

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
March 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Manko 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

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

Visitors: 7

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Hoffa - absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council

The student council rep updated the Board on the Snowcoming Dance. He said that they had 300 + attendees, more than usual. All feedback from students was positive.

The only current project they are working on is Home Coming for next fall.

Next big event is Prom

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the March 14, 2015 Board Goals Workshop
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the March 19, 2015 Board Goals Workshop
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the March 16, 2015 Work Session

P, 36, 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.

March 23, 2015

February 2015

General Fund Total	\$ 954,539.73
School Lunch Fund	\$ 18,885.78
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
2013 SBL Refinance	\$ -
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
QZAB Bond	\$ 2,300.00
Subtotal	\$ 975,725.51
General Fund (transfer in for Payroll)	\$ -
PESG	\$ 4,769.73
Coach EZ	\$ -
Participant Benefit Claims	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDS SPENT	\$ 980,495.24
Check No. 33005-33094	
Void Checks: None	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 33005-33094 and voided checks as presented: None

P, 37, 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

TITLE I MATH & LITERACY ACTIVITY NIGHT

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Carlee Land, Kris Ruhala, Cindy Jones, Liz Kempf, Tanya Steinhaus, Noelle Graver, Suzanne Herzog, Colleen Ions, Shelly Baker, Laurie Lawrence, and Heather Hall for planning an outstanding Title I family outreach program. Approximately 150 invitations were sent to students who qualified under the Title I grant. 100 of those students RSVP'd, and 90 students stayed after school last Thursday for an afternoon of reading activities, math games, and iPad apps.

TITLE I INTERVENTIONS

- **READING SPECIALISTS**

Suzanne Herzog, Melissa Ashbaugh, and Paulynn Bartlett have accepted three separate Reading Specialist positions that are set to launch the week students return from spring break. With the assistance of a paraeducator, Mrs. Herzog will work with students in second grade; Ms. Ashbaugh will teach students in third grade; and Mrs. Bartlett will provide interventions for our fourth graders.

INTERVENTION TIME FOR FIRST GRADERS

Research says first grade is a critical year for student academic growth. With that in mind, we are putting

March 23, 2015

30 minutes of intervention time in place for all first graders, four days a week. In order to shrink group sizes and make the intervention time more effective, each teacher will have the assistance of two paraeducators during that time period.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

THE M-STEP IS COMING!

The M-STEP is on its way for third- and fourth-graders. Teachers are working to prepare students by modeling learning experiences after the sample performance tasks available on the MDE website. In an effort to give students enough exposure to keyboarding practice, students in kindergarten through third grade are participating in 10-15-minute keyboarding stations as part of either their Art or STEAM classes STEAM

STEAM classes continue to be a hit with our students and their parents! We receive positive feedback on a weekly basis from parents regarding STEAM.

At each level, the common factor is a focus on inquiry-based, cross-curricular, hands-on learning.

We are interested in participating in STEM training as it becomes available at the elementary level. Mr. Zott has added OP to the grant so that staff may attend 3D printing training.

In addition, Shawwna Calopisis has expressed an interest in putting together a summer enrichment program for students interested in learning to build their own apps.

Mrs. Weigand is currently taking a Learner's Edge distance learning course in the development of outdoor classrooms.

KINDERGARTEN / BEGINNERSGARTEN REGISTRATION

58 Registered as of today 3-23-2015

7 BK from last year (not included in 58 above)

16 PreSchoolers from here who have not registered but we expect to register

2 PreSchoolers from out of district that may register

10 of the 58 are currently interested in BK

SPECIAL EVENTS

- MARCH IS READING MONTH

Reading Month is in full swing at OP! Each grade level is celebrating with a focus on a different genre.

- JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Mrs. Bassols recently organized a *Jump Rope for Heart* fundraiser. Students in all PE classes participated in the event to raise awareness about heart-healthy living. All proceeds benefit the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

- CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN PARTY

The PTA is hosting a Chocolate Fountain Party on March 27 for all students who participated in the Morley Candy Fundraiser. Students who sold at least 30 items will be riding in style in a limo to Charlie Brown's on that afternoon! Thank you, PTA!

- FUN RUN

The PTA is also organizing a spring Fun Run event for mid April. The top prize for the run is a chance to be "Principal for the Day"

Middle School

DCC UPDATE

DCC is meeting on March 25th from 12:00-4:00 at AHS. Pacing Guides will be reviewed;

MARCH is READING MONTH

Kudos to Mrs. Henige for organizing another successful March is Reading Month! Activities have included:

- *Book Fair: Made over **\$1900** in Scholastic Dollars \$\$
- *Book Club: The Rule of Three written by Eric Walters
- *Battle of the Coins!

READ NATURALLY

(Program Evaluation) Mrs. VonHiltmayer met with the Para Educators on 3-18-15 to do a mid-year review. Strengths and challenges for *Read Naturally* were shared and documented. **Essential Question:** Are we able to prove student achievement?

Vent w/Von (#2)

Another Vent w/Von session was held on 3-16-15. Topics of discussion included: M-STEP, Teacher Evaluation, & Social Media Concern. Overall, it was great to speak with parents and answer questions for them.

KUDOS

***Pancake Breakfast 3-15-15**

A HUGE thank you to the AMS PTSA! A special thank you to Ms. Martin, Mr. Beneson, and Mrs. Jostock for cooking and/or keeping food organized for this event!

***7th Grade Dodgeball 3-15-15**

A HUGE thank you to the 7th Grade Teachers: Mr. Andrades, Mrs. Purvis, Mrs. Malloy, and Ms. Arnissi! Overall, another successful fundraiser for the Physics Cedar Point Trip!

***Band Festival Results**

Kudos to Mr. John Reinhard and his 7th & 8th Grade Bands! They travelled to Davison High School this past month and received “1” ratings on their performances! Excellent work!

High School

Testing

The ACT testing period for juniors was held March 3rd and 4th. We had over 99% of our juniors participate in the testing process. The MME is being replaced by the M-STEP which will now be given over a three day period in late April for 11th graders.

AP students are in the process of signing up to take the AP exams later this spring once they have signed up we will take a look at how many take the test compared to how many took the classes. This information should help us decide if we keep the current AP classes for next year or if we just make them advance level classes.

Scheduling

Students at the High School are fully engaged in selecting their courses for next fall. The goal is to have the master schedule complete by May 2nd.

Dual Enrollment/Early College

The pilot for dual enrollment through St. Clair Community College will begin with the start of the 3rd trimester. We have 15 students from the junior class that will be taking part in the English Comp 101 course. The Compass test weeded the original number of students interested in the class down.

Evaluations

Teacher evaluations are ongoing at the high school. We are in the second round of staff observations and will begin the full one hour formal observation after spring break.

STEM/Project Lead the Way

As we are working through the scheduling process we are getting high interest from our students in both the Bio-medical and Pre-engineering courses. The STEM initiatives planned here at the High School continue to receive positive feedback from both parents and students.

Visual and Performing Arts Programs

This past month both the choir and the band traveled to their perspective regional competitions. The choir received an "Excellent" rating at their competition. The band received all number 1 ratings at their regional festival competition.

Athletics

The winter sports season has concluded. We had two of our wrestlers move on to the state wrestling finals, Grant Turnmire taking a fourth place medal. Our power lifting team traveled to the state power lifting meet this last Saturday. Several students received metals for their accomplishments.

Board of Education: Questions

Mr. Miles wondered which athletes metaled in power lifting.

Mr. Candela stated that 18 did, his son was one of them with a 2nd place

PERSONNEL

Approval of CoachEZ Position

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

- JV Girls Soccer Coach

P, 38, 6-0-0

Approval of Enrichment Instructor

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve Jennifer Shafer as a Almont Community Schools enrichment instructor beginning March 24, 2015.

P, 39, 6-0-0

Approval of Schedule B Payments

Moved by O'Neil supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the attached Schedule B assignments. Schedule to be attached to the official minutes and marked VIII B (3).

P, 40, 6-0-0

POLICY

Approval of Camp Lael Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the overnight trips to Camp Lael in Lapeer, Michigan for the 6th grade students.

P, 41, 6-0-0

Approval of Cedar Point Senior Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the one day trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio for the 12th grade students on May 26th, 2015.

P, 42, 6-0-0

Approval of Cedar Point 7th Grade Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the out of state trip to Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio for the 7th grade students.

P, 43, 6-0-0

Discussion: Mr. Miles asked if the date had been set. Mr. Manko stated that it was in the notes at the end of the document and that he was attending.

FINANCE

Approval of Audit Services

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education award the contract for audit services for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) to Taylor & Morgan in the amount Twelve Thousand Two Hundred (\$12,200.00) Dollars.

P, 44, 6-0-0

BUSINESS

Support of Proposal 1

Moved by Miles supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education support Proposal 1 on the May 5, 2015 ballot per the attached resolution. Resolution to be marked VIII E (1) and attached to the official minutes.

P, 45, 6-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Mr. Throop explained that the kids that sold over 30 items at OP would be enjoying the limo ride to Charlie Browns for ice cream. Two loads of 7 kids would enjoy the ride. He also mentioned that the limo company gave the PTA a great deal on the limo.

Mr. Wade, girls track coach, said that he found two holes in the track from the borings the contractor did this past winter when he walked the track. He is wondering when these will be fixed.

Mr. Candela stated we need 3 days of 45 degree weather for this to happen.

Mr. Wade is concerned because the first meet is Friday and he is wondering if the patch will hold

Mr. Candela said that when they fix it permanently it should

Mr. Wade was wondering if him and Mr. Bristol could be involved in the process when we decide to work on the track since they are out there with the teams. He wants to make sure that what gets done fits their needs.

Mr. Candela – they are working on the drawing at this time but they are not done. The long jump is staying where it at, which he knows was a concern. It will be at least a year to fix the track, maybe more depending on how much all 4 major projects come in at (OP roof, secure entrances, track and service drive). We should have costs by April Work Session. One thing the contractor did mention was doing a orange track because with a colored track you can see wear and tear easier.

Mr. Wade said that Imlay City told him a colored track cost a lot more he feels we should just try to make sure the track is used properly, keep bikes off etc.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Miles asked since there are holes in the track should the meet be cancelled?

March 23, 2015

Mr. Wade said that the holes are in lanes 5 and 3 and lane 1 is already unusable.
Mr. Candela said that cancelling a meet is up to the AD and coaches.
Mr. Manko said that the tempature is suppose to go up next week maybe that will help.
Mr. Owens wondered if the contractor will just come out or we have to contact them.
Mr. Candela stated that Dan LaPan will take care of this.
Mr. Owens said he is very concerned that they did not mark the holes in the track when they did the borings. He feels this could have been hazardous to our athletes. He would like this mentioned to the contractor.
Mr. Candela said that they were temporarily filled in because of the weather conditions at the time.
Mr. Owens feels they still should have marked them.
Mr. Miles informed the BOE that in May we will need to discuss the open seat on the ISD BOE.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION: Superintendent's Quarterly Review

Motion by Miles, 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, O'Neil, Brzozowski, Owens, Miles, Manko
Nays - None

P, 46, 6-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting went into Closed Session at 7:46 p.m.

The Meeting went into Open Session at 8:06

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President

March 23, 2015