

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
February 23, 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, John Brzozowski and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 22

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the January 26, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the February 16, 2015 Work Session
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the February 16, 2015 Closed Session: Superintendents Evaluation

P, 27, 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.

January 2015

General Fund Total	\$ 800,464.26
School Lunch Fund	\$ 25,689.03
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$ 171.94
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$ 179.41
2013 SBL Refinance	\$ 616.73
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$ 2,190.32
QZAB Bond	\$ 9,384.00
Subtotal	\$ 838,695.69
General Fund (transfer in for Payroll)	\$ 344,712.81
PESG	\$ 9,919.35
Coach EZ	\$ -
Participant Benefit Claims	\$ 50,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS SPENT	\$ 1,243,327.85
Check No. 32908-33004	
Void Checks 32818, 32957	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32908-33004 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 32818 and 32957

P, 28, 7-0-0

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

The Trust and Agency Accounts were approved as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Miles asked if we planned to consolidate the HS and MS drama accounts

Mr. Candela said that yes we do, we may do it as soon as next month

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendents Report

Orchard Primary

CURRICULUM

In two weeks, OP will be implementing extra intervention time for first graders. According to research, first grade is a critical year for academic intervention because so many foundational skills in phonics, reading, and math are laid at this time. In an attempt to provide students with the additional, more intense help they need at the most effective time, an extra paraeducator will be assigned to work in first-grade classrooms for thirty minutes, four days a week. This will allow for smaller group sizes, as there will be three adults in the classroom, including the teacher.

STATE TESTING

The M-STEP is coming in the spring for all third and fourth graders. All students will be required to test in English language arts and math. Additionally, fourth-grade students will be tested in science.

For all modules, students will first take part in a classroom activity which is intended to build prerequisite knowledge for completing a performance task. Sample activities ask students to generate tables and graphs in math, and they must also explain their reasoning in writing. In ELA, sample activities ask them to participate in a discussion about such things as planets and the solar system.

Orchard Primary will take 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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Also on February 16, Kathy Gorski from the Literacy and Beyond Foundation came 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, & LITERACY NIGHTS

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

Similarly, on March 12, we will host a family outreach night for all Title I students. This time, the focus will be on math and literacy. Students will be invited to stay after school until 5:30 that day to participate in various hands-on activities led by a team of teachers and paraeducators. Their parents will be invited to join them from 5:00-5:30 for pizza and pop. This way, students can share what they did with their moms and dads

FAMILY EVENTS

We would like to thank the PTA for organizing the Family Movie Night, featuring *The Lego Movie*. In addition, the Father-Daughter Dance took place on Friday, February 6 at AMS. The event was very well attended. Thank you to Joyce Griffin and the high school students who assisted her for a wonderful night to remember.

Coming events were also mentioned

Middle School

District Curriculum Council Update

DCC will begin reviewing all Pacing Guides K-12 at the next scheduled four hour session on March 25th. DCC will also decide on a template to be utilized for a more detailed Curriculum Map.

SUMMARY of PD Day (from 2-16-15)

The majority of AMS teachers completed their Pacing Guides; due date is Monday, March 2nd. Math Teachers and Paraeds/Parapros in Grades 5-8 were involved in AIMS Math Training Part II. Special Education Teachers were involved in Math/Reading Training with Mrs. Lackey in the afternoon.

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Project Lead The Way (POTENTIAL PILOT)

Mrs. VonHiltmayer is attending i3Grant Meetings and communicating with Amy Rauch from PLTW (Project Lead the Way) to explore the possibility of offering a STEM Exploratory course in 8th grade. More details to follow as they become available.

M-STEP Readiness

Administrators and Teachers continue to explore resources/websites to ensure their students will be better prepared to take the M-Step Assessment in April. As this assessment will be taken online, student exposure to the testing format is crucial. MDE has provided sample test items.

R.O.C.K. STARS for January- R.O.C.K. Stars of the month are located in the main office! **Note:** The students are chosen by administration, teachers, and support staff.

STAFF KUDOS

Breanne Jostock- Mrs. Jostock is **expecting a baby** boy to arrive in June 2015! Congrats!

Rick Filar- Mr. Filar **got married** on Valentine's Day to his beautiful wife Rachel!

Sandra Crittenden- Thank you to Mrs. Crittenden for taking the time and effort to organize an **AMS Quiz Bowl** this year! At the last Quiz Bowl Competition (in Brown City) on Feb. 10th, our AMS 5th/6th Grade Team took **FIRST PLACE**; our 7th/8th Grade Team took **THIRD PLACE**!

Upcoming events were also mentioned

High School

At the High School we are busy with putting in place the frame work for next school years schedule. On Wednesday February 18th we held a parent information night to go over the proposed changes for next year. We had a very good turnout of parents with lots of good questions. Students will begin selecting their courses for next year in the next few weeks. There was excitement from both parents and students about the Early College and possible STEM courses we would offer this coming fall.

The administrative staff is working closely with Ms. Deneweth to make sure that we are prepared for the upcoming ACT testing cycle. The Michigan Merit Examination for 11th graders consists of the ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys, and M-STEP summative in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The MME will be given over three days in late April or early May.

Visual and Performing Arts Programs

On February 9th, Mr. Woelkers attended the Regional Scholastic Awards at the Macomb Community College Cultural Center. Four students won awards in the Regional Scholastic Arts Competition. I hosted a dinner for the students and their parents prior to the awards show at a restaurant near the college. It was very exciting to watch our students cross the stage and receive their awards in front of close to 3000 people. It was a special evening for both the students and their parents.

The robotics club has finished building their robot and it is now sealed up and waiting for the competition to begin in early March. Students from the club along with several parents spent five nights a week over a two month period designing, building and programing the robot. The Robotics program here at the High School continues to excel and grow.

Athletics

Winter sports are beginning to approach their season ends. In wrestling we have four boys that have advanced to the Regional finals and will be competing this weekend to see if they will advance to the State finals. Two boys Boyd Glenn and Grant Turnmire qualified for the State. The dance team heads to Florida in March to compete at their National Tournament. This past weekend the dance team was state champs in Pom. Spring sports will begin in less than 3 weeks.

Other

Band March 7th Davison

MDE title I Audit in Central Office on Feb 24 and 25

Board of Education: Questions

None

CURRICULUM

Approval of High School Courses

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the following High School classes beginning with the 2015/2016 school year:

- Foundations in English 9
- Foundations in English 10
- Foundations in Algebra
- Foundations in Geometry
- Foundations in Biology
- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Principles of Biomedical Science
- Developmental Algebra
- General Science
- VIP/Work Study

P, 29, 7-0-0

Approval of High School Course Guide

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the 2015/2016 Almont High School Course Guide as presented.

P, 30, 7-0-0

PERSONNEL

Approval of Resignation

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens, the Board of Education accept the resignation and retirement of Mrs. Cindy Godo with best wishes for the future.

P, 31, 7-0-0

Approval of ACS Coaches

Moved by O'Neil, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following coaches for the Spring 2014/2015 sport season:

- Erik Johnson – Girls Varsity Softball
- Nathan Immekus –Varsity Tennis
- Ritchie Feys – Varsity Baseball
- Ron James – Assistant Track
- Ryan Kline – Middle School Track
- Shannon Chayka- Varsity Girls Soccer

P, 32, 7-0-0

Approval of Third Party Coaching Positions

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

- JV Baseball
- JV Softball
- Girls Varsity Track
- Boys Varsity Track
- JV Tennis
- Golf

P, 33, 7-0-0

POLICY**Approval of MASB Board Candidate**

Moved by Manko, supported by Miles, the Board of Education cast their vote for Janice Holz for the Region 5 MASB Board of Directors position.

P, 34, 7-0-0

Approval of Overnight Trip

Moved by Manko, supported by Miles, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Orlando, Florida March 6-March 9, 2015.

P, 35, 7-0-0

Discussion:

Ms. O'Neil pointed out that the Board's hands were tied on this one because it was brought to their attention too late. Going forward the coach must bring any trips to the Board well in advance, not last minute like this one.

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Goals Workshop Saturday March 14 8:00 am in the HS Media Center

Board Goals Workshop Thursday March 19 7:00 pm in the MS Media Center

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President