



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**City Council Chambers**

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

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT

PAUL C. KNOTT

**DATE: February 25, 2014**

VICE PRESIDENT

REBECCA REED-HALL

**TIME: 6:00 P.M.**

SECRETARY

DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

**SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER:**

Jason Craig was officially sworn in by Deputy City Clerk Michelle Kessler.

TREASURER

W. KIRK HAYHURST

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

TRUSTEES

AMANDA KREMER  
SUE MURRAY

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Grusecki, McLachlan, Pastor

**ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**ADMINISTRATION**

President Knott read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

**REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR

THERESA MCLACHLAN, C.P.A.

2013/14 - 131 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall, that the Board of Education approve the February 25 2014 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

JILL PASTOR

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR

MARY HILDEBRANDT

**ATTENTION to STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Mark Kremer -Asher Representative reported that 6 students witnessed Congressman John Dingell announce his retirement at the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber Legislative Luncheon at Crystal Gardens. Students had a photo opportunity with the Congressman and that will be on display soon. Jimmy Isue was interviewed by WDIV. Mayo Stars are selling coffee at lunch to raise funds for a trip to Mr. Pleasant. The state wide competition held there will involve public speaking, interviewing and creativity in making banners to be judged. Masquerade is the theme for this years Prom which may be held for the first time outside of Asher.

Students are preparing for a Talent Show on March 11<sup>th</sup> to be held at Asher. 130 students are preparing to graduate on June 13, 2014. Formal invitations will be given to Board Members.

Jim Isue-Asher Representative reported that approximately 250 students are preparing for the MME/SAT testing to be held next week. Schedules were being adjusted to accommodate the testing schedule.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be March 14 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. All students are being encouraged to attend. Student Council will be holding a bake sale to fund raise for Prom. National Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony will take place May 22, 7:00 p.m. in the Asher Gym. The Board will be formally invited to this event. Asher's annual fashion show will be May 23. Students from Fashion Merchandising will participate, showing fashions from local merchants. Asher Panther Basketball team was competing against Downriver Bulldogs and wished good luck.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

None

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **DISCUSSION**

### FINANCE

Theresa McLachlan reported that we are in the process of amending the budget in our Deficit Elimination Plan. We have received information with changing our health insurance regarding costs and that amount needs to be incorporated. The plan is to have an amended budget by the next board meeting. We are in the process of converting our fringe benefit system to the RESA system. It is easier to work with and update information. The board packets included a summary of the bids for our Audit Services. Four requests for proposals were sent out, four were returned. One was disqualified for not meeting the qualifications of the process. During the evaluation we look at qualitative factors, technical factors and cost. Based on that and an evaluation process and check list, she presented the findings to the finance committee. After extensive discussions with the finance committee the recommendation for approval has been presented to the board.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Grusecki reported on the Governor's budget, which included a \$111 per student increase for the 2014/15 school year. The Tri-County Alliance of Superintendents from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties does not feel that is enough compared to what they took in 2011. Their stance is for them to reinstate the \$465 they took that year. The proposal that has been presented includes an additional \$180 which would total \$291 per student. That will be submitted to Lansing in March. They are proposing taking all of the Best Practice money and other categorical money, and put it back in a per pupil increase where it can have the biggest impact on our budget. He also commented on the Smarter Balance which is a replacement for the MEAP test. There will be no testing in the fall next year. The Smarter Balance technology driven test will take place in the spring. It will only be for Language Arts and Mathematics.

MASB/MASA Legislative Conference is March 13 at the Lansing Center, Mr. Grusecki is attending and asked other board members to join him. There will be an opportunity to meet with Legislators.

Mr. Grusecki met with Jill Pastor and Mike Toschi to identify and address the problems that the weather days have created. The state allows for 6 days and we are at 8 full days as a district. AHS and DMS will have June 11 and 12 as full days instead of half days. Elementary Schools will have

March 14, April 17 and June 11 full days instead of half days. Beacon will have March 21 and June 13 as full days instead of half days. The one thing we wanted to stay away from was changing the hours of each day. But due to Beacon's different schedule there were no other half days to gain time back. So 2 minutes will be added to their day starting Monday. If there are any more bad weather days that could change things again.

Jill Pastor commented that even though it doesn't seem like we are making up enough time lost, we actually are over in minutes and hours in some areas. So after consulting with Mike Toschi who is in charge of pupil accounting, all time lost will be made up through these adjustments to the school schedule.

Mr. Grusecki explained that when we have to make up time we are making up "hours of instruction". That's why the half days are so critical. Other half days, that are Professional Development days, cannot be used to make up time.

Ms. Reed-Hall questioned Jill Pastor on the testing procedure for the Smarter Balance. Ms. Pastor explained that it has yet to be determined. She did say that at this time there are 6 chrome book carts with 30 chrome books on each cart. We are in the process of getting more grant money, but that would only mean \$55,000 for the whole district. The plan is to get more chrome books ordered. The idea is that the chrome books may arrive in one building to get the testing done. The preference would be to not do it in the first few weeks of the testing window, and to do it more near the end when we have more time for instruction. All details have not been worked out yet, and there are only projected numbers as to how long the test will take. Science and Social Studies also will be tested during the 12 week period. The state has not told the district whether or not we have to test on certain days.

Science testing will be 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Social Studies will be 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade next Spring. There is also suppose to be the ability to work on iPads, and some buildings have 2 sets some have only 1. She said we are not sure yet how those can be utilized. Until the State gives more details we will have to wait to work things out.

Mr. Grusecki said the MME deliveries were made today. He also reported that the Policy Committee will be meeting Feb 26<sup>th</sup> and they are on time line to finish. He included in the board packet the agenda from his most recent Superintendent's meeting at RESA. He commented on the book review by Mary Kay Gallagher-Five Temptations of a CEO. He reported on local millage elections and wished the area school districts good luck.

Mr. Grusecki spoke of the "pupil count" and that this recent one may be better than past years. As soon as numbers are available the board will be made aware. Looking forward he felt very optimistic that we will not be any where near implementing changes like this year, and we will be more stable and that will bring stability in our numbers as well. We still need to work on the Three R's in pupil accounting which are Retaining, Recruiting and Reclaiming kids. March the board will be asked to open up School of Choice to Kindergarten only.

Mr. Grusecki attended the Regional Competitive Cheer Championship at Troy Athens High School. Our Southgate Titan's did a phenomenal job and move on to the State Finals at the Metro Plex in Grand Rapids. Girls Basketball Districts will take place on Friday at Woodhaven. Boys Districts begin next week with wrestlers heading to the Palace. Our swimmers are doing really well. Jr ROTC banquet is coming up March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Pomponio asked when the money from the state would be given back. Mr. Grusecki said it will be the fall of the 2014/2015 school year and it will have an impact on our DEP.

### CONSENT

2013-2014 132 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 4, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

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

NO:

ABSTAIN: Craig

### ACTION

2013-2014 133 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that based on the Finance Committee's evaluation of proposals for auditing services, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Yeo&Yeo CPA's & Business Consultants as the auditors for District for the years ending June 30, 2014, 2015 and 2016 with the right to extend the three year contract an additional two years based on satisfactory performance of audit services.

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

NO:

2013-2014 134 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve the Winter Guard Field Trips.

YES: Craig, Hayhurst, Knott, Kremer, Murray, Pomponio, Reed-hall

NO:

2013-2014 135 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education approve Kacey Peters-Beacon Teacher.

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

NO:

### EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

### CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

## INFORMATION

Dr. Pomponio commented that the Southgate Parks and Rec Department is partnering with the Downriver Family YMCA for the soccer league. Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held March 9<sup>th</sup> at Parkside Gardens from 5 till 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Knott asked Dr. Pomponio about Jr. League baseball and how do parents go about signing up for that. Mr. Grusecki said flyers routinely come through Central Office for approval and are sent out to the buildings.

Ms. Reed-Hall asked Asher Director Judy Cock to share info about a recent opportunity they had. Ms. Cock explained that Detroit Public Television to participate in the organizational step in their presentation of a series they work on each year called The American Graduate. Dawn Izzi who is an Asher English teacher, was the Asher rep to work on the organizational piece and along with Judy participated in the Town Hall Meeting at the studio.

The topic Dawn discussed was the relationship between the educator and the student and how important that is. There is a possibility of future collaboration. This piece will be aired on February 27 at 9:00p.m. on the Detroit Public T.V. station.

Mr. Hayhurst commented on the state budget, and how the governor is planning on giving more money to tuition based educational sources in this state then he is to public education. He is planning on giving more money to K-12 tuition based schools, colleges and community colleges, then to public education.

At the bottom of the budget recommendations is another amount that is intended for the purpose of consolidation of services and districts. He wants people to be aware that the governor is planning on spending the public's money to attempt to consolidate our local districts and take our rights away from us and our right to control through a school board.

He suggested that people contact their legislators with their outrage.

Mr. Knott concurred with Mr. Hayhurst and supported his comments.

Dr. Pomponio commented that the governor has created a fund for distressed districts, only when you become dissolved or are failing. That fund has \$10 million dollars in it. He has also put \$2 million into a year round pilot program.

Mr. Knott thanked Congressman Dingell, on behalf of the Board of Education, for his service and his advocacy for the area.

Ms. Murray commented on the 80 plus years Mr. Dingell and his father served this area.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## WORK SESSION

The Board of Education moved into a work session at 6:40 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2013-2014 136 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Ms. Reed-Hall that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

NO:

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Dr. Darlene Pomponio, Secretary  
Board of Education







