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REGULAR BOARD MEETING
City Council Chambers
14400 Dix Toledo, Southgate, MI 48195

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT
PAUL C. KNOTT

DATE: September 2, 2014

VICE PRESIDENT
REBECCA REED-HALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY
DR. DARLENE L. POMONIO

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

TREASURER
W. KIRK HAYHURST

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kremer

TRUSTEES
JASON CRAIG
AMANDA KREMER
SUE MURRAY

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Hainrihar, Pastor, McLachlan

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT
LESLIE HAINRIHAR

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2014/15-249 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the September 2, 2014 Agenda

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

HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR
MARY HILDEBRANDT

Curriculum Director Jill Pastor -reviewed with the board the 2012 Scorecards for the District. She explained the scorecards are based on the 2013/14 MEAP and MI-Access scores. Each building receives a separate scorecard color; the scorecard colors are based on the points that are awarded. The green cells are worth two points, yellow-1 point and the red are not worth any points. Overall we received a red scorecard, receiving 52 out of 94 points. Our bottom 30% are struggling to meet any standardized scores. It also breaks down the scores by ethnicity and can show areas of concern.

There are compliance issues we are graded on as well; educator evaluations, School Improvement Plan and our Graduation Rate. We received 0 out of 12 points and it directly relates to Asher's graduation rate. Graduation has to be achieved within a 4 year window.

Ms. Murray commented on the fact that we are being penalized for providing an alternative education program to help kids graduate. Ms. Pastor stated that other districts with similar programs are receiving yellow scorecards. We need to clean up our graduation rate data to get closer to receiving points. Ms. Reed-Hall questioned if it was a matter of the students not moving through the program as quickly as they should be or the data. Ms. Pastor replied it was both.

Ms. Pastor reported that we, like many other districts, have a focus school, Allen. This is based on their top and bottom 30%, the biggest gap. It doesn't mean the school isn't achieving, it is the gap between the top and bottom. As a result of being labeled a focus school, Michigan State will be sending us a District Improvement Facilitator (DIF). This representative will meet with Ms. Pastor, Ms. Hainrihar and Ms. Chilson, Allen Principal. A letter was sent out to parents of Allen giving them the option of going to a different elementary if they chose to. We will have to do a quarterly board report, those are scheduled and a template is followed. This helps with determining why we became a focus school.

Central Office Staff will do a financial survey to determine if we have been providing the proper finances to the building or if finances are a part of the reason the school has been labeled a focus school. Ms. Reed-Hall asked if any parents have responded to the letter that went out to the Allen parents. Ms. Pastor said Ms. Chilson has not heard from any parents yet.

Many parents that are now at Allen, were Chormann parents when Chormann went through this two years ago. At that time only one family opted out. Ms. Reed-Hall asked if Michigan State does an analysis or makes recommendations. Ms. Pastor said they will meet with district officials, there will be data dialogues and the DIF will help guide the work, not do the work. The DIF will only be here until December and then the ISD will take over from there.

Ms. Hainrihar said her hope was the strategies they bring to us will be utilized district wide. The notion of a focus school is interesting in that some of the higher performing schools in Michigan have been labeled focus schools due to the gap in the lower and higher performing students.

Ms. Pastor reported that Asher is struggling to meet the criteria. They received 0 out of 8 for graduation. The only DMS scores that were counted were the 9th grade Social Studies. The scores from the year before were based on Gerisch who received a lime green. When we tried to appeal the DMS scorecard we were denied. When a district reconfigures more than 4 grade levels you can receive an appeal when you reconfigure 3 grade levels you cannot. Ms. Pastor said we will not encounter this next year. All of the grades will be counted for DMS next year.

DMS received an Orange. Fordline-yellow. Grogan-Yellow. Northpointe-Lime green. Shelters-yellow. AHS-yellow. Anderson gets an 8 out of 8 for graduation. In Wayne County no school received green or lime green. 62.5% were in the yellow category. Statewide only 1.5% received a green and 47% were in the yellow category.

Our reconfiguration and some of the challenges that brought caused some reductions in our scores. Allen and Fordline went down, Grogan and Shelters stayed the same.

Some of the challenges our district faces; Asher is being compared to traditional high schools. There is no accommodation made for Alternative Education Programs at this time.

For example, the graduation target is 80%. Although Asher graduates about 150 students per year, their graduation rate is not even close to 80%. Beacon is being compared to traditional schools. The District Scorecard overall status is 55% (Orange), but due to too many red cells we were downgraded to Red.

Districts that surround us with Alternative Education or Center based programs such as Allen Park and Wyandotte were in the yellow category. All scorecard information may be found at: www.mischooldata.org.

Top to bottom rankings: Part of Michigan's accountability system ranks schools on their student's performance in; Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science Social Studies. The rankings also include; Graduation rates, Improvement, Achievement Gaps (between the highest and lowest 30%).

Ms. Pastor compared us to surrounding districts and we are showing increases while other districts are going in the opposite direction.

Mr. Mike Toschi and Wendy Nowak-Technology-presented the board with an overview of MiStar and demonstrated how the system operates. Parents can access the parent portal through southgateschools.com. A parent should register and add their email address for notifications. Parents are able to edit their contact information, but student info changes must be made at the school level. Information on students will differ between elementary and secondary levels.

Mr. Toschi updated the board on changes and challenges the department has faced. There is a new server file storage system that will save us money. A new phone system has been implemented. We have had some issues with flooding hampering access to the buildings, as well as the loss of a 30 year employee, Tom Petroskey, and his institutional knowledge which has hurt us. Within a few weeks we will be significantly ahead of where we are now.

DISCUSSION

Finance Report-Theresa McLachlan gave a brief update on the Deficit Elimination Plan; we filed it on August 8, 2014 and were to hear within 30 days from Lansing. As of today we still have not heard from them, nor has she received any emails with questions from them regarding our DEP. We are hoping to hear this week, if not she will contact MDE.

We began with a new waste removal company RIZZO. This is a joint bid with the City of Southgate.

Superintendent's Report-Ms. Hainrihar commented that the first day of school went well in spite of the constant rain. It did complicate traffic at the buildings. She met kindergarten students and their parents in some of the buildings. Principals reported it had been a smooth day.

We have received the final draft of the board policies from NEOLA. Once they are reviewed we can proceed to adoption while we mail them in for the final corrections. Professional Development activities took place last week. Ms. Hainrihar conducted training for all instructional staff on increasing student engagement and changes to the evaluation process. Administrative Assistants were introduced to a new District Manual that included forms and instructions for all of the Central Office functions. Building Administrative Assistants are receiving training in the district medication policy and the proper methods for dispensing of medications.

Individual buildings were involved in professional development for very specific initiatives. A large group met for an overview of a grant that we have received to begin the use of a model of positive behavior supports that will be used in all elementary schools and Beacon.

We continue to update and improve the district website and building pages. She is getting a lot of suggestions from a variety of people on how to get information on the site in a timely manner. The repair work on the flooding is almost complete. Allen's library will not be complete until mid-September. She asked parents to be patient as they drop off and pick up. Respect the No Left Turn signs, they keep our children safe and definitely prevent further traffic delays.

CONSENT

2014/15-250 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the minutes from the August 19, 2014 Regular Board of Education meeting.

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

NO:

ABSTAIN: Hayhurst

2014/15-251 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the Human Resource updates as presented.

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

NO:

ABSTAIN: Hayhurst

2014/15-252 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the board approve the Disbursements for August 2014.

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

NO:

ACTION

2014/15-253 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Murray that the board approve the request from Keith Garland, SCSD Security Coordinator, to upgrade the departments non-lethal response capacity from OC/CS (pepper spray) to CEW (taser).

YES: Murray

NO: Craig, Pomponio, Reed-Hall, Hayhurst, Knott

Ms. Murray commented that even though we do not want to see weaponry in the buildings she believes there is a need for the security officer to have a step higher to protect himself while he protects us. She feels it is important that he have some type of equipment or weapon to assist him in doing so.

Mr. Garland wanted to publicly thank the board for giving this proposal consideration and listening to his presentation on this topic. He felt it was his responsibility to bring this to the board due to the climate in the nation. He knows the decision is a struggle but he thanked the board.

Mr. Knott commented that Mr. Garland does a wonderful job for the district. There have been very few if any situations that have required lethal force or taser force in our schools. The board has given a lot of thought and sought the opinions of the public and the police department to come to their decision.

Dr. Pomponio stated that she sought information from the community and found that most people she spoke with were not comfortable with having the taser on school grounds.

Ms. Reed-Hall commented that she too had sought information from the public and police officers to come to her decision of not supporting the proposal at this time. This idea may not be accepted at this time, but could be revisited in the future. She told Mr. Garland she respects and appreciates what he does in our schools.

Mr. Knott commented that this is not set in stone and no reflection on our employees that are watching out for our students. This was a difficult decision and he thanked the board and Mr. Garland.

2014/15-254 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Ms. Reed-Hall to approve the Superintendents Goals as presented on 9/2/2014.

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

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Ryan Furkas, AHS teacher and UTS President addressed the board regarding negotiations between his group and the Administration, they have passed the agreement that includes concessions. This is the 6th year he has had to tell his membership they are going to work more for less money. He believes this is a real testament to the people we have working in our district that they have met with overwhelming approvals. Other districts do not have this, they will follow the long legal process which is not in the best interests of students or the district. He looks forward to getting out from under the cloud of this debt, and believes now more than ever we are on the right track.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murray reported that radio station 95.5 is offering \$1000 to teachers for supplies. They can go on the facebook page and apply for the money. She has asked parents if they could go down a side street and try to drop kids off a little further away from the buildings to ease the congestion.

Dr. Pomponio welcomed back students and staff. The Suicide Prevention Policy final draft has been completed. The board will review and it will be presented for final approval.

Ms. Reed-Hall welcomed back students and teachers. She appreciated the staff for extending themselves to helping students acclimate.

Mr. Hayhurst-'By way of a wrap up to the recent Free Press series on the lack of proper oversight for the state's out-of-control Charter Schools, an interesting article appeared in the Lansing State Journal's August 22nd issue.

The headline reads-"Flanagan Might Not Have (the) Authority to Penalize Authorizers (of State Charter Schools)". Obviously the Michigan Department of Education and their attorneys do not agree.

Mike Flanagan is the State Superintendent of Education, How can he not have this authority?

According to the Journal article, "Lansing attorney Richard McLellan believes that the Michigan Dept. of Education must go through a time-intensive rule-making process before Flanagan can penalize (incompetent or inappropriate Charter School) authorizers."

How can this be possible and who is this Richard McLellan to be threatening the Michigan Dept. of Education for doing something that should have been done years ago, before the uncontrolled growth of Charter Schools in Michigan?

Well.....attorney McLellan is one of the founder's and current board member of the Mackinac center for Public Policy, a blatant anti-public school, Snyder supporting lobbying group and was one of the authors of the original charter school law.

So the answer is that Lansing politician's including the Governor have received millions of dollars to support the uncontrolled growth of an unproven and relatively unsuccessful method of education that now looks like it was a terrible decision for our kids. Lansing would like to see this problem swept under the carpet until after November and what better way than to attempt to tie the matter up in the courts until after the election.

This is not about politics-this is about the way your children have been treated and whether you are going to allow this treatment to continue.'-

Ms. Murray commented that while we have to live within our means and have made the cuts and the corrections it still does not negate the fact the state has cut \$25 million from our budget. The money has gone into other areas instead of our public education.

WORK SESSION

Mr. Knott informed the viewing audience that the board would move into a Work Session at 8:07 p.m. and would not be back.

ADJOURNMENT

2014/15-255 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, Pomponio, Reed-Hall
NO:

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

