

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
December 15, 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 Media Center at Almont Middle School, 4624 Kidder, Almont, MI 48003

Present

Steve Hoffa, Steven Manko, Nancy Boxey, John Brzozowski, Scott Kmetz, Jonathon Owens and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 9

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: John Miles arrived at 7:02

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council

The SC representative informed the Board that they are currently wrapping up their holiday food drive and are on track to collect enough food to reach their goal.

The representative also passed out invitations to the Board for a Board Appreciation dinner before the January regular meeting.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the November 24, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the December 8, Work Session

P, 174, 7-0-0

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.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| November 2014 | |
| General Fund Total | \$653,924.08 |
| School Lunch Fund | \$102.40 |
| 2006 Refunding Bonds | 0 |
| 2012 Refunding Bonds | 0 |
| 2013 SBL Refinance | 0 |
| 2013 Refunding Bonds | \$2,000.00 |
| QZAB Bond | 0 |
| GF Transfer in - Payroll | 0 |
| PESG | \$10,088.19 |
| CoachEZ | \$29,287.13 |
| Participant Benefit Claims | 0 |
| Total Spent | \$695,401.80 |

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32690-32969 and voided checks as presented :
 Voided check(s): 32649 and 32699

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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.

Discussion:

Mrs. Boxey asked if the correction to soccer was made.

Mr. Candela – yes

Mr. Miles asked about the negative balances.

Mr. Candela stated that those would be moved into the correct accts and closed

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendents Report

Orchard Primary

Orchard Primary welcomed a packed house of veterans and their families on Friday, November 21. Mrs. Howden's fourth graders did a fantastic job of serving them at a dessert reception, which was hosted by many community volunteers. All 450 students lined our hallways with flags in hand as the veterans exited the building to the tune of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Mr. Candela read a letter from a Veteran that attended.

The trip to Davison year round schools was discussed.

As a staff, we are at the very PRELIMINARY stages of discussing standards-based report cards. These are already in place in kindergarten through second grade, so conversations in those grade levels are focused on revising them to align with the Common Core State Standards. Report cards in grades three and four, however, are not standards-based and would likely work differently. For example, some schools assign letter grades and support them with a list of standards. The standards are rated according to a numerical scale in order to give parents

more detailed information about student progress toward specific skills. This process requires research, teacher discussion, parent communication, and the time to implement it well.

Thank you to Nancy Boxey and the Almont DDA for inviting a boy in third grade and a girl in kindergarten to join Santa in lighting the town Christmas tree last Saturday night. We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness! What a special, memorable night for two of our little ones!

Orchard Primary UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Middle School

AMS welcomes our new (long-term substitute) Band Director- Mr. John Rheinhard! The students and parents look forward to getting acquainted with Mr. Rheinhard and maintaining an exceptional band program.

AMS teachers have set the following goal (to address technology and best practice to prepare for upcoming spring assessment):

By February 2, 2015, my students will be able to engage in at least three CCSS tasks through the use of one of the designated Classroom Management Systems.

A special thank you to the following teachers for their tech assistance: E. Johnson, A. Wetzels, H. Murphy, and K. Wade.

Administration, Counselors, and MS/HS Teachers met on Wednesday, Dec. 10th at Almont High School. Two organizations presented their STEM programs: *Project Lead the Way* and *Stem.org*. Discussion and an action plan will follow to implement programming for ACS (Grades 6-12).

The next DCC Meeting is on December 17th from 4:15-6:15 PM at Orchard Primary.

The 8th grade teachers have been approached to consider taking as many students as possible on a trip to Chicago (3 days and 2 nights) in June 2015. A letter was sent home to parents to solicit how many students would be able to take this trip, if approved. At this time, 50 students would be able to attend. More details and a trip proposal may be forthcoming after the holidays.

Upcoming events were discussed.

High School

During the first Trimester we conducted academic support sessions after school for each of the core content areas. Staff including those in administration made contact calls to parents to help in getting students to the academic support sessions. We saw over a 25% decrease in the amount of students that were in a failing situation in one of their classes in the 9th and 10th grades. In the 11th and 12th grades the drop in failures was over 50% from mid trimester to final grade.

In late we to St. Clair Community College and met with Administrative staff from the college to put the finishing touches on an agreement to bring dual enrollment college courses into the High school. This meeting was the culmination of several months of meetings and planning on how best to provide Almont students with a quality college dual enrollment experience right in our own building.

If the dual enrollment agreement is approved by the Board of Education it is our plan to offer three to four St. Clair Community College courses during the fall and winter of each year. The students taking these courses would receive college credit as well as high school credit. These courses would be available for

students to begin taking in the fall of their 11th grade year. Students taking full advantage of the dual enrollment program would be able to walk across the stage at graduation with not only an Almont diploma, but also 24 to 30 transferable college credits. This will give our students a head start on their college experience but will result in a significant savings for them and their parents.

If approved it is our plan to pilot a college English course during the third trimester. This 3 credit course would be offered to 11th and 12th graders and would be taught by Mr. Stroh.

The math and science teachers will be meeting this week with representatives from two different STEM consulting groups. After meeting with each of the consulting groups we will travel and talking with schools that have partnered with them we will select a consultant to work with us to help us implement STEM into our science and math departments. The entire cost of the consultants as well as the professional development they will provide our staff is being covered by a grant that the Lapeer County ISD is administering for the local districts in Lapeer County.

It is the goal to implement a STEM program into the High School for the Fall of 2015. I will keep the Board informed as we continue to research and explore STEM opportunities for our students.

New this year the Choir and the Band will be performing a Christmas concert for the entire student body the day before the Holiday break. We are excited that the music programs providing a great holiday send off for the students.

Several students in the art classes are busy preparing to have their work submitted for the regional Scholastic fine Arts Competition. This will be the first year that our students will be competing at this level. Those students that have their work selected will receive recognition and their work will be displayed at Macomb Community college. In addition their art work could move on to the National Competition in New York.

Other

Today superintendents from Lapeer County met with Representative Muxlow on education issues. Representative Muxlow wanted to know the issues that are facing each district. I spoke with him from Almont's perspective about declining enrollment, funding, staff morale, common core, local control and unfunded mandates. Representative Muxlow is traveling throughout Michigan to hear from superintendents. It was good for Almont and all school districts to have a legislator listen to what is happening within the education community.

Last Thursday night about 60 community residents gathered in the Almont Elementary gymnasium to listen to Partners in Architecture findings, after spent multiple days walking around and analyzing the AE facility. The Almont Elementary was found to be structurally sound needing some aesthetic repairs and upgrades in other areas. Partners in Architecture also shared community their vision of the facility and took suggestions from community members about other ideas for the facility could become if the Township and Village decide to take over the facility. This was the first community event with several more community presentations scheduled in the near future. Partners in Architecture will have more details and cost of the project at those future meetings.

Board of Education: Questions

Mr. Miles mentioned that the Middle School Musical that was held over the weekend was a success.

CURRICULUM

Approval of SC4 Contract

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the contract with SC4 to provide college level classes at Almont High School beginning with the third trimester in 2014-2015. Contract to be attached to official minutes and marked IX B 1.

P, 176, 7-0-0

PERSONNEL

Approval of Resignation

Moved by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Michelle Finton as District Test Coordinator and RTC Supervisor.

P, 177, 7-0-0

Approval of Testing Coordinator

Moved by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education employ Teresa Deneweth as Test Coordinator beginning immediately. Contract is attached and will be marked IX (C) 2 and attached to the official minutes of this meeting

P, 178, 7-0-0

Approval of Layoffs

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Owens and seconded by Member Manko:

WHEREAS, that the largest portion of the Almont Community Schools' expenditures are used to pay for the employment of its staff members, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has discussed with the Board of the School District and the Almont Education Association the need for staff layoffs prior to this Board meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of the School District, due to the current economic difficulties affecting the School District, must reduce its staff to reduce costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The individual(s) on the attached list shall be given notice that the Board of Education has laid off said individual effective January 5, 2015.
2. The Superintendent is hereby directed to give the teacher named in this resolution a copy of this Resolution and a copy of the Teachers Tenure Act.
3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Manko, Brzozowski, Kmetz, Owens, Miles, Boxey, Hoffa

Nays: None

Motion declared adopted.

P, 179, 7-0-0

Approval of 3rd Party Coaches

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

- Freshman Girls Basketball Coach

P, 180, 7-0-0

BUSINESS

Approval of Architectural Firm

Moved by Kmetz, supported by Manko, the Board of Education employ William Kibbe and Associates for architectural/engineering services. Contract to be attached to official minutes and marked IX D (1).

P, 181, 7-0-0

DATE

Organization Meeting will be held at 7:00 in the Middle School Media Center on Tuesday January 6th.

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

A student inquired as to if every classroom would be using ed-moodle or google classroom

Mr. Candela stated yes that is the plan. They will be using one or the other as a content management system

Student wondered if there would be a quota or if they have to use it

Mr. Candela stated they will have to use one or the other for a content management system but no quota for assignments.

Mr. Paul LaCavera wondered how much we were paying the architectural firm, what this cost included and who held the insurance.

Mr. Candela responded around \$45,000 and it included all design and recommendations for the track, service drive, OP roof and rework of MS outside entrance. They will make these recommendations to Hendricks which is the Construction Manager and they hold the insurance.

Another student inquired as to if gym and band would also be using ed-moodle and google classroom

Mr. Candela said that yes they would but in those circumstances it might be on a more limited basis. This would be more of a principal decision.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Hoffa thanked Mrs. Boxey for her 9 years of service on the Board. In those 9 years Mrs. Boxey only missed 4 meetings. She will be missed by all members of the Board. He appreciated her voice on the Board as the only female and as a mom, it brought a fresh perspective. He also felt she was a great advocate for the students of the district. She has been a hard worker, dedicated and committed member. Over her years on the Board she has seen many changes including the opening and closing of buildings, the iPad initiative, the hiring of many employees, as well as the latest project, the possible move between the township/village and ACS Central Office.

Mrs. Boxey stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board. She has appreciated the public trust given to her. Her 9 years have been a very rewarding experience even with the years of budget cuts and deficit spending. With her last child graduating she looks back and would not change a thing. She was proud to serve on such a well-functioning Board.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION: Superintendent's Quarterly Review

Motion by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of Superintendent's Quarterly Review as permissible under the Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call Vote: Aye's –Kmetz, Manko, Brzozowski, Boxey, Miles, Owens and Hoffa

Nays - None

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ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting went into Closed Session at 7:46 pm

The Meeting went into Open Session at 9:17 pm

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Approved _____

Date

Signed: _____

,Secretary

Signed: _____

Steve Hoffa, President