

MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
September 23, 2013

**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 the Board Meeting Room at Almont Elementary School.

**Present**

Steven Hoffa, Nancy Boxey, Jon Owens, John Brzozowski, John Miles and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

**Visitors:** 40

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Kmetz was absent, Mr. Manko arrived at 7:11 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Candela mentioned that the Agenda included the hiring of the Media Center Specialist.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Patti Biolchini was wondering what the motivation was of taking the paraprofessionals out of the classroom. She also wanted to know what needed to be done to get them back in. She thinks that by taking them out the teacher will have to spend more time with the title I students.

Mr. Candela responded that we get about \$130,000 for our title I program. Districts in the county are being audited this year and it is imperative that the dollars are used appropriately. In talking with Mrs. McWilliams his understanding is that there will be a push and pull hybrid program. We need to make sure that the title I aides are working with the title one students, whether that is in the classroom or the students are pulled does not matter. What does matter is we do what is best for the kids. The aides spent last week administering the DiBels test which we use to identify the title students (reading). The children that scored in tier 2 or 3 will be the students that the aides work with. Meetings are scheduled over the next two days to discuss this issue.

Mrs. Biolichini then asked what the past history is regarding push vs. pull.

Mr. Candela stated that his past district used push/pull and it was a successful program.

Mrs. Biolichini wanted to know how exactly it would work when kids were coming and going (pull) and would it be disruptive to the class.

Mr. Candela stated that he could not answer to exactly how the program will work this would be a question for Mrs. McWilliams. He did state that he had met with the Kindergarten teachers and is aware that there is an issue. He believes they will be getting an aide in the room but it will probably not be for the whole day as in the past. He feels that K-2 is where resources are the most important. By providing aides here we can work to make sure the students are reading at benchmark when they leave 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Mrs. Biolichini asked how many times do we DiBels test?

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Mr. Candela stated 3, fall, winter and spring. He restated that it is our goal to make all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders test in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile before going onto 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He wants to make sure that the program is being run the best it can be for all the students and that the money is being used in a way consistent with the MDE rules and regulations.

Pam Ferzacca stated that the paraeducators and teachers that were present at the meeting were there out of concern. She feels that the parades have not done anything with the kids since school started except the DiBels. This is the first time she has heard about the hybrid program. She is frustrated.

Mr. Candela stated that his experience with a push/pull system (hybrid) was a good one. He does understand the issue in Kindergarten. These will all be discussed at the meeting at 4:00 tomorrow. He feels strongly that we need to focus on K-2, which does not mean that they will not help 3-4 as well. He thinks the extended day option where they use the computer lab is a good option and a good way to use the allocated money. He does not want anyone thinking that they are trying to hurt the program. There may just be a lack of communication. The number one concern needs to be addressing those students that scored under Benchmark. He will meet with the whole staff if necessary to discuss the issue.

Ms. Ferzacca stated that she does not feel that anyone is trying to hurt the program.

Doreen Rummler asked about a cart of iPads at the OP that she was told were bought with Title I funds. She was wondering who would be setting them up.

Mr. Candela stated that we have only been in session 14 days. The iPads will be set up and used for the Title kids but at this time we cannot give an exact date for this.

Mrs. Rummler wondered if this would fall on her shoulders.

Mr. Candela stated it would not.

Jennifer Bussone stated that she has 2 students in the district and she is concerned about the extended lunch time and the cutting of recess. She understands that the 2<sup>nd</sup> recess is up to the teacher but she has asked her son every day when he comes home if he went out for 2<sup>nd</sup> recess and he has only been out once with his teacher. She feels that is very important for kids to get up and out of their seats at this age.

Mr. Candela stated that he is disappointed that the teachers are not taking the children out for their second recess. He feels that by taking the kids out teachers have a great opportunity to see how kids play. He does understand that teachers have lots of mandates but by taking kids out they have an opportunity to see how the kids interact in a different environment. By taking kids out they would have an opportunity to see how kids work things out and resolve issues. This would be another kind of teachable moment. He also stated that this is not a decision written in stone and that if it does not work they can re-think the decision. He hope is however that teachers decide to take the children out for their 2<sup>nd</sup> recess.

Rick Throop stated that his son has been out once with his teacher as well. He feels that recess needs to be addressed sooner. Kids are stuck in the class and the decision to change this can't wait.

Mr. Candela wanted to know if Mr. Throop had asked the teacher why they have not gone out. Every teacher has the opportunity to take the students out for a 2<sup>nd</sup> recess. If it is an issue with the teachers not having time he has not heard this.

Mr. Throop stated that the teachers will not be taking them out when it is cold so it needs to happen now before the winter sets in.

Mr. Candela stated that the teachers and the principal need to have this talk. Mr. Candela does not know why the teachers are not taking the kids out. He sees value in teachers taking the kids out for recess. Again, the decision can be changed if necessary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the following Minutes:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the August 26, 2013 Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the August 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Closed Session (Negotiations)
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the August 29, 2013 Special Meeting
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the August 29, 2013 Special Meeting Closed Session (Negotiations)
- E. Approval of the Minutes from the September 16, 2013 Special Meeting Work session

**(P), 139, 6-0-0**

**BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion by Brzozowski, 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.

<b>August 2013</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	\$2,058,646.38
<b>School Lunch Program</b>	\$77.60
<b>2002 Debt Fund</b>	\$0.00
<b>202004 Refunding Bonds</b>	\$0.00
<b>2006 Refunding Bonds</b>	\$0.00
<b>2012 Refunding Bonds</b>	\$0.00
<b>2013 SBL Refinance</b>	\$0.00
<b>QZAB Bond</b>	\$400.00
<b>General Fund Transfers for Payroll</b>	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$2,059,123.98
<b>Voided Check: 30850</b>	
<b>Check Numbers: 30924-31032</b>	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 30924-31032 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 30850

**(P), 140, 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**

The teachers and administration at Orchard Primary are committed to helping every child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, we are using a screening tool called **DIBELS**. Much like using a thermometer to take a child’s temperature is an indicator of overall health; DIBELS is an indicator of how well a student is doing in learning a particular early reading skill. A child’s score on a subtest tells us whether the child is likely to be “on

track” for learning to read, or whether that child may need some help in learning important reading skills. The screening window for all students K-4 has closed. We look forward to working with the data in the next couple of weeks to ensure our students are on target for success.

Our **Curriculum Night** was held on September 10 from 5:30-7:00 pm. We had 81% of our parents in attendance visiting classrooms and listening to teacher presentations. Parents were also able to visit with our Boy Scout troop leaders, food service and join the PTA.

**Safety Patrol** is up and running with the help of 58 students from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Mrs. Bartlett is overseeing the program this year.

The **fall fundraiser** sponsored by the PTA is currently taking place. Proceeds from the Morley Candy sales will be used to help offset the cost of student field trips, assemblies, and special events.

The Track and Field **Special Olympics** was held on Wednesday, September 18 at Almont High School. We had nine athletes participate in several events.

As schools engage in implementing the Common Core Standards and prepare for the SMARTER Balanced Assessments, we recognize that these new assessments require changes in not only curriculum but also classroom instruction and assessment. Because of this, a county wide professional development plan has been crafted to help us in this rigorous work. Sarah Savage is on the **Genesee County Science Leadership Team** and Paulynn Bartlett and Melissa Ashbaugh represent Orchard Primary School on the **Genesee County Literacy Leadership Team**. An opportunity to be a part of the Math Leadership Team is still available.

**THANK YOU** Tri-County Bank on corner of Tubsprings and VanDyke for the donation of backpacks and school supplies.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 1 3<sup>rd</sup> grade “Rural Education” Field Trip at Imlay City Fairgrounds

October 2 Count Day

October 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16 are MEAP testing days

### **Middle School**

#### **DISTRICT ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

The District Leadership Team will meet again this year. The first meeting will take place on **September 26, 2013 from 4:15-6:15 PM** at Almont Middle School. ALL are welcome to attend! Please come and bring your ideas to make ACS even a better place to be!

#### **MiBLSi UPDATE**

(**Reading**) Benchmark testing (via *AIMSweb*) will be administered throughout the next two weeks. Teachers will have the opportunity to analyze this data to ensure appropriate interventions for students.

(**Behavior**) Teachers have been reviewing the ROCK (Respect, Ownership, Compassion, and Knowledge) expectations with the students to ensure understanding of school rules. AMS will have its first ROCK SHOP in October. Donations of gift cards and other small prizes are being accepted now.

#### **iPad Update**

September 23, 2013

A letter to parents and students was sent home on 9-18-13. Due to a few iPad incidents, administration wanted to remind parents and students of the expectations for digital citizenship.

On a more positive note, the teachers and students are embracing several ways to enhance the curriculum using the iPads in the classroom. It is truly IMPRESSIVE!!!

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run Fundraiser (AKA.....One and Done!)**

AMS and the PTSA will be sponsoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run on October 25<sup>th</sup>! ALL students will be asked to run, jog, or walk for 20 minutes (during school). DJ Jerry Helfer will be there too! Students will ask family and friends for pledges. **GOAL**= Each student to raise \$30.00! If families donate an additional \$50, their last name will appear on the AMS Fun Run T-shirt! If businesses would like to participate, the fee is \$200. We are very hopeful that this is going to be a SUCCESSFUL event! Please support AMS! Funds will go towards the "extras" (technology/apps, assemblies, field trips, ROCK SHOP, etc....).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- District Leadership is on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 PM in AMS Media Center
- MEAP Testing begins on October 8<sup>th</sup>!
- Homecoming is on October 18<sup>th</sup>!
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run is on October 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **High School**

#### **Teacher Evaluation:**

Administration is meeting with each teacher over the next few weeks to set their goals and growth models. Administration has begun to conduct classroom visits with the initial visit to each class complete, visits to classes will continue on an on-going basis.

#### **Special Olympics:**

The annual Special Olympics Track and Field event was held September 18<sup>th</sup> at the High School Track. Special Education students from throughout Lapeer County participated in the event. 25 High School students assisted in helping put on the event. It was a great day for all who participated and worked the event!

#### **Sports:**

The High School fall sports season is off to a great start. There is good participation on all of our teams. We are experiencing good attendance at our events, and in many cases have more fans at our away contests than the home teams we are playing.

#### **Student Council:**

The Student Council has agreed to adopt the outside court yard by the Library. Members of the Student Council pulled all out the weeds and put down new mulch. Student Council will also be maintaining the Court Yard throughout the school year.

#### **Up Coming Events**

- Student Council Retreat September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>
- BWAC Band Extravaganza at Port Huron, October 1st
- Progress reports for Trimester 1 will go out October 15th
- Grade 9 MEAP Test is October 16th
- Homecoming is on October 18<sup>th</sup>

## **Other**

### **Dual Enrollment**

We have about 20 students that are taking dual enrollment classes. Most of those students are either at U of M-Flint through the ISD or Macomb Community College.

### **Baker College**

The Superintendents of the county have a meeting scheduled with Baker College October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Middle college concept with them. So far, we have not been able to find a college that meets the budgetary needs for both the students and the districts.

### **Board of Education: Questions**

**None**

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Approval of Employee Resignations**

Moved by Boxey supported by Miles the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Winslow with regrets and best wishes for the future.

**(P), 141, 6-0-0**

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Kleinhaus with regrets and best wishes for the future.

**(P), 142, 6-0-0**

### **Approval of New Employees**

#### **Approval of Media Specialist**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education employ Jenny Henige as Media Center Specialist. Non-Certified Contract to be attached to official minutes and marked VIII (B) 2.

**(P), 143, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Resource Room Teacher**

Moved by Boxey supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education employ Sandra Crittenden as Resource Room Teacher.

**(P), 144, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Payroll Clerk**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education employ Kim Medley as Payroll Clerk. Non-Certified Contract attached and marked VIII (B) 2.

**(P), 145, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Coaching Position**

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

Freshman Volleyball Coach

**(P), 146, 6-0-0**

### **Approval of ACS Coach**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following coach for the Fall 2013/2014 fall sport season:

MS Girls Basketball – Mike Savage

**(P), 147, 6-0-0**

### **Approval of Contracts**

#### **Approval of LatchKey Aide Contract**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the employment contracts of the following individual as presented, with copies of the individual contract to be VIII B(5) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting

LatchKey Aide

Patti Carter

**(P), 148, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Secretarial Contract**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the Secretarial contract as presented, with copies of the contract to be VIII B (6) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting

**(P), 149, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of Teacher (AEA) Contract**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the AEA contract as presented, with copies of the contract to be marked VIII B (7) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting

**(P), 150, 6-0-0**

### **POLICY**

#### **Approval of Trip**

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Center Lake Camp, Tustin, MI from September 29 – October 1, 2013.

**(P), 151, 6-0-0**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Miles stated that the student sign up letter did not mention a cost.**

**Mr. Candela stated that the Council would be fundraising then dependent on the amount of the money raised there would be a small cost.**

**Mrs. Boxey asked if the trip is next week how would they fundraise before then.**

**Mr. Candela explained that because of Mr. Woelkers relationship with the camp they have 6 months to raise the money.**

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of School of Choice Students**

Moved by Miles supported by Manko, the Board of Education accept the students listed below for the 2013/2014 school year through the 105C School of Choice Program, both are VLAC students.

Katerina Klein

Alexandra Klein

**(P), 152, 6-0-0**

### **Approval of Release of Student**

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education release Student # 19708 to the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center for the 2013/2014 school year, with the cost of tuition, transportation, and any other expense to be the responsibility of the parent.

**(P), 153, 6-0-0**

### **Approval of Best Practices**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Boxey, the Board of Education adopt the Best Practices Incentive as attached. Resolution to be attached to Official Minutes of this meeting and marked VIII (D) 3.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Boxey, Brzozowski, Manko, Miles, Owens, Hoffa

Nays - None

**(P), 154, 6-0-0**

### **COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

A student council member mentioned that they intended to send a member to each BOE meeting and she was wondering how the Board would like this to work.

Mr. Hoffa stated that it was up to their discretion.

Mrs. Grace stated that she was a teacher with the district for over 38 years and she would like to see 2<sup>nd</sup> recess restored. She travels the country and talks about OP and its beautiful playground. She also quoted several authors regarding the importance of children getting outside and the stress reduction that this causes.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Boxey offered up some scarecrow building fliers to members of the audience for the Downtown Scarecrow building contest.**

**Mr. Miles was wondering how much the Student Council trip would end up costing the students.**

**Mr. Candela thought he saw something that said \$30 or less.**

**A student council member stated that they have received a \$1000.00 grant. The goal is to raise \$50.00 per student attending and this way they would not exceed out of pocket costs of more than \$50.00.**

**Mr. Miles mentioned that he was at the tryouts for the MS play and he noticed that as the kids sat in the audience they were tapping the kids on the stage doing the dances so they could go home and practice them.**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Mrs. Boxey has the contract from Skyline for the retreat on March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **CLOSED SESSION: Quarterly Review**

Motion by Boxey, supported by Owens, the Almont Board of Education go into closed session for the purpose of Superintendents quarterly review as permissible under the Open Meeting Act.

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

Nays - None

**(P), 155, 6-0-0**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

Secretary Boxey indicated that no further business will be conducted after the closed session of the board.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:10 pm

The Board went into Open Session at 9:52 pm



**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Hoffa, President