

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
August 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President Hoffa called the Regular Board Meeting of the Almont Community Schools Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in Board Meeting Room at the Almont Elementary, 401 Church Street, Almont, Mi.

Present

John Miles, Jon Owens, Steven Manko, Nancy Boxey, Steve Hoffa and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 13

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Scott Kmetz and John Brzozowski

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Candela asked that a discussion item be added to Personnel:

7. Hiring of Staff (no action to be taken)

COMMUNICATIONS

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Mrs. Measel inquired about the private road busing situation.

Mr. Candela replied that if you had turned in a signed sheet before that stated deadline buses would be traveling down the private road.

Mrs. Measel was curious about Timberwood and Hayfield Lane.

Mr. Candela said that yes those 2 roads would receive service.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the June 23, 2014 Closed Session Negotiations
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the July 28, 2014 Regular Meeting
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the August 18, 2014 Special Meeting Work Session
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the August 18, 2014 Closed Session Negotiations

P, 127, 5-0-0

BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the bills payable and the financial reports as proposed by the administration and reviewed by the Finance Committee.

July 2014	
General Fund Total	\$ 182,716.48

School Lunch Fund	\$ 69.41
2002 Debt Fund	\$ 0
2004 Refunding Bonds	\$ 0
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$ 0
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$ 0
2013 SBL Refinance	\$ 0
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$ 0
QZAB Bond	\$ 0
Subtotal	\$ 182,785.89
General Fund transfers in for payroll	\$ 556,105.88
PESG	\$ 0
CoachEZ	\$ 100.00
Participant Benefit Claims	\$ 0
Total Funds Spent	\$ 738,991.77

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32272-32339 and voided checks as presented : Voided check(s): 32236

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ORCHARD PRIMARY, ALMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRUST AND AGENCY ACCOUNT REPORTS

The Trust and Agency Accounts were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendents Report

Orchard Primary

SUMMER SCHOOL

Mary Mueller, Laurie Lawrence, Colleen Ions, Melanie Hailey, and Kristin Bryan are finishing their second week of a two-week summer school program offered to our Title I students. Thirty-three students in grades 1-4 enrolled in the program. They were pretested in reading and math on the first day they arrived, and this allowed the summer school team to collaborate with Mrs. Weigand on lesson planning to strategically target their academic needs. Students will also be post-tested on Thursday, the last day of the program, to track their growth. But one of the best indicators of success has been the parent feedback.

STAFFING UPDATE

It is our pleasure to welcome the following new faces to Orchard Primary. Ryan Kline is coming aboard as our counselor this year. He will spend approximately two days a week working with our elementary students. We are very excited to have him! Also, Susie Royster will be teaching Music to all K-3 students, as well as one section of fourth-grade students. In addition, Mary Love will be teaching Art to all students while Kim Tencza is on maternity leave with her new baby. Ericka Goodney will be looping with her students from last year, as she makes the transition from kindergarten to first grade. Tanya Steinhaus will teach kindergarten.

MATH AND READING INTERVENTIONS

Mike Hinkley and the Literacy and Beyond Foundation have granted 100 Lexia Core5 licenses to be used as an intervention tool for reading! Mr. Hinkley and a staff of two reading specialists will be training all OP staff members on the implementation of Lexia Core5 within the routine of their literacy block. They will also further train staff in the administration of DRA (Developmental Reading Assessments). DRA testing will help teachers dig deeper to determine instructional gaps when a student demonstrates a need for reading intervention. Both trainings will take place in late September/early October. Finally, we will be taking advantage of DIBELS Math screening assessments to monitor progress in math. The good news is DIBELS Math is a free screening tool for us to use this year!

iPADS ARE COMING!

104 iPads will be coming to Orchard Primary this year! All teachers will receive four iPads to use with students in stations or individually. Teachers will be able to pick up their devices in the next few days.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our MEAP data shows that math is an area for improvement at all levels in both OP and AMS. In order to address this need, we are excited to bring AIMS (Activities in Math and Science) training to all math teachers on August 27. For the first time, paraeducators will also be invited. AIMS is well known for its hands-on, constructive approach to teaching math and science. The training will be aligned to the Common Core and will supplement what teachers are already doing in their math instruction. And the most exciting thing is, each teacher will leave with a set of grade-specific activities to use with their students right away!

YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL VISITATION

The Year-round School Committee has contacted the principals of two schools to arrange a visitation—Borland Elementary in Imlay City and Hill Elementary in Davison. The Committee is hoping to interview the principals, superintendents, and a few teachers from each district, if possible. Hill Elementary reported that since Davison has experienced such great success with the year-round program in their K-4 building, all schools in Davison will become year-round schools as of next year.

THANK YOU TO THE CUSTODIAL STAFF

A well-deserved thank you goes out to the custodial staff! We are very appreciative of their hard work!

Middle School PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT for AUGUST 27th

ACS will be offering the following:

- Grades K-8 Math Teachers and Para Educators will attend the Math AIMS Education Foundation Presentation. Focus: *Proportional Reasoning* and *Linear Functions* (CCSS). Teachers will receive additional resources/materials to enhance math curriculum.
- Grades 5-12 Teachers will attend the Collins Writing Program: The Five Types of Writing. All teachers will receive a book to serve as an additional resource to implement writing across the curriculum.

Note: K-12 Elective Teachers will attend the Collins Writing Program in the morning. In the afternoon, they will be given the opportunity to meet with their Department (Physical Education, Art, Music, etc...) to continue their work on curriculum alignment/mapping.

OPEN HOUSE at AMS on August 26th (5th and 6th Graders) and August 27th (7th and 8th Graders)

Back-to-School Open House (from 6:00-8:00 PM) will include the following:

- Pick up your schedule!
- Have your school picture taken!
- Join the PTSA!
- Meet/Greet AMS Staff!
- Catch up with friends!

NEW DISTRICT CURRICULUM COUNCIL UPDATE

On Aug. 19th, twelve ACS staff members (administration and teachers) met to help define the direction of Almont's District Curriculum Council (DCC). The building principals will announce the opportunity to serve on this Council at the first Staff Meeting on August 28th. Ideally, the administration will solicit 4-5 teachers from each building to represent all K-12 curriculum. The first DCC meeting is scheduled for September 24th. At this time, the DCC will create the necessary "Road Map" to ensure a successful PLC/Curriculum Process for ACS.

PTSA BOARD MEMBERS for 2014-15

President: Stephanie Bankston

Vice President: Maureen Walton

Secretary: Mary Anne Martin

Treasurer: Patricia Walters

KUDOS to STAFF MEMBERS & STUDENTS

Jack Bostian and his Student Tech Team! Thank you for all the work you have done to prepare our students for another successful year with the iPads. The iPad Roll-Outs were organized and appreciated by all staff, parents, and students.

Bob Jones and Axium Custodial Staff! Thank you for beautifying our schools; they look amazing!

From the High School

Preparations are well under way for the start of the school year. We are continuing to register new students each day and look forward to welcoming back all of our students. 9th grade orientation was held this past week and was well attended. iPad have been updated and distributed to the High School students. The Maintenance Department had done a nice job in getting the ground and inside of the building ready for the new school year. Administration will be hosting a staff BBQ lunch on the 28th to welcome back the teachers and support staff.

Scheduling – The master schedule is complete and schedules have been distributed to students. In preparing this year's schedule we took full advantage of the Power School scheduler program.

Budget- On July 1st we received the new budget for the coming school year. Clerical staff has worked hard this summer to place the orders for the teacher's supplies so that we may start the school year prepared and ready.

Fall Sports- Fall sports are finishing up their preseason and will begin regular contests the week of August 25th. New Athletic Director Mark Weigand is hard at work making sure that things in the Athletic program run smoothly. In order to get to know the coaches, Mr. Weigand held a meeting with all the coaches before the season began.

Miscellaneous

Meeting with Hendricks Construction

I will be meeting with Chip Hendricks and Dan LaPan in September to start the process of putting together a list of projects that we would like to consider for the 2015-16 school year. Projects that we will be considering for next year will include: Secure Entranceways, Orchard Primary roof and the Service Drive. Once the bids come in for the cost of all of these projects the Board of Education will then determine what projects will be chosen. The school district will start collecting tax monies for the sinking fund beginning in December.

Board of Education: Questions

NONE

PERRSONNEL

Approval of Recall

Moved by Boxey, supported by Miles, the Board of Education approve the attached resolution as presented. Said resolution is to be marked VIII B(1) and attached to the official minutes of this meeting.
P, 129, 5-0-0

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Manko, Owens ,Boxey, Miles, Hoffa

Nays: None

Approval of Resignation

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs Bills with thanks for all her years of service and well wishes for the future.

P, 130, 5-0-0

Approval of Counselor

Moved by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education employ Ryan Kline as Middle School/Orchard Primary Counselor beginning with the 2014/2015 school year.

P, 131, 5-0-0

Approval of Contract

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the employment contract of said individual as presented, with copies of the individual contract to be marked VIII B(4) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting.

P, 132, 5-0-0

Approval of AESPA Contract

Moved by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the AESPA contract as presented, with copies of the contract to be marked VIII B (5) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting.

P, 133, 5-0-0

Approval of CoachEZ Position

Moved by Boxey, supported by Miles, the Board of Education staff the following positions with personnel provided by CoachEZ:

- 7th Grade Girls Basketball

P, 134, 5-0-0

Personnel Discussion

Mr. Candela discussed with the Board the need to hire teachers at the Orchard Primary. He stated that they had previously seen the need to hire one teacher but at this point they will need to hire 3 total teachers, 2 in second grade and one in third grade. This is based on current student counts and the fact that Mrs. Steinhaus will be placed in the Kindergarten position.

Mr. Hoffa polled the Board to see if there was any opposition to this hiring decision. There was none.

Mr. Miles inquired as to what the new class numbers would be.

Mr. Candela stated this would bring both 2nd and 3rd grade numbers to approx. 22/23 per class.

Mr. Miles then asked is there room. Yes.

Mr. Miles asked when would the new teachers be expected to start.

Mr. Candela stated that Mrs. Weigand had conducted interviews today and if the Board was in agreement with the new hiring recommendation he would contact her at the conclusion of the meeting that we would be hiring 3 teachers rather than 1 so she could make calls accordingly. His hope is that they can all start Wednesday and attend the beginning of the year PD. Mr. Candela also stressed to the Board that these hires will definitely affect fund balance and they will need to address this in the near future.

Mr. Hoffa stated that they needed to schedule a special meeting to approve the new hires. After polling the Board a Wednesday, August 27th 7:00 p.m. meeting was decided on.

Mrs. Boxey asked when the current teachers would be made aware of the hiring. Mr. Candela stated that he would call Mrs. Weigand tonight so she could inform the teachers asap. This way they could get the process finished in regard to assigning kids to classes, now that we knew the number of teachers. Mr. Candela is hoping the new teachers will be able to attend the popsicle pop in.

POLICY

Approval of Overnight Trip Resolution

Moved by Manko, supported by Miles, Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Almont Board of Education supports extracurricular programs as an extension of the classroom learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the various extracurricular clubs and teams are provided opportunities to participate in activities and competitions which require overnight stays at locations outside of the Almont School district service area; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires that extracurricular clubs and teams and/or individual club or team members take advantage of these opportunities.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve overnight trips for students participating in extracurricular programs during the 2014/2015 school year, with the Board of Education to be provided with the following information prior to any students embarking on such trips:

Date of Event

Accommodations for Food/Lodging

List of Chaperones

Trip Itinerary

Means of Transportation

Cost

P, 135, 5-0-0

ELECTION

Approval of Election Results

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education accept the August 2014 election results as certified by the Lapeer County Board of Canvassers. Copy of Canvass of Votes Cast will be attached to the Official Minutes and marked VIII (D) 1.

P, 136, 5-0-0

BUSINESS

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education update adult lunch and breakfast rates for the 2014/2015 school year as follows:

	2014/2015
<u>Adults (all buildings)</u>	
Breakfast	\$2.10
Lunch	\$3.55

P, 137, 5-0-0

Acceptance of School of Choice Students

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education accept the students on the attached list for the 2014/2015 school year through the 105 and 105C Schools of Choice Programs.

P, 138, 5-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Mr. John Hall wanted to comment on 2 issues, private drives and class size. He stated that both him and his wife work in a different district as teachers and have chosen to leave their kids in Almont because they really like ACS. He wanted to thank the Board for the decisions they made tonight in regard to hiring/class size and private drives. He said that many times Districts say one thing but make decisions based on money. He felt that the decisions made tonight were putting kids first and he thanked the Board for that.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Miles mentioned the Dance Team is putting on a 5K run after the Fox and Hound event to raise money for their trip to Nationals in the spring.

Mr. Candela mentioned the Flamingo fund raiser they also had going on.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION: Negotiations

Motion by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of Negotiations as permissible under the Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call Vote: Aye's –Manko, Miles, Boxey, Owens, Hoffa
Nays - None

P, 139, 4-0-0

President Hoffa indicated that no further business will be conducted after the closed session of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:48 p.m.

The Board went into Open Session at 9:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President