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

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT
SUE MURRAY

DATE: December 3, 2013

VICE PRESIDENT
PAUL C. KNOTT

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SECRETARY
DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

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

TREASURER
W. KIRK HAYHURST

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kremer

TRUSTEES
PATRICIA GRAZIANI
AMANDA KREMER
REBECCA REED-HALL

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Grusecki, McLachlan, Pastor

ADMINISTRATION EXCUSED:

Anderson High School JROTC students led the pledge of allegiance.

ADMINISTRATION

President Murray read the District Mission and Vision Statement.

SUPERINTENDENT
WILLIAM J. GRUSECKI

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2013/14 - 85 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education amend the December 3, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Agenda to correct the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Board Meeting.

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

NO:

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
DIRECTOR
THERESA McLACHLAN, C.P.A.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
JILL PASTOR

HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR
MARY HILDEBRANDT

2013/14 - 86 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education approve the amended December 3, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

NO:

ATTENTION TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Megan Browe, Anderson High School student representative, reported on events scheduled at the high school: December 6 - Blood Drive; December 11 - fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings; Band-a-rama - December 6, 7 and 8; December 16 - Financial Aid Night. Megan also gave an update on the athletic teams' schedule.

Jim Iesue, SACE student at Asher, reported Student council students attended the Legislative Forum on November 18; students had thanksgiving lunch with the preschool students; Student Council is planning a Career Job Fair; survey being held as to how to use profits from fund raisers; progress reports will be available next week; pictures being taken with Santa hats; and a bake sale will be held during the City Craft Show December 7th. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

PRESENTATIONS

ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

ROTC students gave a presentation on the JCLC summer camp at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. The PowerPoint showed activities they participated in during the week long camp. They explained their competitions and announced awards they received. Their goals are to encourage more 8th grade students to take part in this program and to win more trophies.

Col. Clemons said this year they have increased participation in the program through DCTC. He asked if there were any parents who would like to comment. Mr. Matt Stewart, Mr. Todd Gallinat and Ms. Alicia Owen all commented on the difference JROTC makes in the students' lives and how they handle their lives. It is a great opportunity for team building. Each of the parents said the leaders, Col. Clemons and 1SG Phoenix, do a fantastic job.

Col. Clemons thanked the Board for having the group at the meeting.

President Murray thanked the JROTC and leaders for keeping them abreast of what is going on in their department.

SOUTHGATE PLAYERS

Phil Rausch, representing the Southgate Community Players, talked about the agreement between the District and the Players. Basically they use the Davidson auditorium for their performances and they make any necessary repairs needed. They changed the lighting and switched to LED lights and also additional banks of lights on stage. They had extra lights and will be giving them to the high school. He asked the Board to look into repairing the parking lot lights. The Players are working with Davidson staff to have an after school drama program. Mr. Rausch said they would provide a technician if anyone wants to use the lighting system at Davidson.

Ms. Graziani said the Players do a lot for Davidson and she appreciates all the time and effort in making the auditorium as it is.

Dr. Pomponio asked if there are Southgate students participating in their program and was told yes. This is the Players 58th season at Davidson Middle School.

Mr. Hayhurst said the lights make a noticeably difference.

Mr. Grusecki thanked Mr. Rausch and the group for all they have done at Davidson.

Mr. Knott asked if they pay for the use of the school and Mr. Rausch said the agreement is they do not pay a rental fee however, they keep the auditorium up to date. Their next plan is to replace the stage.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION OR ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION

FINANCE

Ms. McLachlan said after the last Board meeting, the Michigan Department of Education approved the amended budget and the revised Deficit Elimination Plan and issued a letter on November 14 acknowledging approval. This information is on our web site. We are switching health care and enrolling 350 members in the new program at this time to have everything in place by January.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Pastor gave a Fall 2013 Curriculum update. Since moving to Gerisch, the Media Center is now the District's Professional Development Center. She can now have ongoing Professional Development with small groups. Ms. Pastor explained the trainings she has held and the number of teachers that were in attendance at each session.

Saturday sessions were held for lower elementary teachers in November on the Daily 5 program and 14 staff members attended. Two days of training were held in October on data walks and two days in November. She explained what administrators look for during these three to four minute walks in classrooms. They recommend that every teacher be visited every week. Once the observation form is completed for the walk through, it is emailed to the teacher for their information. The walks are not scheduled and teachers are not aware of when they will be visited. The visits to classrooms are not part of the teachers' evaluations.

Ms. Pastor has also begun a District Wide Book Study that is held after school and has had 34 staff attend.

Ms. Pastor then reviewed the results of the survey that was taken for input from community members and staff members to seek what they prefer in the new superintendent's qualities and characteristics. The results of this survey will be on the district web site.

Mr. Hayhurst said the board continually discusses finances but we all are aware that education is our prime focus and is critical.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Grusecki said there have been huge changes in the four months of school with the building realignment, staff changes and student transfers. Jill Pastor has put a lot of work into the professional development for staff. He commended Theresa McLachlan for all she has done in the business office. These are critical positions and both employees do a great job.

We continue to have building issues across the district. When ABM (Linc) came in the district a year ago, they upgraded our indoor lighting and HVAC. The funds from the energy bonds were expended by December 2012. We are now facing valve issues that were replaced with the bond and had to close Grogan to make those building repairs. Anderson and Davidson have issues that need to be addressed and those will be made during the summer. We will need to discuss how we will deal with these issues in the future.

Parents have been calling on students going outdoors during cold weather. The district's threshold is 20 degrees. If school is called off, families will be contacted through our robo-call system and we will also notify the media.

The process for the Superintendent Search has begun. The position is posted on several sites; MASA, MASSP, MSBO, RESA and universities. January 3rd is the deadline for applications. Wyandotte will also be looking for a new superintendent.

Mr. Grusecki updated everyone on changes in Lansing regarding the sales tax and the fire arms issue. There is not enough support at this time to go to letter grades for district report cards and they are looking at data points.

He summarized the positive items for 2013; i.e., hiring of Theresa McLachlan; right sizing the district and having the courage to make tough decisions to insure the future success of the district and the commitment to continue as it will have a lasting effect on the district. Our plan is to be out of deficit by June 2015 and the foundation is set to do this.

Ms. Graziani asked about the on line lottery where 100% of the profits were to be going to schools and Mr. Grusecki was not sure this was going to happen.

Mr. Hayhurst says they continue to discuss sales tax issues in Lansing first, not property tax. Any changes affect school district.

CONSENT

DISBURSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2013

2013/14 - 87 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education approve the general fund disbursements for \$4,171,945.45, as presented.

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

NO:

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2013/14 - 88 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education approve the amended minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting.

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

NO:

ACTION

SUMMER TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

2013/14 - 89 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Impose a Summer Tax Levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the school district and continuing from year to year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests each city and/or township in which this District is located to collect those summer taxes.

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

NO:

AMERICAN EXPRESS CORPORATE PURCHASING CARD

2013/14 - 90 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, to approve the District to enroll in the American Express Corporate Purchasing Card program that provides improved internal controls and greater efficiency in purchasing as well as annual rebates based on the District's volume of spending (currently 1.135%), as recommended by Administration.

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

NO:

SEX EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT

2013/14 - 91 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Jill Pastor, Administrator, and Leslie Lewis, parent, as co-chairs for the Sex Education Advisory Board.

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

NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

INFORMATION

Mr. Hayhurst reported on an excerpt from a report by the Michigan State University's Education Policy Center prepared for the State Board of Education and published at the end of October 2013. Briefly, Michigan's K-12 funding declined 12 percent since 2004 as taxes dedicated to education have been eliminated and the School Aid Fund, once reserved for K-12, is now used to pay for college and preschool. Also, dedicated at-risk student funding has been capped since 2009 and failed to keep pace with the growing number of eligible students. Michigan's schools have seen enrollments drop ten percent. In recent years, 70 percent of traditional public schools and 37 percent of charters have experienced declining enrollment. This is due to population trends as well as new Charter and Cyber schools and expanded schools of choice.

Michigan has experienced tremendous growth in charter schools, with 277 charter schools in operation in FY2013, enrolling over 8.5% of Michigan K-12 students. Last year nearly 30 new charter schools opened, despite a continued decline in overall head count. Michigan is home to the largest number of for-profit charter schools in the nation.

The growth of these for profit charter and cyber schools continues to be encouraged by Lansing even though there are no studies that indicate that these schools do any better job of educating our children than public schools and plenty indicate the opposite. They continue to take money out of our pockets for your children's education to give it to mostly out-of-state Cyber and Charter school Corporations. How long are you going to continue to allow Lansing to treat your children like this? Inaction is the same as approval.

Ms. Murray stated charter schools are not required to have the same programs as public schools and they have selective enrollment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio said the Girl Scouts is open to girls through the 5th grade and will be meeting at Shelters Thursday, December 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She encouraged girls to attend.

Dr. Pomponio congratulated the Shelters GCA Custodial crew as they were named as having the cleanest school in the district.

Mr. Knott said the parents and students should be proud of the honors and attendance awards the students received.

Ms. Reed-Hall said the Mental Health Session held at Anderson on November 18 was given by U of M representatives and was one of the most gripping presentations she has heard. There was not a lot of parent participation and she asked parents to ask their children what they heard and to get their feedback.

Ms. Murray said she attended the meeting and there was good information and she was appreciative of this presentation.

Everyone was reminded to attend the Band-A-Rama this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The band placed third in their flight in the State and will recreate that performance.

President Murray said the Board would enter a Work Session at 8:42 p.m. and not return to the viewing audience.

WORK SESSION

The work session began at 8:55 p.m. and concluded at 10:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

2013/14 - 92 It was moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Knott, that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

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

NO:

Dr. Darlene Pomponio, Secretary
Board of Education