

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
October 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Miles 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, John Brozowski, John Owens, and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 41

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Steve Hoffa was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Chad Panduren

Mr. Panduren approached the Board regarding the purchase of property owned by the school near the High School. The Board said they will take a look at the plans and Mr. Candela will get back with him.

Student Council

A member of the Student Council brought the Board up to speed on some projects they did since school started. Mrs. Boxey asked how the leadership camp went and he responded that it was really good. The Council's current event is Socktober which is part of Make a Difference month. They are collecting new socks for the homeless. He said they are also involving the other buildings. They tried to send an email to the whole staff but as of yet no one on the Board had received one. He will be looking into this.

They also are having a costume contest. First prize is an iTunes Card, second prize a speedway card and third prize a Charlie Browns gift certificate.

Next week they will be holding a door decorating contest at the HS.

He also mentioned that the Spooky Time Bash was a success.

Mrs. Boxey thanked the Council for their hard work regarding the Spooky Time festivities and said they could not do it without them.

Mr. Miles asked if they had plans for trick or treating at the football game Friday. Mr. Candela stated that as a District we are working on putting something together for the kids.

Robotics

Three students from Robotics club attended the meeting to provide a demonstration of their current robot and an overview of the club and class. They explained the club, class and FRC competitions. They also explained that they are planning on involving Middle School students as well in the near future, which stems from the fact that the Freshman class this year has been very enthusiastic about the projects. They currently have about 62 official members, up significantly from last year.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the September 22, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the September 22, Closed Session: Quarterly Review
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the September 29, Special Meeting Bldg and Grounds
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the October 20, Special Meeting

P, 158, 6-0-0

BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

September 2014	
General Fund Total	\$ 670,741.58
School Lunch Fund	\$ 40,319.57
2006 Refunding Bonds	0
2012 Refunding Bonds	0
2013 SBL Refinance	0
2013 Refunding Bonds	0
QZAB Bond	\$ 9,898.00
GF Transfer in - Payroll	\$ 458,306.93
PESG	\$ 1,983.87
CoachEZ	\$ 3,951.45
Participant Benefit Claims	0
Total Spent	\$1,185,201.40

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32429-32581 and voided checks as presented : Voided check(s): 32406, 32457, 32051, 32165, 32394

P, 159, 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

CURRICULUM

All students have now been screened for math and reading using the DIBELS assessments. Now, our challenge as a teaching team will be to design and add interventions for math, the same way we have for reading, to help those students who are not performing at benchmark.

In terms of math instruction, many teachers are reporting that they are using the strategies they learned through the AIMS Math professional development workshop in August. Over all, they are finding that students are developing a stronger understanding of the math concepts, as demonstrated by student performance on topic tests. The next step for administrators will be to decide if we will bring back a second AIMS workshop in the winter to assist in developing hands-on activities around additional concepts in the Common Core.

Additionally, this week, all teachers received training for Lexia Core5, an adaptive online reading intervention program. The training was a required part of the literacy grant given to us by the Literacy and Beyond Foundation. Mrs. Weigand will be writing a separate grant to the Lapeer County Foundation to support a reward system for students assigned to Lexia Core5. If granted, the money will be used to purchase a collection of high-interest books. As students advance through levels of Lexia Core5, they will earn "Lexia Bucks", which they will use to "purchase" books from the book collection. This is a way of building excitement for reading, as well as libraries of leveled books for practice at home.

PLC TIME

Grade-level teams are mapping out their curriculum in the form of pacing guides. Some grade levels are further along in this process than others. Once these curriculum guides are in place, we will be able to communicate to parents what they can expect their children to be learning in each subject area throughout the year. As a coming attraction, we would also like to work toward creating report cards that reflect student progress on each of the curriculum standards.

RAIDER RECRUITS

Recently, Mr. Kline and Mrs. Weigand hosted a luncheon to welcome 17 new students in grades one through four. They enjoyed pizza and a scavenger hunt to acquaint them with their new school. And to help them get connected with the kids around them, they were allowed to invite a friend to join in the festivities. Lots of laughs were had by all!

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

The PTA did a fantastic job of organizing a Fall Harvest Festival for Orchard Primary families! The festival took place on Friday, October 17, and it was very well attended. There were games, hayrides, inflatable slides and moonwalks, and LOTS of food! What a terrific community event!

CAMPOUT INCENTIVE

We've been hearing about lawns getting flocked with flamingoes, but lawns flocked with teachers??? Twenty "lucky" teachers camped in front of OP for the night in response to a successful Morley Candy fundraiser. A number of students and families visited in the evening, and the teachers were greeted by honking buses and cheering students the next morning. The staff is already planning to do it again next year! The next time around, though, we would like to invite families to join us for S'mores when they come to visit. It was definitely an unusual fundraiser incentive, but a whole lot of fun!

FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

A big thank you goes out to Pam Ferzacca for organizing Fire Prevention Week. Fire fighters taught students of all ages about fire safety. They also led tours of their fire trucks throughout the week of October 6. They do a wonderful job with our kids, and we appreciate their time!

TEAM TEACHING

Mrs. Weigand would like to thank the teaching staff for welcoming her into their classrooms. She is enjoying many invitations to teach alongside teachers, guide station activities, and work with small groups of students in classrooms. She has also been leading some of her own lessons with kids. She just finished a writing project with all of the second graders, and she hopes to do something similar with the other grade levels. This type of team teaching approach has been a fantastic way to get to know students and connect with teachers. She very much appreciates all of the opportunities that come her way!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Second Grade Bat Program.....October 23
Third Grade Pioneer Day Activities.....October 24
First Grade Seven Ponds Field Trip.....October 28 and 30
Third Grade Troy School House/Museum Field Trip.....October 29
District Curriculum Meeting.....October 29
Title I Parent Information Meeting.....October 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Special Olympics – Bowling.....November 4
iPad Committee Meeting.....November 5
Parent-Teacher Conferences.....November 5 and 6

Middle School

Fun Run 2014

Thank you to everyone (staff, parents, community members, local businesses, and students) who made our 2nd Annual Fun Run a success! A special thank you to the Almont PTSA for all of their efforts and continued support! The Fun Run brought in over \$5000.00 to be spent on the “extras” for our students this year! ☺

AIMSweb Update

All students have been benchmarked for the Fall *AIMSweb* (Reading Fluency and Comprehension) testing; reports are being generated and will be shared out with teachers. Teachers will review data and identify the appropriate interventions for the students at this time.

R.O.C.K. SHOP & R.O.C.K. Assembly

AMS had its first ROCK SHOP on Friday, October 24th during both lunches; students “cashed in” their ROCK cards for great prizes/rewards. PTSA and Staff members volunteered to run it.

AMS also had its first ROCK Assembly on Friday afternoon. The Student Council (under the supervision of Advisor Ryan Kline) performed skits to emphasize the importance of our ROCK expectations for

behavior. They also facilitated grade level competitions. Raffle prize winners (from ROCK SHOP) were announced; awesome prizes were awarded to many students! The remainder of the assembly involved entertainment and dancing (with DJ Jerry Helfer).

The 7th and 8th grade students continued dancing at their first dance of the school year from 2:45-5:00 PM sponsored by the Student Council.

Note: The 5th and 6th grade students participated in “Activity Afternoon” on Thursday, October 23rd. Food, games, and hayrides! ☺ Thank you to Mr. Kline and the Student Council for organizing this event.

PLC/DISTRICT CURRICULUM COUNCIL UPDATE

Per survey data (K-8), the teachers found the first PLC to be effective and productive. A K-12 introduction was given and the new DCC Team Members were introduced. A flowchart/road map was shared with the teachers. Pacing Guide Templates were provided and utilized. Teachers reported that they need more time to continue their work on the pacing guides. The next scheduled DCC Meeting is on October 29th from 12:00-4:00 PM at AMS.

KUDOS

PTSA! Thank you for their continued support of AMS! They are so generous and willing to go the extra mile for our students!

Michelle Finton! Thank you to Michelle for all of her work and efforts to ensure compliance for the WIDA testing (test for English language proficiency) for K-12 students!

Nancy Turvill! Thank you to Nancy for assisting in the RTC/HIP room in Michelle’s absence.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 10-28-14 Box Top Contest Ends
- 10-29-14 DCC Meeting 12:00-4:00 PM
- 10-30-14 AMS Choir Concert (6th and 7th Grades) at 7:00 @ HS Auditorium
- 11-5-14 Parent/Teacher Conferences from 6:00-9:00 PM
- 11-6-14 Parent/Teacher Conferences from 1:00-3:00 and 6:00-9:00 PM
- 11-7-14 No School
- 11-10-14 Vent with Von- Parent Forum from 6:00-7:00 PM in Media Center

High School

Principal’s Update

We had a very good Homecoming at the High School. The High School Student Council Leadership Retreat was very successful. The positive leadership and team building skills learned on the retreat are already being utilized by the student council members in many ways throughout the school. Progress reports went out to parents last week. Mr. Woelkers is meeting individually with each student that is currently failing a class. The response from students to having their Principal talk to them individually about their grades has been very positive. It is also modeling to the staff that the success of our students is a responsibility that we all share.

Mr. Woelkers will be leading District Leadership this school year. They held our first meeting last Tuesday. There was a good turnout of Parents at the meeting. They will be meeting five times throughout the school year. Their next meeting will on December 4th at 4:15pm. If any Board members can attend it would be beneficial to the group.

Mr. Woelkers is starting to conduct the first round of classroom visits of the evaluation process. In anticipation of starting the evaluations he attended a one day teacher evaluation seminar put on by the Michigan Association of School Administrators. Through networking with the other principals and central office administrators at the seminar he picked up some valuable information and ideas that I will be using as I conduct the teacher evaluations.

Academic Support

We have begun the academic support sessions here at the High School. There are two 55 minute sessions each week for each of the four core content areas. Teachers, administrators and parents have been recommending students for the academic support program. For the current week we have 27 students that have been referred to academic support. In addition, we have had several students that are walk-ins. We are very encouraged by the amount of students taking advantage of the academic support. We will be tracking the academic progress of those students attending in order to gage the effectiveness of the program.

STEM

We are continuing to move forward with the STEM grant. Staff and/or administration from the Almont High School have been taking part in planning meetings held by the Lapeer County ISD. Mr. Woelkers will be traveling to Grand Rapids next week with a team of teachers from the Middle School and High School for a two day STEM conference. The grant I3 STEM grant we are participating in will be paying the expenses for the conference.

Fall Sports

We are wrapping up a very successful Fall Sports season. Our boys Tennis Team qualified for the State Finals and traveled to Kalamazoo October 17th. Grace Zimmerman, a 9th grader, qualified and participated in the Girls State Golf Tournament earlier this month. Our Varsity Football team won the BWAC and has qualified for the playoffs. Boys Soccer went to overtime in the district finals and lost a heart breaker on a shootout in overtime.

Mr. Weigand has put in place a season ending “closeout” packet that each coach will be completing. As part of this process Mr. Weigand will be evaluating each of the coaches and their program.

Upcoming Events

October 25 th -27 th	Backpacking trip
October 25 th	Student council “Make a Difference” day
October 31 st	Varsity Football Playoff game
November 5 th -6 th	High School Conferences

Miscellaneous

Evening with Candela

This Wednesday at 7:00 pm Mr. Candela will hosting 1st “Evening with Candela” for 2014-14 at the Middle School Media Center. The discussion topic will center around the Non-Homestead millage which will be on the November 4th ballot. Mr. Candela will also provide an update on sinking funds projects scheduled for this summer.

Board of Education: Questions

Mr. Miles asked how the blood drive went today.

Mrs. Boxey stated they had 34 participants.

PERSONNEL

Approval of 3rd Party Coaches

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

- JV Boys Basketball
- Freshman Boys Basketball
- Varsity Wrestling
- MS Wrestling

P, 160, 6-0-0

Approval of ACS Fall Coaches

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens the Board of Education approve the employment of the following coaches for the Fall 2014/2015 winter sport season:

- JV Girls Basketball – Mike Finton
- 8th Grade Boys Basketball –James Leusby

P, 161, 6-0-0

POLICY

Approval of Change in Location for BOE Meetings

Moved by Manko, supported by Owens, that Meetings (Regular, Work Session, Special and Informational) of the Almont Board of Education be held in the Middle School Media Center at 4624 Kidder Road, Almont, MI. Regular meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. and Work Sessions to be held at 6:00 p.m., all other meetings subject to call.

P, 162, 6-0-0

Discussion

Mr. Kmetz wanted to make sure that we told Mr. Wycinski and Mrs. Ulmer that the meeting location has been moved so that the students can find us next month.

BUSINESS

Awarding of Contract

Moved by Manko supported by Owens the Board of Education accept the bid from Scott's Lawn Service for lawn/snow services from October 1, 2014 thru October 31, 2017, as presented, a copy of said pricing sheet to be marked VIII(D)1 and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting.

P, 163, 6-0-0

Release of Student

Moved by Manko supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education DENY the request for said student (#18341) to be released to Capac Community Schools.

P, 164, 6-0-0

Mr. Candela then went over the 2014-2015 Set-Seg insurance plan.

No action necessary.

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President