

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
January 26, 2015

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, Jill O'Neil, John Miles, Scott Kmetz, Jonathon Owens and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 21

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Brzozowski was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council – deferred to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Candela took the time to thank the BOE for their service. January is BOE appreciation month and he is very appreciative of the work the Board does all year. He also mentioned that before the meeting tonight the Student Council provided a meal for the Board where they visited with the Board and shared their experiences with them.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the December 15, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the December 15, Closed Session: Superintendent's Quarterly Review
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the January 8, Organizational Meeting
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the January 19, Work Session

P, 18, 6-0-0

BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

December 2014	
General Fund Total	\$1,516,112.82
School Lunch Fund	\$35,101.43
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$150.00
2012 Refunding Bonds	0
2013 SBL Refinance	0
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$900.00
QZAB Bond	\$2,875.00
Sub Total	\$1,555,139.25
General Fund Transfer In	0
PESG	0
CoachEZ	0
<u>Participant Benefit Claims</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Funds Spent	\$1,555,139.25

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32770-32907 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 32816 and 32817
P, 19, 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

OP is excited to bring a new pilot STEAM program aboard for all of our students. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. STEAM activities are cross-curricular, and they intentionally blend at least two subject areas at a time, plus technology as often as possible. In addition to the three core specials classes—Physical Education, Art, and Music—all children will engage in STEAM each week. Mrs. Weigand will be the only STEAM teacher for fourth graders for the remainder of the year. Currently, we are engaged in a *Superheroes* STEAM unit.

Professional Development

Thank you to Kelly Nikolic, Paulynn Bartlett, Sarah Savage, Kim Tencza, Shawonna Calopisis, and Jack Bostian for putting together last Monday's iPad P.D. Teachers modeled an array of iPad apps and web-based programs aimed at enhancing instruction, engaging students, and deepening learning for them.

On February 16, AIMS (Activities in Math and Science) training will be back. This time, the focus for grades K-5 will be *Number Operations and Algebraic Thinking*.

Also on February 16, we are tentatively planning to invite Kathy Gorski from the Literacy and Beyond Foundation back to train the paraeducator staff in the use of Lexia Core5. Kathy came to share Lexia information with classroom teachers in the fall, and now, we are interested in more details. Since paraeducators are often monitoring the use of Lexia as part of the literacy block in most classrooms, it just seems smart to bring extra training their way.

Science, Math and Literacy Nights

The Orchard Primary Science Fair is coming on Friday, February 27 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. This year, there will be math activities, as well as some sample STEAM activities.

Similarly, on March 12, we will host another family outreach night. This time, the focus will be on math and literacy. Families will rotate through stations, engaging in various hands-on activities led by a team of teachers and paraeducators.

MStep

The M-step is coming in April. Orchard Primary students will be taking the tests using paper and pencil this year. Next year, we must take it online—again, shedding a critical spotlight on keyboarding skills as part of our curriculum.

Middle School

***AIMSweb* UPDATE**

The MAZE (Reading Comprehension) Winter Benchmark has been completed. The R-CBM (Fluency) Winter Benchmark will be completed by January 30th. AMS has already begun compiling the MAZE data; *Read Naturally* will be utilized for students in Tier 3 (Red-Needing Immediate Intervention) at this time.

READ NATURALLY

As AMS has chosen *Read Naturally* to monitor this school year (per state requirement), AMS continues to review the process and protocol to communicate its effectiveness. The focus is comprehension. Teresa Deneweth will be compiling the data from our students' results via *Excel*

SUMMARY of PD Day (from 1-19-15)

AM- Technology

Erik Johnson provided PD on **Google Docs/Folders** with the AMS teachers.

Jack Bostian and Adam Wetzel provided PD on **Google Classroom**.

The AMS teachers participated in **iPad App/Website Speed Dating** (teachers were asked to talk about their favorite app or website for two minutes then they moved on to the next teacher to share, and then the next teacher, etc...).

PM- Pacing Guides

Teachers continued their work on Pacing Guides. Due Date= March 2nd.

ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION

Jason Buchan, a motivational speaker, will be coming to AMS on January 30th at 1:30 to talk to our AMS students about bullying. Mr. Buchan will reinforce the R.O.C.K. expectations! Mrs. Odett and Mrs. Gilbert have also planned to do a follow-up activity after the presentation.

TEACHER EVALUATION UPDATE

Mrs. VonHiltmayer is conducting formal observations at this time.

Two Mini-Observations have been completed for each teacher. Walk-thrus will continue.

R.O.C.K. STARS for Nov/Dec (due to holidays, we combined the two months) can be found on the office windows.

STAFF KUDOS

Teresa Deneweth- OUTSTANDING District Test Coordinator and Testing Support!

Erik Johnson, Adam Wetzel, and Jack Bostian- EXCELLENT Tech Support!

Sarah Will- RTC/HIP Support! Also, Mrs. Will is pushing in classrooms to provide assistance as well!

Intervention Team/Ryan Kline, Kimberly Odett, Mandy Gilbert, Jose Andrades, Mary Mueller, and Ritchie Feys- Thank you for the I-Team's efforts to reach all students!

High School

Principal's Update:

This month is a busy month at the High School. Although it is only January we are already heavily into the planning for the 2015/16 school year. The Robotics program, now in its second year, continues to grow. The Robotics Club is working hard as they build their robot for this year's statewide competition. Each night of the week, from 6pm to 9pm, students and parents can be found designing and building prototype robots for the upcoming competition. Mr. Savage, with assistance from Mr. Leusby, is leading the group. This past week the team took one of their robots and put on a demonstration for a group of 700 engineers at a conference in Dearborn. The engineers were very impressed with the work the kids have done.

Academic Support

Academic Support is continuing to be utilized by our students on a regular basis. Our School Improvement Team did a mid-year review of the program and is implementing some minor changes to make it even more accessible to those students in need of help. One major area of concern brought up during the review was problems with transportation for the non-driving students who stay for the academic support sessions. Mr. Woelkers will be bringing forward some recommendations to the board concerning this at the February board workshop.

Visual and Performing Arts Programs

The Art program here at the High school had four students receive notice that they have won awards in the Regional Scholastic Arts Competition. These students will be honored at an awards ceremony in early February. Their art work will be displayed at the Macomb Community College Cultural Center during the months of February and March.

The Band is busy preparing for their upcoming Band Festival competition. Mr. Reinhard is doing an excellent job with the students and will have them well prepared for the festival. The Spring Play this year will be Mary Poppins. Try outs have been held and they are already holding practices for the upcoming spring performance.

Athletics

Winter sports are going well with most programs heading into the final third of their season. We had a very successful wrestling tournament and league-wide cheerleading competition here at the High school within the last couple weeks.

Other

Summer Projects

Mr. LaPan met with Kibbe (Architects) last week to review the progress of the summer projects. He is hoping to have a set of drawings ready for review next week. The unfortunate news is that there will be most likely more work required to repair the road than what we had budgeted. Dan will explain that all to me, hopefully next week. Dan will set up meeting date and time once he receives word from Kibbe that they will be ready to present.

Township and Village Feasibility Study

Last Thursday night about 30 to 40 community residents gathered in the Almont Elementary gymnasium to listen to Partners in Architecture. Partners in Architecture presented three different proposals ranging from 5 million to 7 ½ million to finally 10 million. On the high end of the budget, residents could expect to pay about \$350.00 annually. The Township and Village explained that they would seek grants to help cover some of the cost but would have to commit to project, before they could receive the grants. One more community presentation is scheduled in the near future, before the Township and Village will make their decision on the building.

Board of Education: Questions

None

POLICY

Approval of Trip

Moved by Manko, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Traverse City for the MHSPLA Regional Meet from February 6 – February 7, 2015.

P, 20, 6-0-0

PERSONNEL

Approval of Paraeducator/RTC Supervisor

Moved by O'Neil, supported by Owens, the Board of Education employ Sara Will as RTC Supervisor for the Middle School. Contract will be attached to the official minutes of this meeting and marked VIII (C) 1.

P, 21, 6-0-0

FINANCE

Approval of Revised General Fund Budget

Moved by Kmetz, supported by Manko, the Board of Education adopt the revised General Fund Budget for the 2014/2015 school year, with Revenues totaling \$12,595,116.00 and Expenditures totaling \$12,890,793.00.

P, 22, 6-0-0

BUSINESS

Approval of Release of Students to ISD

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education APPROVE the students on the attached list to be released to the Lapeer ISD adult education program to work toward their GED's.

P, 23, 6-0-0

Approval of Release of Student

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education DENY the request for said student (#16282) to be released to Romeo Community Schools.

P, 24, 6-0-0

Approval of Retainer Agreement

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the Legal Retainer Agreement with Thrun Law Firm covering the period of January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015 as presented. Retainer Agreement to be attached to the official minutes and marked VIII E(3).

P, 25, 6-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**Representative from Student Council (M.R)**

Student Council is currently working on snow coming. Theme is Night at the Museum.

They have also been talking about the move to semesters for the school and their class.

Mr. Miles asked her how they were going to decorate for the dance.

M.R. stated they have sought help from the art department

Mr. Miles wondered if they were theme dressing

M.R. stated no they were not but they would be having spirit days during the week with opportunity to dress up.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Goals Workshop Saturday March 7th

Superintendent Review Feb 16th Work Session

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm

Approved _____

Date

Signed: _____

John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____

Steve Hoffa, President