

MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
September 22, 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, Steven Manko, Nancy Boxey, Scott Kmetz, Nancy Boxey, Steve Hoffa and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

**Visitors:** 23

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Jonathan Owens was absent

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was approved as presented

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Candela thanked various people who donated to the Messer scholarship fund.

Mr. Candela also thanked PNC, Tri County and Richard Coates for their donations to the Welcome Back Breakfast.

Mr. Candela discussed the 2013-2014 Annual Report.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Mr. Tim Bush wanted to thank the BOE for their hard work and dedication to the students of Almont. He also read two verses from the Bible to the Board.

A senior from AHS thank the BOE as well.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the August 25, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the August 25, Closed Session: Negotiations
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the August 27, Special Meeting New Hires
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the August 27, Closed Session: Negotiations
- E. Approval of the Minutes from the September 15, Special Meeting Work Session

**P, 145, 6-0-0**

## **BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

<b>August 2014</b>	
<b>General Fund Total</b>	\$2,728,522.82
<b>School Lunch Fund</b>	\$ 528.71
2006 Refunding Bonds	0
2012 Refunding Bonds	0
2013 SBL Refinance	0
2013 Refunding Bonds	0
QZAB Bond	\$ 400.00
GF Transfer in - Payroll	0
PESG	\$ 801.98
<b>CoachEZ</b>	<b>\$ 40,603.00</b>
Participant Benefit Claims	0
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$2,770,856.51</b>

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

**P, 146, 6-0-0**

## **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**

#### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INCENTIVES**

Fun Friday Flicks is a new program we are implementing in our cafeteria to promote and reward good behavior at lunch and recess. Each week, OP students work as a grade-level team to earn 20 minutes of movie time on Fridays while they eat. They view the same movie throughout the month, and Team Time activities on Fridays are tailored to that movie theme. This month's theme is *Tarzan*. Mrs. Weigand is in the process of requesting a grant from the Four County Community Foundation to purchase the remaining movies for the year.

#### **CURRICULUM NIGHT**

Orchard Primary's Curriculum Night was held on Thursday, September 11. 80% of our parents were in attendance. Next year, we may request the help of NHS, the AMS Student Council, and/or the Sugar & Spice Club at the Middle School to offer childcare during this event. This is an effort to make it easier for teachers to communicate with parents while their children are occupied with fun activities and snacks in another location in the school.

## **FUNDRAISER**

The PTA kicked off its Morley Candy Fundraiser with a brief assembly on September 9. The teachers are adding an incentive to this fundraiser. For every ten order forms students return, a teacher will be “forced” to sleep on the front lawn of the school. The staff campout is planned for the night of Thursday, October 2. The next morning, as students arrive in the bus loop, the staff will be “awakened” from their tents in their pajamas with crazy hair. That day will be a pajama day for all students, and Team Time activities will revolve around a camping theme.

## **CURRICULUM**

The AIMS Math Workshop on August 27 was very well received by both teachers and Para educators who attended. As a follow-up to this professional development session, we will dedicate two grade-level meetings each month to working together to plan lessons that incorporate hands-on activities into math instruction on a weekly basis.

Also, DIBELS screening has begun for all OP students in both reading and math. In addition, training for Lexia Core5 and DRA (two reading interventions) will be in place by early October.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

With the addition of four iPads to each classroom, teachers are anxious to learn new ways to integrate them into their instruction. Many teachers are using the iPads in centers for math and literacy reinforcement. Also, we are committing time in staff meetings to presenting at least one strategy each month. For example, last week, QR codes were introduced as a way to enhance instruction and provide practice in all subject areas. Afterwards, the teachers unanimously agreed to devote our next staff meeting to learning how to build QR codes from scratch, so that they can use them in an upcoming lesson they plan to teach.

## **Middle School**

### **SURVEY DATA- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Via *SurveyMonkey*, All AMS Teachers took a survey to reflect upon the PD offered in August. For both AIMS (Math) and Collin’s Writing (ELA), the results indicated teacher satisfaction. Teachers will collaborate and discuss ways to implement the new strategies in their classroom instruction. Resources were provided to all teachers K-12.

### **THEME for 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR= Stay Focused!**

AMS will be focusing a lot of their efforts in the areas of Math and Technology. AMS Teachers will be setting S.M.A.R.T. goals to ensure student achievement in these areas.

### **AIMSweb- READING**

All AMS students will be screened for fluency and comprehension within the next couple of weeks (Fall Benchmark). Results will be analyzed and students will be placed in the appropriate tier.

## **GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**Sandy Crittenden** received a grant to sponsor an **Almont Middle School Quiz Bowl Team** from both the Four County Community Foundation and the Lapeer County Community Foundation. She is currently working on recruiting students for the 2014-15 school year. More updates to follow.

**Erik Johnson** received a grant from the Four County Community Foundation to purchase **physical education equipment for students** with special needs. Mr. Johnson will be working together with our LINKS coordinators and students

### **“POINT TO THE PARADE”**

Staff and students will compete to walk in the Homecoming Parade later this week. The winning Homeroom (or 1<sup>st</sup> Hour) class from 5/6 and 7/8 will represent AMS. Students may earn points by:

- Participating and dressing up for each Spirit Day this week
- Bringing in a food item for “Food for (ACS) Friends” (this is going to be a collection of food items that will be divided between the three schools....these items will actually be made available to help support our students who may need a snack due to failure of eating breakfast and/or a forgotten lunch)
- Bringing in a donation to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fun Run

### **DISTRICT CURRICULUM COUNCIL (DCC)**

DCC will have their first meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>. This Council will consist of 3-4 teachers from each school building and administration to review curriculum for all courses taught at ACS. A “Road Map” will be developed to ensure a clear vision for this Council.

### **KUDOS for STAFF**

- Thank you to all Staff for a smooth start to the school year!
- Thank you to Ryan Kline for all of his assistance/expertise with *PowerSchool*!

### **High School**

#### **Principal’s Update:**

Mr. Woelkers has been meeting with each of the staff individually to go over their goals for the school year. He is encouraging all staff to have as one of their goals; to become involved in a school wide activity or committee. Each Friday in September and October I am hosting the leadership/captains of one of the fall varsity sports programs for lunch in my office. I have begun classroom walkthroughs and I continue to be encouraged by the quality of the instruction taking place in our classrooms.

The first meeting of the BWAC Principals was held this past week. Of the eight conference schools five of them have new high school principals in place for this school year. I will be making an effort to get to know them as this year progresses. We continue to benefit from a very strong conference and solid relationships with each of the schools.

The court yard off the cafeteria hallway has been redone as part of an Eagle Scout project by Patrick Job. Landscaping and new brick pavers have been installed along with the addition of two new picnic tables. This is a very nice upgrade to our building and is already being taken advantage of by the students.

### **STEM**

Almont High School is taking part in a STEM grant that was received by the Lapeer County ISD. The grant provides professional development for staff in the area of STEM education. We have put together a team of math and science teacher to participate in the STEM program. We will be attending workshops and conferences throughout the school year on STEM curriculum and implementation. It is our goal to have a core team of teachers who can become instructors in the area of STEM education. This core group would then share their knowledge on STEM with the rest of our staff. The cost of the STEM program is being covered 100% through grant funding. The Middle School staff will also be participating in the STEM program.

### **School Improvement**

The school improvement team will be meeting with Dave Tredder of the GISD to review the data from last year’s Michigan Merit Exam as well as the results from the ACT. The school will use this data to help in formulating intervention strategies for our lower performing students. Our high school team will also

be participating with the school improvement workshops held at the Macomb ISD throughout the school year.

### **Fall Sports**

We have seen an increase, over last year's numbers, in the amount of students participating in fall sports this current year. Our attendance at games is also running above the numbers of last year. Mr. Weigand is continuing to look at ways to increase the visibility of our sports programs to the community and the student body. At a recent Varsity Football game all of the fall sports programs invited to be recognized during the game. After several years without one a student's section is again present and active at our home varsity football games.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Building and Grounds**

Don't forget there is a Building and Grounds meeting scheduled for Sept 29 at 7:00. The Board will be meeting with Hendricks to discuss various projects that need to be scheduled.

#### **Board of Education: Questions**

**Mr. Kmetz asked if we had considered other contractors than Hendricks.**

**Mr. Hoffa replied that they had decided at a previous meeting to go with Hendricks. Hendricks will manage the projects. They will solicit bids from various contractors.**

### **PERRSONNEL**

#### **Approval of Resignation**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Bacholzky as test coordinator.

**P, 147, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of New Hire**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education employ Michelle Finton as RTC/Test Coordinator beginning with the 2014/2015 school year. Contract is attached and will be marked VIII (B)2 and attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

**P, 148, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Coaches**

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

- Wrestling Assistant Coach
- Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

**P, 149, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of AEA Contract**

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

**P, 150, 5-0-1**

**Mr. Hoffa abstained from voting because he has a family member under the AEA contract.**

**Discussion:**

**Mr. Candela explained the recent change in the contract from Step 10 to 11 and that it will affect 4 people.**

#### **Approval of Step Increase**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, Board of Education advance Shawna Calopisis to the appropriate level of the salary schedule in accordance with provisions outlined in the Master Agreement between the Board of Education and the Almont Education Association, and commend Ms. Calopisis for her commitment to continued learning.

**P, 151, 6-0-0**

#### **POLICY**

#### **Approval of Overnight Trip(s)**

Moved by Manko, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the overnight backpacking trip to Manistee River Trail, Mesick, MI October 18-October 20.

**P, 152, 6-0-0**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Candela explained that the kids would only miss two days of school (Monday, Tuesday) and that Mr. Woelkes had scheduled a Drive a Ford fundraiser to come up with the funds.**

Moved by Manko, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Center Lake Camp, Tustin, MI from October 5 – October 7, 2014.

**P, 153, 6-0-0**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Miles wanted to know how the students for the trip were selected. Was it based on hiking/camping experience.**

**Mr. Candela stated that it was based on interest.**

**Mr. Miles asked if the cutoff was 15 students.**

**Mr. Candela stated that 15 was the number of students that signed up and there was no cutoff number.**

#### **BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of School of Choice Students**

Moved by Miles, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education accept the students on the attached applications for the 2014/2015 school year through the School of Choice Program.

**P, 154, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Release of Student**

Moved by Miles, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education APPROVE the request for said student (#15380) to be released to the Lapeer ISD adult education program.

**P, 155, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Best Practice Incentive**

Moved by Miles, supported by Boxey, the Board of Education adopt the Best Practices Incentive as attached. Resolution to be attached to Official Minutes of this meeting and marked VIII (D) 3.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Brzozowski, Kmetz, Manko, Miles, Boxey, Hoffa

Nays - None

**P, 156, 6-0-0**

**COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

None

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Miles wanted the students in the audience to know that he has enjoyed watching them grow throughout the years and he let them know he feels they are a great group of kids.

Mr. Hoffa wanted to mention that he saw Mr. Sutter painting the new posts for the scoreboard tonight.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**CLOSED SESSION: Superintendents Quarterly Review**

Motion by Boxey, supported by Kmetz, 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 – Kmetz, Manko, Miles, Brzozowski, Boxey, Hoffa

Nays - None

**P, 157, 6-0-0**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:22 p.m.

The Board went into Open Session at 9:23 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Hoffa, President