

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
May 18, 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, Jill O'Neil, John Miles, Scott Kmetz, Jonathon Owens, John Brzozowski and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 36

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Stephan Manko was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council

Prom had a great turnout, around 224 kids which was over their goal

Staff Appreciation week was a success

Mr. Candela introduced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Valedictorian was in attendance the Salutatorian had a soccer game but Mr. Candela and Mr. Hoffa will be taking them to lunch on Friday at Lucky's.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Miles, supported by O'Neil, the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the April 27, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the May 11, 2015 Work Session

P, 61, 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.

April

General Fund Total	\$ 575,709.95
School Lunch Fund	\$ 20,785.24
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$ 100.00
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
2013 SBL Refinance	\$ -
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
Sinking Funds	\$ 19,202.56
QZAB Bond	\$ 4,064.40
Subtotal	\$ 619,862.15
General Fund (transfer in for Payroll)	\$ -
PESG	\$ 5,993.77
Coach EZ	\$ -
Participant Benefit Claims	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDS SPENT	\$ 625,855.92
Check Numbers: 33197-33275	
Void Checks: 33069	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number _____ and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): _____
P, 62, 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

Recently, Mr. Candela, Mrs. Weigand, and several of the teachers at OP have been visiting other schools to explore their programs. The first school was Northside Elementary School in Ann Arbor. Northside is a full STEAM and PBL (project-based learning) school. The second school was Chatfield School in Lapeer. Chatfield is a project-based learning school with an outdoor classroom. These trips have sparked significant conversation about the possibility of piloting this type of programming at Orchard Primary,

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beginning in the fall. Twenty teachers have signed up to stay at Camp Lael for three days and two nights at the end of June for professional development with Chatfield's Peter McCreedy. The idea is to carve out the time to collaborate as a staff. Our goal is to build activities and thematic units centered around science and social studies curriculum standards.

M-STEP

M-STEP testing has been completed for fourth graders, and the third grade is set to begin next week. The time required for testing has been more extensive than estimated, particularly in the area of English Language Arts. Students are finding the test content and tasks to be multi-step and challenging. In talking with administrators from surrounding districts, their experiences seem to parallel ours. A special thank you goes out to Teresa Deneweth.

Concert Season

Concert season is in full swing at OP. Mrs. Royster and our first and second graders put on a fantastic performance last week! Fourth graders are looking forward to performing with their recorders next Thursday evening at AMS. They will kick off a fun *Steppin' Up Night* with a short concert in the gym before touring their new school.

Principal for the Day

Not one, but two, students earned the "Principal of the Day" reward for collecting the most pledges for the Fun Run. The co-principals are in second and third grade and assisted Mrs. Weigand on Wednesday, May 13. They conducted a playground inspection by testing the play equipment, delivered root beer floats to all teachers, engaged in a McDonald's lunch meeting with Mrs. Weigand and Mr. Candela to discuss strengths and recommendations for improvement for OP, helped Mrs. Weigand design a banner for Field Day, and help with office deliveries and paperwork tasks. Best of all, at the end of the day, they announced over the PA that all homework is officially canceled for the day!

Field Day

Field Day is scheduled for Monday, June 8. It will be held on the High School grounds, and it will follow the same Olympics theme as it has for the past several years. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring this event for our students, as well.

COMING ATTRACTIONS & IMPORTANT DATES

4th Grade Recorder Concert & Steppin' Up Night....Thursday, May 21, 6:00 PM @ AMS
Field Day.....Monday, June 8

Middle School

DCC UPDATE

DCC met on May 13th. Exit Forms were reviewed to determine how K-12 teachers would like to proceed for the 2015-16 school year. Professional Development and Unit Organizer/Curriculum Map Templates were discussed; Template for ALL K-12 accessible through Google Drive. GISD Consultants were also present to assist the Departments, if needed. Pacing Guides will be presented to the BOE at the June meeting.

M-STEP TESTING

AMS only has one more grade to test- 6th Grade! Testing for 6th Grade runs through the first week of June. A special **THANK YOU** to the PTSA for providing snacks for all students.

STEM UPDATE

The Four County Community Foundation has denied funding for the AMS STEM grant. AMS will submit a grant to the Lapeer County Community Foundation by June 1st.

ROCK SHOP & ASSEMBLY

The last ROCK SHOP & Assembly will take place on May 29th. Donations of gift cards, candy, and other prizes are being accepted to add to the ROCK SHOP. The 8th Grade Volleyball Girls will be taking on the AMS Staff.

Staff/Student Recognition

M-STEP Testing: Teresa Deneweth, Sarah Will, & Jenny Henige

AMS PTSA Board Members for 2015-16:

President: Maureen Walton

Vice President: Mary Anne Martin

Secretary: Lisa Weidner

Treasurer: Stephanie Bankston

Note: A special **THANK YOU** to the PTSA for all of their generosity for our Teacher Appreciation Week this past month. The parents go above and beyond to show their gratitude for the AMS Staff

R.O.C.K. STARS for April:

- 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.

Mark Your Calendars! Busy Month Ahead!

5-18-15 & 5-20-15	Talent Show Tryouts from 2:30-4:00 PM
5-21-15	<i>Steppin' Up Night</i> from 6:00-8:00 PM
5-22-15	Talent Show (2 Sessions: 12:30-1:15 & 1:30-2:15)
5-27-15	AMS Awards Night @ 6:30 PM in the Gym
5-29-15	ROCK SHOP & Assembly (during school day)
6-1-15	8 th Grade to CJ Barrymore's (during school day)
6-3-15	Spring Band Concert @ 7:00 PM in the Gym
6-4-15	Spring Choir Concert @ 7:00 PM in the HS Auditorium
6-5-15	6 th Grade Renaissance Festival (during school day)
6-5-15	8 th Grade Celebration from 6:30-9:30 PM in Gym/Cafeteria
6-8-15	8 th Grade Bowling @ Hideaway Lanes (during school day)
6-9-15	5 th Grade Field Trip to Detroit Zoo (during school day)
6-9-15	PTSA Meeting at 7:00 PM in Media Center
6-11-15	Last Day of School/Half Day

High School

Principal's Update

We are quickly drawing this school year to a close. The administration of the High School is busy putting the finishing touches on the 2015/16 school year schedule. The formal observation of the teaching staff has been completed and Mr. Woelkers is conducting post-observation meeting with staff to go over their evaluations. The Class of 2015's Senior Awards ceremony was held this past week. The ceremony was

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well attended by the senior students and their parents. This will be the last week for our seniors. Mr. Woelkers will be sponsoring a cookout for the senior class on their last day. Graduation will be Sunday May 31, at 5:00pm. As long as the weather cooperates we will be holding the ceremony on the football field, the alternate site is the High School gym. The majority of the staff from the High School will be in attendance and will wear graduation robes with stoles that have the colors of their particular college.

Testing

The AP testing for the AP History classes and the AP English has been completed with over 75% of the students in each of the classes taking the test. The AP Science courses will be testing in the next week. In speaking with the students that took the AP they felt very prepared for the information on the test.

STEM

We continue to prepare for the rollout of STEM courses this coming fall. We are in the process of procuring funding through grants and other outside funding sources. Ms. Rohrbeck will be attending STEM instructor training this summer at Lawrence Tech University and Mr. Savage will attend the training at Eastern Michigan University. We have had a large interest from students in taking the STEM courses this coming fall.

BWAC All-Academic Team

The BWAC held its Academic Honors Luncheon in early May. The top six academic students of the Almont Class of 2015 were honored, as well as our female and male scholar athlete. This year's luncheon was held at Lakeview Hills Country Club. It was very nice event with our students representing Almont High School at the highest level.

Athletics

Weather continues to be a challenge in getting in all the contests. Changes in the schedule are being posted on the school web site. Last minute cancelations are sent out over school connect.

Upcoming Dates

May 20 th	Senior's last day
May 21 st , and 22 nd	Senior Exams
May 26 th	Senior trip to Cedar Point
May 31 st	Graduation
June 9 th , 10 th and 11 th	Exams for 9 th , 10 th , and 11 th grade
June 11 th	Last day for students

Other

Grants

Recently, Almont Community Schools has received two grants from both the Lapeer County Community Foundation and Four County Community Foundation. The Lapeer County Community Foundation authorized a grant for \$1295 to the Bee Dazzled program for the purpose of a shed to house equipment. We also received a grant for \$2500 from the Four County Community Foundation for the Robotics Team Competition.

Revenue Consensus

The Numbers

The CREC (Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference) has slightly increased forecasted total state revenues for the current 2014-15 and upcoming 2015-16 fiscal years, increasing the estimate by \$217.6 million for the current year and by \$147.8 million for the upcoming year.

FY 2014-15 (CURRENT YEAR)

For the 2014-15 fiscal year, there is an upward revision from the May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference for the General Fund of \$223.5 million while the School Aid Fund estimate was revised downward by \$5.9 million. Overall, the SAF is projected to close out the current year with an ending balance up \$362.6 million and the General Fund will see an increase of \$706.3 million.

FY 2015-16

The forecast for the next fiscal year will see some growth but uncertainty remains. For the 2015-16 fiscal year, the General Fund estimate was increased by \$168.7 million and the School Aid Fund estimate was revised downward by \$20.8 million.

The SAF is projected to close out the 2015-16 with an ending balance of \$359.7 million and the General Fund will see an increase of \$156.9 million. News for the School Aid Fund (SAF) revenues next year can best be interpreted as “optimistic”.

Pupil Count

CREC pupil membership data indicates that the current pupil counts are projected to fall an additional 300 students from the January revenue conference to 1,507,000, a difference of 14,928 from the previous year. The 2015-16 pupil membership count is anticipated to decrease by 14,700 students to 1,493,000 students.

Student loss is based on many indicators such as birth rate and migration. Pupil estimation has been known to change over the past few years because of variation in these outside influences. The state demographer described Michigan population growth as “guardedly optimistic” - we shall see! Eleven new charter schools will open in fall of 2015.

Board of Education: Questions

Mr. Owens commented that is happened to be in Lansing same day as the 3rd graders and heard some very good comments about our students.

Mr. Miles stated that he thought Mrs. Rohrbeck was not going to do the bees anymore. Mr. Candela explained that she did decide to continue because she knows it's important to the students. Next year she is hoping to write a grant for a golf cart to be used to haul their supplies and use for community events. Mr. Miles said he was happy about this because the bee population is a global issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

Approval of Enrichment Instructors

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education employ the students listed below as summer tennis enrichment instructors:

Ryann Coenen
Brienne Gryspeerd
Sam Justice
Zak Hanaford

Ethan Hall
Maria Bussone
Nadia Manko

P, 64, 6-0-0

Policy

Approval of Graduating Seniors

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the list of seniors eligible to graduate this school year as attached.

P, 63, 6-0-0

Approval of Overnight Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education approve annual football camp from July 26th – July 29th in Traverse City, MI .

P, 65, 6-0-0

Business

Approval of ISD Budget

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Kmetz, that Almont Community support the ISD General Fund Budget for 2015-2016. Read resolution starting with WHEREAS:

See attached Resolution.

Resolution will be attached and marked VIII D(1)

P, 66, 6-0-0

Approval of Designation of Representative for the Biennial Election

Moved by Miles supported by Brzozowski that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution which:

1. Designates Stephan Manko as its representative to serve on the 2015 electoral body responsible for electing members to the Lapeer County Intermediate School District Board of Education.
2. The Board supports candidate Gary Howell, for position on the Lapeer County Intermediate School District Board of Education for a term of six years.
3. The Board directs its representative Mr. Manko to vote for candidate Gary Howell, for a term of six years, at least on the first ballot taken at the June 1st election.

Attached resolution will be filed with the official minutes and marked VIII D (2)

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes- O'Neil, Miles, Kmetz, Brzozowski, Owens, Hoffa

Nays- None

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Approval of Lunch and Breakfast Pricing

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education establish lunch and breakfast rates for the 2015/2016 school year as follows:

<u>Primary Students</u>	2015/2016
Breakfast	\$1.50
Lunch	\$2.55
Milk	\$ 0.50
<u>Middle/High School Students</u>	
Breakfast	\$1.60
Lunch	\$2.75
Milk	\$0.50
<u>Adults (all buildings)</u>	
Breakfast	\$2.10
Lunch	\$3.55
Milk	\$0.50

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Discussion:

Mr. Owens asked if we had gotten the bids for food service and how this would affect the pricing. Mr. Candela informed him that the pricing is based on a MDE calculation and will not change.

Acceptance of School of Choice Students

Moved by Miles supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education accept the students on the attached list for the 2015/2016 school year through the 105 and 105C Schools of Choice Programs.

P, 69, 6-0-0

Approval of Leasing Agreement

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education approve the Marlin Leasing agreement and the Telnet phone service. Marline equipment lease to be attached to official minutes and marked VIII D (5).

P, 70, 6-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Carrie Dwyer stated that she heard that this meeting was about the AE swap and that is why they were in attendance.

Mr. Hoffa explained the potential of the swap with the township. At this point it has been decided that it will be put on the ballot in November. If at that time the vote fails the district will do something with the property but at this time it has not been decided exactly what.

Stephan Williams stated that he was wondering about youth sport leagues – baseball, football, etc. where would they play and practice.

Mr. Hoffa stated that the school does have additional properties.

Mr. Williams stated that a LaCrosse team was kicked off the football field by the football coach last fall.

Mr. Hoffa inquired as to if the team had followed the procedures and filled out the proper building use form with Central Office.

Mr. Williams thought that they were turned down.

Mr. Candela stated that at this time there is no decision made on the property. Come November if the ballot passes the switch will take place, if it fails the BOE will have a decision to make, sell it all or just the building and

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keep the property. Cost of running the building is over \$121,000.00 per year for 42 students and 10 staff. The District strives to be good stewards of the constituent's money. He understands that we have a lot of kids that play sports and we do have other land that can be developed. Decision will be based on what is best for kids. Once the community decides in November the District will look at options.

Rick Brown was concerned about the alternatives. He stated that they really just wanted direction and a course of action. He felt that the Board should more publically let people know where the land is that they can utilize.

Mr. Candela stated that for now it is a moot point. Need to wait until November.

Mr. Brown stated they just want to know that there will be a place for ball fields.

Mr. Hoffa stated that should the whole property sell then the district will do what it can to help. Monetary piece of it will fall to the AYBA group. Also, it is important for the people to understand that the District has had layoffs, consolidated services and took other cost saving measures over the past few years. Baseball will not be forgotten.

Mr. Brown stated that he was sure that the group will have the sweat equity needed to make something happen. He also asked what happens to the money should the building be sold.

Mr. Hoffa explained that the money goes to the general fund. We have to have a 7% fund equity or we are penalized by the state. Some of the money could also be earmarked for programs.

Karen Barton who is a grandmother of kids that use the fields asked, "What you're saying is, if the building gets sold there still will be baseball?"

Mr. Hoffa replied that that is a question for the AYBA Board. He felt they would provide baseball.

Mr. Williams said he felt another issue is the timing. If the building sells after the November election how could they have fields ready by spring?

Mr. Hoffa stated he felt it would take more time for this sort of transaction to trade hands. Even if sold in January they would probably have until July 1.

Mr. Williams asked if the vote in November was to sell the building or not.

Mr. Hoffa explained that the vote in November was whether the township/village would swap buildings with the school.

Mr. Williams wondered if the village and township take over the fields would they let them play ball on the fields.

Mr. Hoffa stated that was a question for the village/township. The plan is to enhance the fields and provide a parks and recreation.

Mr. Williams asked if the school could ask the village/township to guarantee they can play.

Mr. Hoffa stated that the whole project called for improvements and that would be a township/village decision.

One of the athletes in the audience said he played on the Tigers and they had a tie game 12-12.

Another athlete told the Board that he played on the Twins team and they wone7 – 4.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. O'Neil wanted to address something that came up in Monday's work session. She was concerned about the bathroom situation for the Preschoolers at the MS. Mr. Candela stated that the new plan involved moving the kids to Jenni Sullivan's current room which is closer to the teacher's private bathrooms. This room has 2 doors on either end of the room affording them quick access to the playground and bathrooms.

Mrs. O'Neil was also wondering about the cost of installing a bathroom at the HS for the GSRP program and Mr. Candela said there they could use the girl's bathroom.

Mr. Candela initiated discussion about the proposed roof at OP. Did the Board want him to contact RC Hendricks and tell them not to go out to bid for the shingled roof at OP. Consensus was that we needed to do the metal roof because that is what was on the Sinking Fund brochure and what the community voted for. Mr. Candela also stated that the \$500,000 + price of the metal room means we will need two years before we can start. The

sinking fund money adds up to about \$290,000 per year. After doing the roof we will need another two years for the major road repairs, then we can look at the track at the HS. We do have a few QZAB dollars left to complete some energy projects we have looked into.

Mr. Owens wondered if we could maybe do the road first, put a few dollars into repairing the shingles at OP then doing the metal roof.

Mr. Candela stated we have roof repairs at the Middle school, energy projects, gym lights, and secured entrances. We could reverse the projects and spent about \$5000.00 to patch the OP roof. Whatever we do we need to get it out to the community via website, article in the paper and meeting with the sinking fund committee.

Hoffa polled again to see if they were ready to answer the metal roof question. Miles, if metal roof is the community expectation then we should do it. Hoffa, if the literature said metal then we need to do it. It would be a disservice if we don't do it. Hoffa then polled all BOE and all six agreed with metal roof.

Mr. Candela since we only get \$290,000 a year its metal roof, next year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

Approved _____

Date

Signed: _____

John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____

Steve Hoffa, President