



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**City Council Chambers**

**14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195**

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED

**DATE: September 15, 2015**

VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Craig, Freitas, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Hainrihar, McLachlan, Pastor

TRUSTEES

JASON CRAIG  
NEIL J. FREITAS  
MARK KREMER

**ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ms. Reed read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

**ADMINISTRATION**

SUPERINTENDENT

LESLIE HAINRIHAR

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2015/16- 29 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Hayhurst the board approve the September 15, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

**YES:** Craig, Freitas, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed  
**NO:**

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

**CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS**

None

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

**PRESENTATIONS**

New Staff Introductions-Mary Hildebrandt, Human Resources Director introduced Blake Browe the new Transitions teacher; Natalie Dahl a new Special Education teacher at AHS; Maegan Drake the new ELA teacher at AHS; Amy Huziak new Special Education teacher at Beacon; Marcee McGuire new Special Education teacher at AHS; Charla Ross new Social Worker at Asher; Melissa Schmidt new elementary Social Worker; Sarah Slivnick new drafting teacher at AHS; Ashley Speirs new Special Education Teacher at Beacon-to the board of education. They were Congratulated and wished well for the upcoming school year.

## DISCUSSION

Finance-Ms. McLachlan let the board know we are in the middle of completing the reports at the end of the year for Special Education, Transportation, Finance and getting everything ready for the new school year. She had good news via email from Steve Ezikian, Deputy Superintendent-RESA, stating that we are receiving an adjustment after our final calculation from the 2012/13 Act 18 program. Now is when our payments are offset for 15/16 they made adjustments due to UALL retirement. They reduced our amount of 50% resulting in a \$66,000 gain for the district. This gets recorded in the 14/15 school year.

Curriculum-Jill Pastor had no report for the board.

Superintendent's Report-Leslie Hainrihar thanked everyone for a great, smooth start. Several principals have said this is one of the smoothest starts of their careers. Ms. Hainrihar managed to get to all of the buildings and she was impressed; this was the first day of school, a half day but the students came in, they knew what to do, they were in class, engaged in learning. She only saw one child crying and a few parents but it was a wonderful start to the year.

Bond Update-Frequently asked questions can be found on our web page [www.southgateschools.com](http://www.southgateschools.com). She shared some of those questions that can be found there; Why is the district doing this work now? The district completed an extensive facility analysis to determine its current condition. From this assessment it was determined that some of our buildings are 40-60 years of age, many original fixtures and infrastructures have aged and are worn out, equipment and structures that were not replaced in the 2001 bond campaign now must be addressed. The district is falling behind in its ability to provide a high quality educational environment and learning tools especially in the area of technology for its students. Neighboring districts are investing more into their facilities and technology to keep them upgraded. New state testing requirements mandating online testing are going to require added capital investment. Safety and security needs have changed dramatically since the 2001 bond issue. Based on this analysis it was decided that the additional investment into the school facilities above the current resources was necessary to meet the expectations set by the district.

She reminded voters that if this bond proposal request is approved there will be no increase in the current school debt tax rate.

## CONSENT

2015/16-30 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the September 1, 2015 regular board meeting minutes.

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

NO:

2015/16-31 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the HR Updates as presented.

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

NO:

2015/16-32 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the Disbursements for August 2015.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed  
NO:

### **ACTION**

2015/16-33 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Knott the board approve the out-of-state field trip to Imagination Station in Toledo Ohio for Mr. Piestrak and Ms. Witkowski's classes.

YES: Craig, Freitas, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Pomponio, Reed  
NO:

### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

### **INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Pomponio welcomed back students, teachers and staff to a new school year. She was happy to see the buildings active again and encouraged parents to get involved and participate with activities.

Mr. Knott also welcomed everyone back and thanked the board representatives and the superintendent for attending the PTO meetings and building open houses to introduce themselves and participating in the building activities.

Mr. Hayhurst's read from an article in the Detroit News from August 16;

Lower enrollment and increased costs are forcing Michigan school districts to make tough choices to preserve financial health, reports The Detroit News. The number of students in Michigan schools is dropping steadily, due to changes in the population. Furthermore, some districts have seen larger-than-average drops in enrollment thanks to the growth of public charter schools and schools of choice programs.

Decreasing enrollments mean less money for school districts, which are facing rising payments for retirement and employee health care benefits. Recognizing the trends, many districts have downsized, selling property and consolidating schools, through such decision are often unpopular in the community.

Mr. Hayhurst commented on this article-"So wait a minute is the conservative Detroit News saying that the financial problems being experienced by Local Public School Districts were NOT caused by "gross mismanagement", or out of control local employee unions, or incompetent local school boards like we've been hearing out of Lansing for almost 8 years now? That the financial problems have been caused by things completely beyond the control of local public school districts and in fact state government action or inaction is almost entirely to blame for the financial mess that plagues Public Education in Michigan?

So when you go to the polls in November think about what you can do locally to help your public school district overcome the harm that has been done to it by Lansing.

Mr. Knott thanked the Southgate Police Department for their support and assistance to the district with the start of the school year. No left turn signs are in place at the buildings and will be enforced. Parents are encouraged to follow the directives on the signs as well as the markings on the parking lots indicating where parking is and is not permitted.

Ms. Reed announced that Sophomores class rings can be order through Josten's if they missed the deadline, they just won't get the discount. Seniors deadline for yearbooks is Sept. 25, 2015. Mr. Piesz is handling the ordering. She thanked the parents for decorating her house.

President Reed announced to the viewing public the board would enter into a work session and not be returning to the viewing audience-7:20 p.m.

**WORK SESSION MINUTES:**

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

No discussion as members arrived late from PTO presentation.

7:20 p.m.

1. Len Rezmierski reviewed several Board of Education responsibilities and recommended activities for providing bond information to voters.
2. accepted nominations for MASB delegates: Rebecca Reed and Neil Freitas. Moves to action next meeting.
3. Reviewed proposed Board of Education goals for 2015/16. President Reed will provide copy to Superintendent Hainrihar. Moves to action next meeting.
4. Superintendent Hainrihar requested copy of her annual evaluation to use setting new goals. President Reel will email that to her.
5. Superintendent Hainrihar provided updates on bond information only agenda. PTO, booster, and employee group presentations are being scheduled through the end of September. Absentee ballot voter list will be requested from the city. Informational brochure will be mailed. Community group informational meetings will be scheduled in October.
6. Other: President Reed finalized Board of Education Committees, membership and meeting dates. That information will be available on the board page of our website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned 9:50 p.m.

---

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary  
Board of Education









