

MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
October 28, 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, Jon Owens, John Brzozowski, John Miles, Steven Manko and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

**Visitors:** 32

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Kmetz and Mrs. Boxey were absent

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Candela has had contact with the township assessor and the property lines do match up. The Meek's have not been paying taxes on the property. Mr. Heim would like to purchase 2.5 acres. They will be preceding with the sale as previously discussed.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Matt Janicki – is concerned about the internet filter at the MS. He feels that parents are not aware of what kids can find on the internet. He is worried about inappropriate content being available to the students. He wants a letter or instant alert done to the parents. He would like the internet shut down at the MS. He said that Romeo schools does not have this issue with their iPads and ChromeBooks.

2 Student Council Members from the High School – Student Council held a carnation sale and brought in \$127.00 to go towards their retreat, this is just a start. They also reported that the retreat was awesome, they did team building and challenge by choice.

During homecoming they did a Hero's for Homecoming Fundraiser and raised \$2000.00 for our troops. They also said by having more time to work together they were able to pull off a great pep assembly.

They have been working on some projects for former student Joey Gyergyov who has been diagnosed with cancer. So far they have made a video and gift basket. They are working on getting a wood chopping crew together to chop wood for the family who heats their house with a wood burner.

The Council is also putting together a Youth on Main Street group to clean up the downtown area.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD**

None

Mr. Candela mentioned that the Athletic Council would be attending the next meeting to present the Board with another check for \$25,000 for the 2013/2014 school year.

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He also mentioned that student Elena Boxey would be representing the local FAA group in Louisville Kentucky at the National FAA competition.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the following Minutes:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the September 23, 2013 Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the September 23, 2013 Regular Meeting: Closed Session (Quarterly Review)
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the October 21, 2013 Special Meeting: Work Session

**(P), 156, 5-0-0**

**BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

<b>September 2013</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	\$1,090,218.27
<b>School Lunch Program</b>	\$34,401.18
<b>2002 Debt Fund</b>	0
<b>202004 Refunding Bonds</b>	0
<b>2006 Refunding Bonds</b>	0
<b>2012 Refunding Bonds</b>	0
<b>2013 SBL Refinance</b>	0
<b>QZAB Bond</b>	\$10,503.47
<b>General Fund Transfers for Payroll</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	\$1,135,122.92
<b>Voided Check: None</b>	
<b>Check Numbers: 31033-31207</b>	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 31033-31207 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): None

**(P), 157, 4-0-1**

**Mr. Brzowski abstained from voting because a payment to his business was included in the checks this month.**

**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**

**Finance**

Moved by Brzowski, supported by Owens, the Board of Education authorize the ratification resolution as presented, a copy of which to be mark VIII(B)1 and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting.

(P),158, 5-0-0

**Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Miles, Brzozowski, Owens, Manko, Hoffa**

**Nays: None**

## **Superintendents Report**

### **Orchard Primary**

**MEAP testing** has been completed by our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. We are thankful to be able to get back to a routine in the classrooms and look forward to knowing how well our students scored. The results are typically shared with the schools in the Spring.

The **Market Day fundraiser** sponsored by the PTA currently underway has a new twist. Every student who sells at least fifteen pies gets the opportunity to throw a pie at the principal. Our top two sellers will enjoy four passes each to Zender's Splash Village water park in Frankenmuth. All proceeds from this event will go towards promoting RAD Raider behavioral expectations.

### **State Representative Dan Lauwers**

Congrats to Conner Clark in Mrs. Herzog's classroom for being selected as one of the 2013 Summer Reading Contest winners. State Representative, Mr. Dan Lauwers visited our school and treated Conner and his classmates to a pizza party.

The **Daily Five literacy program**, which was implemented school-wide last year, consists of five literacy components for students to complete daily. The five tasks are, Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Word Work and Work on Writing. It is meaningful for each student because each student is reading books at his or her own level and working on their own pieces of writing. Mrs. Savage reports that the kids all cheer when it is time to begin. So far, her class has built their stamina up to eight minutes for Read to Self and ten minutes for Work on Writing. The children are very proud of their time spent reading and writing. Their class goal is to read and write on their own for 20 minutes while staying in one spot, working quietly and working the entire time - a tall task for 27 first graders.

### **THANK YOU**

Jets Pizza in Imlay City for donating mugs filled with goodies such as candy and gift cards, which were enjoyed by our teaching staff.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 31      10:15 am      Halloween parade at OP, grades Bk-4 will participate.  
Please stop by and enjoy all our little goblins.

## **Middle School**

### **DISTRICT ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

The District Leadership Team will meet on **November 21, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 PM** at Almont Middle School in the Media Center. ALL are welcome to attend! Please come and bring your ideas to make ACS even a better place to be!

### **MiBLSi UPDATE**

#### **(Reading)**

Teachers have been given their students' *AIMSweb* results. Teachers will identify the students on the appropriate Tiers (to identify need for intervention).

#### **(Behavior)**

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AMS will have its first **ROCK SHOP on October 30<sup>th</sup>** during both lunches. Mrs. VonHiltmayer has also arranged to have DJ Zak Attack play some tunes for the students while shopping with their well-deserved ROCK tickets!

### **iPad UPDATE**

Mrs. VonHiltmayer and Mr. Bostian took some time out of the school-wide Homecoming Assembly to discuss digital citizenship. Some of the issues that were specifically addressed:

- No more iPad use in between classes. Look up and watch where you are going!
- Be careful with iPad cords (don't bend them so much); you may have to replace it if damaged.
- iOS7 will be forthcoming!
- Please **ONLY** use the iPad when directed by your teacher in the classroom!

**\*\*Student Council performed a few skits to reiterate the above as well.\*\***

### **1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL FUN RUN FUNDRAISER**

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the staff, parents, and students who helped with raising money for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run! Also, a VERY special thank you to some of our local businesses for their generous monetary donations or items to be given away to the students! We raised approximately **\$6500**; half will go to the Almont PTSA and half will go to AMS. The money will be spent on various items, such as iPad Apps, ROCK SHOP prizes, Field Trips (perhaps some bus costs), Assemblies, and other school materials. ☺

### **HOMECOMING 2013**

AMS had another fun and exciting Homecoming! AMS is so proud of the students' enthusiasm and participation, especially this time of year! The following classes EARNED and won their spot in the parade by participating in Spirit Week:

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade-** Mrs. Ferman

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade-** Mrs. Weigand and Mrs. Mueller

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade-** Mrs. Malloy

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade-** Mrs. Murphy

### **UPDATE from our COUNSELING OFFICE**

- We welcomed 32 new AMS students at our Annual "Meet & Mingle" party. Pizza, pop and great conversation were served! New students were given a POWER ROCK card (12 pts.!), a coupon for a free mega-cookie in the cafeteria and a free admission to a home athletic event.
- The faculty and staff kicked off a new student recognition program, "ROCKstar of the Month". Students that exemplify Respect, Ownership, Compassion and Knowledge will be honored with their picture in the office, a ROCK certificate and a POWER ROCKcard. Additionally, a letter was sent home to parents acknowledging their student's achievement.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**11-6-13 Parent/Teacher Conferences from 6:00-9:00 PM**

**11-7-13 Parent/Teacher Conferences from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-9:00 PM**

**11-8-13 No School**

**11-13-13 PLC (Late Start)**

### **High School**

**Teacher Evaluation:**

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Initial meetings have been held with each of the teachers. Classroom visits have begun. Teachers are getting accustomed to having administrators stop in their classes on a regular basis. As part of the teachers' evaluations, formal observations will be conducted during January and February.

#### **Homecoming:**

Homecoming was a great success. The week at the High School was filled with lots of spirit and excitement. We had a very large turnout for both the parade and the football game. Clare Kmetz even rode her horse in the parade with the new Principal! Many people from both the school and the community pitched in to make the week a special time for our students. A special thank you to Ms. Colleen Ulmer, our Student Council advisor, for all of her hard work and the extra hours she put in to keep things running smoothly.

#### **Sports:**

The fall sports season is drawing to a close. Boys Tennis made it to the State Tournament, with three players making the quarter finals: Mitchell Bulger, Ben Wright, and Ryan Koerner. The Varsity Football team is headed to the playoffs after a very successful regular season. The Varsity Football team will host Millington this Friday night. The Boys Varsity Soccer team had a strong season with only two losses. The Boys Soccer team lost in the semi-finals of the District. This past Friday, the Boys Cross Country Team finished 1<sup>st</sup> at the Regionals, while the Girls Cross Country Team finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both the Boys and Girls Cross Country will compete at the State Finals this weekend. Varsity Volleyball will begin Districts on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Music:**

The Almont High School Band joined with all of the bands in the BWAC for the annual Fall Extravaganza. The event was held at Memorial Stadium in Port Huron. The highlight of the evening was when the Almont Band Director conducted the combined BWAC bands. The Band also received an overall rating of one at the MSBOA Festival held on October 12.

#### **Student Council:**

44 members of the Student Council attended the Leadership Retreat held at the beginning of October. It was a great experience for both the students and the staff that attended. The students are preparing a presentation about the retreat to bring to the Board at a future meeting.

#### **Academics:**

The social studies MEAP test was given to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. The testing went well and we will look forward to receiving the results of the testing.

Progress reports went out to students the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>. For the first time progress reports were sent out electronically. Parents were able to view the progress reports through both their child's Power School account and also through email.

#### **Up Coming Events**

- Blood Drive at High School on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Conferences will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Trimester exams will be held November 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>

#### **Other**

##### **Four County Community Foundation**

The Four County Community Foundation provided a grant of \$1,000.00 to each school to use on student academic supports or student activities. A big Thank You from all of our principals, staff and students on your continued support of Almont Community Schools.

#### **Evening with Candela**

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Candela will discuss with those interested in the community on the topic: "How Education in Michigan Schools are Funded". The meeting will be held in the Middle School media center starting at 7:00 pm.

**Board of Education: Questions**

**None**

**PERSONNEL**

**Approval of Employee Resignations**

Moved by Mile supported by Manko the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mr. Maier with regrets and best wishes for the future.

**(P), 159, 5-0-0**

**Approval of New Employees**

**Approval of Paraprofessional**

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education employ Kelley Bussen as Special Education Para Professional.

**(P), 160, 5-0-0**

**Approval of Secretary**

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education employ Tracey Miller as Orchard Primary Secretary.

**(P), 161, 5-0-0**

**Approval of Paraeducator**

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education employ Heather Hall as Orchard Primary Para Educator.

**(P), 162, 5-0-0**

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

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

- Dance
- Varsity Cheer
- JV Cheer
- Jr. High Cheer
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball
- JV Girls Basketball
- JV Boys Basketball
- Freshman Boys Basketball
- Varsity Wrestling
- Wrestling Assistant
- Middle School Wrestling

**(P), 163, 5-0-0**

**Approval of ACS Coach**

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

Erik Johnson – Varsity Girls Basketball

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James Leusby – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball

Mike Savage – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball

Beau Beneson – Varsity Boys Basketball

**(P), 164, 5-0-0**

### **Approval of Contracts**

#### **Approval of Vocal Music Accompanist**

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the employment contract for the following individual as presented, with copies of the individual contract to be VIII C(5) and attached to the Official Minutes of this meeting

#### Vocal Music Accompanist

Kathryn Cay

**(P), 165, 5-0-0**

### **POLICY**

#### **Approval of Publicly Funded Health Insurance contribution Act-Statutory Caps**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Owens, the Board of Education adopt the resolution to comply with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act as presented. Said resolution to be marked VIII(D)1 and attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

**Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Owens, Manko, Miles, Brzozowski, Hoffa**

**Nays: None**

**(P), 166, 5-0-0**

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Policy**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Policy as attached. Said resolution to be marked VIII(E)1 and attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

**(P), 167, 5-0-0**

#### **Approval of Overnight Trip**

Moved by Owens, supported by Miles, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Spring Hill Camp in Ewart, MI from Nov 22 – Nov 24 for the Boys Varsity Basketball team.

**(P), 168, 5-0-0**

#### **Approval of Release of Students**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education release student on attached sheet to Capac Virtual Learning Program, with the cost of tuition, transportation, and any other expense to be the responsibility of the parent.

**(P), 169, 5-0-0**

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Owens, the Board of Education release student on attached sheet to Romeo Community School, with the cost of tuition, transportation, and any other expense to be the responsibility of the parent.

**(P), 170, 5-0-0**

**Mr. Candela reviewed the 2013/2014 school year insurance program.**

### **COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Matt Janicki – was wondering if the Board discussed the filter issue after the Board Work Session last Monday. Did they come to a conclusion about the filter?

Mr. Hoffa – We are providing the parents with information to remove the current Safari Browser and install 2 other browsers.

Mr. Janicki – is that the final conclusion?

Mr. Candela – nothing is final.

Mr. Janicki – wanted to know if the Board felt this was adequate. He stated that Orchard Primary can not get the content that the MS kids could get. He can't imagine that the Board approves of this. He would like a conclusion to this.

Mr. Hoffa – explained the process of voicing concerns.

Mr. Janicki – wanted it explained to parents why the kids could still get to inappropriate sites. He does not feel the filter is what it was portrayed to be and parents don't know it. He thought maybe at the beginning that it was just something that was missed, but now he is unsure that it is going to be fixed. He wants to know what the next step is. He feels that more parents would come forward if they knew what he knows.

Mr. Hoffa – the process is to start with the teacher, then principal, Superintendent, then Board. He has been heard.

We are continuously striving keep up with technology. It is always a concern to the District.

Mr. Janicki – what are the objections to using the same filter the OP uses at the MS?

Mr. Hoffa – not really the discussion here

Mr. Candela – stated he understands the concern and will look into it

Mr. Janicki – Romeo does not have this issue

Mr. Candela – They have not handed out the iPads or ChromeBooks yet.

Mr. Janicki – what is the time frame for this to be fixed?

Mr. Hoffa – Mr. Janicki is the only one deeming it broken. We have not had people come forward with concerns. We will continuously strive to move forward with technology.

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

Mr. Miles wanted to speak for himself and fellow Board Members by stating that any suggestion that as a Board that they don't care is 110% wrong. He has not heard from parents regarding this issue. He wanted to state that we are blocking 99% of inappropriate content. The challenge is that 1% is still a lot of websites when you take into consideration the total number of websites there are. Mr. Miles also disagreed with the suggestion that we will not fix problems, we will fix it if it is broken. We do care and will continue to work to get a satisfactory system.

Mr. Owens stated that we are trying to work on this. He would like to see the district offer classes to the students as well on appropriate behavior with the iPads in light of what has happened in other districts. In one district students have been charged with felonies for inappropriate material on their devices. He feels we need to make sure the students are aware of what constitutes a felony and what obscene behavior is. He agrees that obscene material should not be available on the devices. Maybe we do need to use the OP filter at the MS.

On another note he asked if we can look at the Instant Alert system. He gets way to many alerts.

Mr. Hoffa wanted to remind the Board that they need to follow the process. Parents need to take concerns to: Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, then Board. He also reiterated that technology is a work in progress and we will continuously work on how we deliver content.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**None**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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

Nancy Boxey, Secretary

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

Steve Hoffa, President