycle, so we need to make a plan for how we are going to be replacing those Chrome Books that are needed for the standardized testing. We will be adding technology. This is a living, breathing document we want to make adjustments as we need to and keep it in front of everyone at the same time. This plan will be placed on a team drive in google docs., others will have access to view.

Discussion took place about the financial aspects of this plan; funding will be noted in the Plan. Pivot and Panorama were explained. The new exclusion and restraint law/training was reviewed.

Board President Update- Dr. Pomponio- Beacon is having their Grand Rapids art competition on the 29th. Board members were asked to take a look at the Board Self-Assessment which will be due in the next couple of months. Dr. Pomponio will send the template again and one of the work sessions for the upcoming meetings.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

CONSENT

2017/18-25 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Kupser, the board approve the HR Update and the Disbursements for August 2017.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

ACTION

1. Reinstatement recommendation for Student 2015-16-3:

2017/18- 26 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Green, the board enter a closed session for the purpose of considering an application of reinstatement and the recommendation of the Reinstatement Committee for student 2015-16-3.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

Time: 7:39 p.m.

2017/18-27 It was moved by Mr. Kupser supported by Mr. Craig, the board return to open session at 7:52 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

2017/18-28 It was moved by Mr. Craig supported by Mr. Green, the board approve the reinstatement application and recommendation of the Reinstatement Committee for full reinstatement for student 2015-16-3.

Roll Call vote:

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

2. Closing of Huntington Bank Transitions Checking Account xxxxxx7960: Ms. McLachlan stated this action is to close the account that was set up for Transitions to facilitate that program's community based instruction activities. Based on enrollment data over the summer, Wayne County RESA made the determination that Southgate would not be operating the Transitions Program, the students would be going to similar programs in other districts. Our budget for Act 18 when we do the amendment will not include the Transitions Program, so there is no point, no need for this checking account. She is requesting the board approve the closure of this account.

2017/18-29 It was moved by Mr. Green supported by Mr. Estheimer, the board approve the closing of the Transitions checking account at Huntington Bank, account number ending in 7960.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Estheimer apologized for being a few minutes late to the meeting, he was coaching a soccer game. He was able to follow along on YouTube so he did not miss much of the discussion. He welcomed new employee Ms. Misovich. He made a presentation to Southgate City Council to update them on summer construction as it pertains to the voter passed bond initiative. He thanked Ms. Chretien for her help in drafting the guiding document. He has a copy of the presentation for the board president. He will meet with council quarterly and update them on district happenings. Councilman Rausch yielded his time to Mr. Estheimer during the work session to speak on his behalf. He acknowledged Food Service Director and his Team, no findings were identified with our schools' nutrition program by the State of Michigan. They commended Mr. Connors and his staff for a job well done for its administration of the schools nutrition program.

He welcomed back the kids at Shelters, a PTO meeting will be held on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. everyone is encouraged to attend. Fordline will have an ice cream social with a \$1.00 donation that will benefit the PTO, it runs from 6:30 til 7:30 p.m. Thursday at 6:00 p.m. is their first PTO meeting. He wished the girls Freshman Volleyball team, the boys Varsity Tennis, the girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball good luck. He also congratulated the Varsity Football Team for toppling Trenton.

Ms. Chretien commented there were some City Council members in attendance at the football game, they were very grateful for Mr. Estheimer's report, it was an awesome win. She added how exciting it was to attend a tennis match on our tennis courts. The coaches believe this would have been the first home match that we have been able to hold since 2001. She then went to see the girls' volleyball game in the gym with all of our new bleachers and our new lights which were really nice.

The band practicing on the newly lined student parking lot field. The cross country team was running on our new track. It was a phenomenal experience to see all of that going on in all the new facilities.

Mr. Green welcomed all of the Asher students who started back this week. Grogan Elementary had their ice cream social last Wednesday and it was very successful. There is a PTO meeting on the 12th. The first Friday Movie Night will be on the 15th. He also wanted to congratulate and wished good luck and continued success to all the boys and girls sports teams, JROTC, the band and all of the programs as we start the new school year. He also wanted to thank the superintendent and construction team for showing board members the updated construction work last week during a walk-through.

Ms. Reed announced on September 25 the Annual Powder Puff Football at 6:00 p.m. This has been an annual fundraiser for Senior Prom for several years. To all those students who sent her emails, participated or sent information on what they did to acknowledge Suicide Prevention Week she appreciates all that they are doing from grades six through twelve, including parents and families who have been involved; done small fund raisers and done their part to pay attention. She acknowledged there are a lot of big bands that have been promoted on social media that probably got more teenagers involved in the last two years, but it was good to see a lot of our Southgate students take the initiative to do this on their own. This week during lunch at AHS by Thursday, cap and gown deposits are due for graduating seniors. It is \$50, Jostens will be in the lunch area, with information for students to fill out. If parents don't have that information she will post it online. As a reminder to parents who signed up to go to Wellston Michigan, Sept 15 from 1-3:00 p.m. for understanding the content of the IEP, there is a group that is going. Nicole Miller was taking the registration and there was a parent putting together carpooling. For more information Ms. Reed can be contacted for that.

Dr. Pomponio commented that parents would be very proud of all of the new updates, everything looks so great. She, Mr. Estheimer and Mr. Green walked through everything, seeing the new bleachers, tennis courts and the new football stands and the track, everything is great, even the parking lot with the numbers for the band. She hoped parents would get the chance to get out there and take a look at it. She said the Web Leaders did a great job for the summer training and training for the new crew for 6th graders and for registration day. She welcomed back students, parents and staff and wished them a great school year.

WORK ITEMS

1. Athletic Budget: Mr. Pinkowski was on hand to answer questions from the board regarding millage spending on athletic needs. Ms. Chretien reviewed the proposals brought to the board regarding priorities and increases to the athletic budget.

Mr. Pinkowski addressed the board regarding the how he prioritizes the spending of the athletic budget, he has 4 areas of focus; equipment replacement, supplies, uniforms and transportation. Transportation is limited for all levels and all sports. The change in the athletic monies would be with discretionary spending money. The current budget supports insurance, coaches, officials and limited transportation. Teams fundraise to purchase awards, some of their uniforms, tournament fees. Under the bond there was a very small amount of very specific athletic equipment monies we were able to spend, we bought new soccer goals. Mr. Pinkowski has successfully found some supportive donors for bigger ticket athletic equipment.

Discussion took place about the purchase of an ice machine, uniform replacement, transportation, Pay to Play money and its history. Ms. Chretien stated we have the opportunity to restore some discretionary money after not having it for a very long time. Mr. Pinkowski stated he doesn't just spend money because it's there, this will be about needs not wants.

Ms. Reed questioned the recent door to door fundraising by the band and what the policy is on that. Mr. Pinkowski and Ms. Chretien said they will look into this. Ms. Chretien encourage board members to email her immediately if they see or hear of something they are unsure of.

Ms. Reed questioned the parking fee going up. Mr. Pinkowski said this money goes into the security budget to purchase, cameras, walkie-talkies and other security supplies. The fee we are charging is in keeping with surrounding districts.

Ms. Reed had several people reach out to her about what they think is a security tower at the high school in the student parking lot, she asked if Mr. Pinkowski could confirm this is for the band program. Mr. Pinkowski stated this scaffolding is only for the band season and will be taken down after the marching season. There are harnesses and security and only adults can use it.

Mr. Craig asked about the process for fundraising and if they have to report what they are spending the money on. Mr. Pinkowski keeps a calendar so fundraisers do not overlap, they get approved through the main office. Ms. Chretien commented the sooner we get back to the district supporting athletic needs such as uniforms completely, we have a lot more control over this, the school district would not be buying four or five different sets of uniforms. When it is a parent led booster group raising and spending the money it is difficult for us to control all of that. Mr. Pinkowski stated the coaches or the sponsor of a club or group usually set the priority for what they need to be successful and present that to the booster clubs and to spend the money wisely.

Mr. Kupser inquired about the Pay to Play and how it relates to the general fund.

Dr. Pomponio asked if they could see the budget reports for Curriculum, Maintenance and Athletics as it relates to the millage spending. These reports will be made available to the board by Ms. McLachlan. Ms. Chretien stated when the board receives the director reports, they will be ready to do their annual report to the board. The board can submit questions to Ms. Chretien, such as asking for the director to supply their budget. There might not be enough time to go into that much detail during a meeting but they can give the board the information.

Dr. Pomponio asked about the athletic trainer. Ms. Chretien stated the board has already approved that and the job has been posted. When the whole package was brought to the board, by consensus the board approved all of the proposals except for the additional questions about athletics. At the end of this work session she would ask the board, by consensus, is to whether or not the board is prepared to make a decision about the proposal to add discretionary spending to the athletic budget.

Mr. Freitas asked about the concession stands and the use of the machines. Mr. Pinkowski stated the machines are owned by the district. Every team has their own booster club if they want one. They have the right to run their concession but if they choose not to, other groups would gladly take that over. The boosters supply their own items to sell. They have guidelines, State Laws to follow. Our concession stands are subject to inspection. The Inspector, Nate Lay and Dan Connors our Food Service Director provide additional information and support to the booster groups for food safety. Our new license was just given to us. We were required to install a three-compartment sink in the indoor concession stand.

Mr. Freitas inquired about the items coaches may need and if there is an annual meeting between them and Mr. Pinkowski and the response to Pay to Play elimination. Mr. Pinkowski meets with all of them annually, prior to their season and discuss budget needs. They do this in the off season, it's the best time to get the best deals for purchasing. Mr. Pinkowski said the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Many kids are coming out for sports that haven't before because they couldn't afford to.

Mr. Kupser asked about the difference between the work items versus action items in terms of what is direction and if this needs to be voted on. Ms. Chretien stated the board approved the budget all of that money is in the budget. It was at the board's request and agreement that we were going to keep track and that we were going to bring items for spending to the board one at a time. It does not need to be an action item. The other proposals brought forward were in a work session and we did it by consensus.

Dr. Pomponio said the millage money is in the general fund and can be used at the discretion of the superintendent.

Ms. Chretien stated most districts place the millage money in the general fund, the administration make recommendations then it comes to the board packaged in the whole budget. At the request of this board they really felt, in order to make sure the community was aware of the spending of the millage money and that it was being tracked in a different way, we have this process. It's not required to be an action item, as in the past the board to action to limit the athletic budget. It wasn't binding from year to year it was an agreement of the board. As a board they can make all of these action items.

Mr. Kupser said he just wants to see the transparency of it, this is the discretion of the superintendent. Work items do not need to be action items.

Dr. Pomponio asked for a consensus of the board, all members agreed.

2. Student Body Representatives: Moving forward to get some additional student comment and representatives in front of the board, this could replace the student representatives. There is a board policy requiring us to have reps. Ms. Chretien is asking for clarification from the board, do they want to eliminate the policy and have her proceed in trying to get a rotating group of many students for many reasons doing presentations or should she pursue reps from AHS and Asher.

Dr. Pomponio said the policy was created so we made sure we had those representatives. To have support from other schools they requested it as needed. She asked the board if they would want additional people from all of the buildings.

Ms. Chretien said time is a concern, we continue to have a pretty hefty action agenda and now we are going to be having many more directors in front of the board on a regular basis as requested. If we have student representatives and add all of the other groups, time is a concern.

Discussion took place regarding reviewing and updating the policy, having multiple reps and what groups/clubs/schools they would come from; question of the need for the policy and just allow students to show up and discuss during public comment.

The Policy Committee will review the policy on student representation. Ms. Chretien will structure some invitations to the buildings to come in and do a more varied report to the board in terms of student representation.

3. Branding Standards: Mr. Kupser wanted to talk about the branding standards as it relates to the district, how we use logos, color, images, icons or graphics. He asked if there is anything written down regarding a brand standard for the district. This is a part of the marketing of the district.

Ms. Chretien said that while she can answer some of these questions, she would prefer to have an opportunity to get a little prepared. We do have approved district logos, there is a board policy that talks about who may use the logo and under what circumstances. In Administrative Regulations, the decision to move all of the mascots to the Titans, was made by her predecessor. While logos in and around the district in various buildings may be from the past, we don't remove those, they are a part of the history of the district. She asked Mr. Kupser to send her the list of questions if the board is agreeable that this is an investigation that they are interested in. She will certainly do some research and bring some kind of information back to the board.

Discussion took place about the history of the mascots in the district, and understanding our brand and it's imagery; and the policy as it relates to this.

ADJOURNMENT

2017/18-30 It was moved by Mr. Kupser supported by Mr. Craig, the board adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Kupser, Pomponio, Reed

NO:

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

Andrew A. Green-Secretary
Board of Education

For detailed conversation, Board meetings may be viewed in their entirety on our website: www.southgateschools.com

