

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
December 16, 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, Mr. Kmetz and Mrs. Boxey and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 12

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Manko was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Almont High School Student Council

A representative from the HS Student Council updated the Board on Council projects which include:

Decorating the HS for Christmas including a tree, snowflakes and lights

Playing Christmas music before and after school as well as during passing time

Collecting items for Lacata in Lapeer

Secret Santa for Council members

Selling hot chocolate in the mornings as one of their fundraisers to raise funds for the retreat they attended

Discussing other ways to fundraise

Getting ready for Snowcoming

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

Mrs. Boxey stated that the High School does look very festive and the SC did a very nice job

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A. Approval of the Minutes from the November 25, 2013 Regular Meeting

B. Approval of the Minutes from the December 9, 2013 Special Meeting: Work Session

(P), 179, 6-0-0

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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.

November 2013	
General Fund	\$552,609.01
School Lunch Program	\$7.43
2002 Debt Fund	\$0.00
2004 Refunding Bonds	\$112.50
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$112.50
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$0.00
2013 SBL Refinance	\$0.00
QZAB Bond	\$5,622.22
General Fund Transfers for Payroll	\$0
Total	\$558,463,.66
Voided Checks: # 31261	
Check Numbers: 31333-31726	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 31333-31726 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 31261

(P), 180, 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.

Mr. Miles asked what the grant listed on the OP Trust and Agency was from.

Mr. Brzozowski stated that each of the schools applied for a \$1000.00 grant from Four County and was awarded these funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendents Report

Orchard Primary

It is hard to believe that the 2nd Trimester began on December 2. Student **report cards** were carried home by K-4th grade students on December 6. Like the parent, the teacher's primary aim is the student's well-being and continued improvement. Parents are encouraged to contact the child's teacher if they have any questions or concerns.

This fall we have continued in our efforts to be sure every learner's needs are met. As is federally mandated by IDEA, we utilize the Response to Intervention approach as we intentionally design our programming and structure our school day. Currently **intervention programming** is mainly through multiple pull-outs by utilizing our para-educators and volunteers. However, our 1st and 4th grade staff has implemented a thirty minute intervention period, four days a week. Students are grouped intentionally, according to deficit areas and receive intentional, targeted intervention from teachers and para-educators. In addition, students will be progress-monitored twice a month and will be grouped and re-grouped according to their gains and/or areas of need.

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Developmental Reading Assessment, 2nd edition (DRA2) – Training was provided when staff returned this fall and all teachers will utilize when students return after the holiday break. The DRA2 Benchmark Assessment measures each student’s reading proficiency through systematic observation, recording and evaluating of performance. It is a four-step process and pinpoints student’s strengths, abilities and needs: Reading Engagement, Oral Reading Fluency, Comprehension and Personalized Instruction. The K-3 staff would like additional kits ordered. Looking for funding!

Check in – Check out is a research based, intervention program for students at risk. The students have daily goals, parent permission and interact daily with an adult (other than their teacher). The coordinator for the program will be S. Calopisis. In addition, two of our specials teachers will receive training in January to become mentors.

The 2nd Annual **Festival of Trees** is taking place in the media center hallway. Each classroom has a display. The students and staff are quite a creative bunch. Please feel free to stop by to recognize their efforts.

Upcoming Events:

December 17 3rd grade Holiday Concert at 7:00pm

December 19 OP Staff Potluck Luncheon

December 20 Holiday Sing Along in cafeteria from 3:00-3:20 featuring K-4th

Middle School

DISTRICT ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The Team will continue their work and discussion of the “Required Actions”. The team will come to a consensus on “what defines student achievement” for Almont Community Schools. The progress report for our district is due this spring. **Note:** We have addressed all three Required Actions, per the External Review Team’s recommendations.

The next scheduled meeting is on **January 30th from 4:15-6:15 PM**. Board participation would be greatly appreciated.

Literacy/ROCK Update

Note: Same as last month’s report.....on-going training and communication to ensure a systematic approach to the intervention.

(Reading)

Teachers are working in their GLO Meetings to compile a list of students needing extra assistance in reading. Para-eds are being utilized for *Read Naturally* and *Progress Monitoring*. Winter Benchmark Testing begins in January.

(Behavior)

Shhhh....it is a secret! To recognize and reward our students for outstanding behavior, Zak Atak will be coming to entertain the students during lunches on Dec. 20th!

iPad Update

Heather Murphy, Carol Purvis, and Kim VonHiltmayer attended the Clintondale “Flipped Classroom” Visit on Dec. 4th. Although a little different than expected, we walked away feeling very fortunate to have the resources that we do at ACS. Both Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Purvis are ready to attempt the “flipped classroom” model. With our iPad implementation, the iPads could serve as a powerful tool to differentiate instruction and allow the teachers to spend QUALITY time with the students (80/20). Without iPads, it is also possible to implement the “flipped classroom” model; Clintondale does it!

UPDATE from our COUNSELING OFFICE

- Kari Diaz was responsible for putting up the “iRaider Thoughts” outside of the gymnasium. The students were very sincere and genuine with filling in a response to one of the following:
I wish....., I think....., I feel....., or I believe.....
- Kari Diaz is to be commended for her efforts to address and stay abreast of our 504 Plan requests. Kari Diaz and Mary Mueller just attended a conference on 504 implementation and policy.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION of STAFF:

Mrs. Shayne Hellebuyck (RTC/HIP Supervisor) is working extremely hard to get to know the students and staff; she has been a welcomed addition to the AMS family! 😊

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

12-21-13 thru 1-5-14 Holiday Break
1-29-14 Board Appreciation Breakfast at 7:45 AM 😊

High School

As we fast approach the midway point of the current school year we are already beginning planning for the next school year. As discussed in our recent workshop we will be bring several new course proposals to the Board in January. We are starting the preliminary work on building the schedule for next school year. We will be sending support staff to Power School Scheduling training at the Macomb ISD. It is our intention to take full advantage of the computerized scheduling available through Power School.

Sports

The High School winter sports season has begun. We are looking forward to an action packed season as all of our winter sports teams have been working hard to prepare for the season. I will keep the Board apprised as to how many families take advantage of the “Family Pass” that will make its debut during this winter season.

Culture and the Arts:

The spring play has been announced and this year’s High School performance will be the “Music Man”. The Christmas Band concert was a huge success and was well attended. The Choir Christmas Concert will be on Monday, December 16.

The holidays are upon us and here at the High School the students have decorated several areas of the school. There is a good feeling of school community amongst both the students, as well as the staff.

Other (Misc)

Mr. Candela said that the Nifty Fifties play over the weekend was outstanding. Mrs. Pinsoneault and her cast did an excellent job. It was organized and very professional.

Board of Education: Questions

None

PERSONNEL

Approval of Resignations

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Mizuki with best wishes for the future.

(P), 181, 6-0-0

Moved by Boxey supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. D’Onfrio with thanks for 8 years of service and best wishes for the future.

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(P), 182, 6-0-0

POLICY

Approval of Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Boxey, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Orlando, Florida for the Dance Team March 7th-9th, 2014.

(P), 183, 6-0-0

DATES

The date for the annual Organizational Meeting is set for January 7th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room.

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION: Quarterly Review

Motion by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, 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 – Owens, Kmetz, Brzozowski, Miles, Boxey, Hoffa

Nays - None

(P), 184, 6-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:24 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 7:24 pm

The Board went into Open Session at 9:12 pm

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

NONE

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Approved _____

Date

December 16, 2013

Signed: _____
Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President

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