

MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
January 27, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Miles 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**

Stephan Manko, Jon Owens, John Brzozowski, John Miles, Mr. Kmetz and Mrs. Boxey and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

**Visitors:** 9

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Hoffa was absent

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

None

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Boxey, supported by Kmetz, the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the January 7, 2014 Organization Meeting
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the January 7, 2014 Special Meeting Student Matter
- D. Approval of the Minutes from the January 20, 2014 Work Session

**P, 19 ,6-0-0**

**BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion by Brzozowski, 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>December 2013</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	\$1,326,946.79

January 27, 2014

School Lunch Program	\$36,706.67
2002 Debt Fund	\$0
2004 Refunding Bonds	\$0
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$0
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$0
2013 SBL Refinance	\$0
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$500.00
QZAB Bond	\$36,729.35
General Fund Transfers for Payroll	\$89,538.70
<b>Total Funds Spend</b>	<b>\$1,490,421.51</b>
<b>Voided Checks: None</b>	
<b>Check Numbers: 31427-31553</b>	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 31427-31553 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): None  
**P, 20, 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**

**Student Council Update**

None – due to snow day no representation at the meeting.

**Superintendents Report**

**Orchard Primary**

**After School Enrichment Program**

We are in the planning stages to host an after school program which will run from February to June. Teachers are reviewing recent student data from DIBELS benchmark assessments and we are identifying students who are in need of extra support in reading and/or math. Positions for teachers, paraprofessional support, transportation and supplies will be paid through the Title 1 grant funds.

**Professional Development Day**

Our recent district PD day offered opportunities in the morning for staff to be certified in CPR and first aide, or attend a session on understanding autism. After lunch our staff reviewed MAISA (Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators) Writing Units...a collaborative effort of fifty seven ISDs in Michigan who have driven writing units aligned to the Common Core. And last but not least the staff reviewed the DRA2 Assessment which we adopted last year and have begun the opportunity to individually administer the assessment with our students to monitor their reading capabilities.

**Upcoming Events:**

- January 29 Detroit Redwing Assembly
- February 3 Progress Reports will be sent home
- February 7 Daddy Daughter Dance

January 27, 2014

February 8 Mom to Mom sale

## **Middle School**

### **DISTRICT ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

The next scheduled meeting is on **January 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:15-6:15 PM**. We need to discuss what defines “Student Achievement” at various levels (district, school, and classroom). Board participation would be greatly appreciated.

### **AIMSweb (Literacy)/ROCK Update**

#### **(Reading)**

AIMSweb Testing (for Winter benchmark) will be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **(Behavior)**

Time to “cash in” the ROCK tickets! The next ROCK SHOP will be on January 31<sup>st</sup>; DJ Zak Atak will also add to the lunchroom excitement! Thank you to the Almont Middle School PTSA for sponsoring this event. A special thank you to Mr. Filar (PTSA Secretary) for his efforts to communicate and organize this event. Last but not least, a thank you to AMS parents who have also sent in donations/prizes for the ROCK SHOP.

## **PD DAY**

**(Morning Session)** ACS Teachers, Support Staff, and Administration were certified in CPR/AED on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**(Afternoon Session)** Technology/iPad/Misc.

Thank you to the following staff members for presenting to the AMS and AHS teachers:

**J. Bostian-** *GradeCam*

**K. Odett/S. Crittenden-** *MobyMax*

**C. Purvis-** *Remind 101*

**A. Ferman-** *BookPress*

**E. Johnson-** *Google Docs/Edmodo* **B. Sazehn-** Using iPad as a Document Camera (made her own device to hold iPad)

**K. Wade-** *Schoology*

**B. Beneson-** *Evernote*

**L. Stroh-** *Swivel*

**V. LaCavera-** School Safety

## **TEACHER EVALUATION UPDATE**

The Teacher Evaluation Committee met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to clarify expectations to obtain an “Effective Rating” for Domains 1 (Planning and Preparation) and Domain 4 (Professional Responsibilities). Thank you to Melissa Ashbaugh, Jamie Weigand, and Kris Rohrbeck for their continual input/feedback to ensure a fair and successful process.

## **UPDATE from our COUNSELING OFFICE**

Ms. Diaz is presently working on “Which Career Pathway will you ROCK?” with students in Grades 5-8. Please stop by (outside of the gym) and check out the new bulletin board.

The “holiday cheer” was quite overwhelming for some of our Almont students! Thank you so much to the following organizations/families:

\*Coach Andrea Walker & Family

\*Henry Ford Urgent Care & Kiwanis Club

\*Shelley Sprecher & Family

\*The Kenworthy Family

\*AMS Student Council

\*AMS PTSA

\*The Rinke Family & Church Family

January 27, 2014

## **ROCK STARS at AMS**

Please come see pictures of our R.O.C.K. Stars of the month in the main office! **Note:** These students are chosen by administration, teachers, and support staff. Students who exhibit respect, ownership, compassion, and knowledge are recognized with this prestigious award!

**AMS ROCK STARS include:** Emilio Lord, Nathan Stefanski, Vyla Cusmano, Nathan Zielinski, Rachelle Baker, Jackson Malcolm, Alexis Meeker, Nathan Engel, Maria Carreno, McKenzie Finn, Matthew McFarlane, Charlotte Dunn, Griffin DePaw, Meghan Savel, Gerard Knittel, Callahan Burns, Ella Bartlett, Alexa Hanaford, Dan Diaz, Casey Pepper, Zoey Kenworthy, and Justin Cremeans

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION of STAFF:**

We can never express our thanks and gratitude enough....

Thank you to the following AMS Paraprofessionals/Paraeducators/Support Staff who "go the extra mile" on a daily basis:

<b>Tammy Lee</b>	<b>Melanie Haley</b>	<b>Laurie Crawford</b>	<b>Kelley Bussen</b>
<b>Cheryl Boren</b>	<b>Linda Bone</b>	<b>Nancy Turvill</b>	<b>Jennifer Fulton</b>
<b>Teresa Deneweth</b>	<b>Brenda Leech</b>	<b>Carol Born</b>	<b>Shayne Hellebuyck</b>
<b>Livia Ward</b>			

Lunch Assistance: **Patty Carter, Stephanie Russ, Missy Lane, and Tina Faulk**

ESL: **Clemencia Paul**

Media Center: **Jenny Henige**

Speech Pathologist: **Dionne Arnold**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**1-28-14 Progress Reports (per email)**

**1-29-14 Board Appreciation Breakfast (sponsored by the Student Council) @ 7:45**

**1-30-14 District Leadership Meeting at AMS from 4:15-6:15 PM in Media Center**

**1-31-14 ROCK SHOP (sponsored by PTSA)**

**2-4-14 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair Idea Workshop @ 6:00 PM**

**2-19-14 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity Afternoon from 2:45-5:00 PM**

**2-21-14 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Dance from 2:45-5:00 PM**

**2-27-14 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair in Media Center/Hallways from 6:00-8:00 PM**

## **High School**

January has been a busy month at the High School. We are approaching midway point of the year and the students and staff have settled into a good routine. The extreme weather of the past several weeks has presented challenges to both staff and students but they have made the best of it. To this point our attendance has held steady in spite of the challenging weather conditions. We have not been marking students tardy on the days that the weather conditions have been poor.

Even though it is only January we have begun the scheduling process for the 2014/15 school year. A committee of the faculty and administration are reviewing the 14/15-year course selection book and will be bringing it to the Board for approval in February. In order to take full advantage of the scheduling capabilities on Power School we will be taking advantage of Power School Scheduler training at the Macomb ISD. Students will begin to select their courses for the coming school year in the late February early March time frame.

As you are aware Colleen Tomaszewski has resigned her position as secretary. We are in the process of selecting a replacement for the position and have already received numerous applications for the position. We will be bringing a recommendation to the Board in the near future.

**Instruction:**

In order to support our freshman students who are struggling with their course work we have started a tutoring program. Starting last week we have tutors from the NHS available for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students every Tuesday and Thursday, both in the mornings before school as well as after school each afternoon. We have made direct contact with the parents of each of the students that we feel would benefit from the tutoring program to make them aware. Mr. Nicol, along with 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, Katlyn Booms, has been instrumental in helping to put this program together.

The staff continues to find new ways to integrate the use of the iPad into the classroom. Mr. Stroh is piloting a new technology that allows him to video his lectures and to load them onto his students iPad so that they may view them at a later time. This allows students the ability to review information that they may have questions on or may have missed during the original lecture. This is only one example of some of the creative things our teachers are doing with the new technology that is now available to them.

During the snow days Mr. Voyt has sent out videos for his students to watch to help them keep up with their work.

**Student Activities:**

The Student Council has been busy getting ready for this year's Snowcoming Dance. The Snowcoming Basketball game will be held February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Snowcoming Dance will be on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>, here at the High School.

The winter sports season is well underway. Our student athletes have been working hard and are representing Almont Schools in a positive way. The Almont Dance team traveled to Rochester High School this past weekend and came home with two trophies for their excellent performances. The Wrestling Team held their annual Tournament here at Almont High School on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a packed gym for the entire day and we received several comments on what a great event it was.

**Upcoming Events:**

Progress Reports for 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester will be posted on January 28th.

A scholarship meeting for seniors will be held January 30<sup>th</sup> during the school day.

Vision testing for 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take place on February 3rd.

The mid-year count day will take place February 12th.

Winter break will be from Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> through Monday February 17th.

**Other**

The security updates are underway. Plexiglass and numbers are ready to be hung once the weather breaks.

**January School Board Recognition Month**

On behalf of our students, parents, and staff of Almont Community we would like to say THANK YOU to the school board members of Almont Community Schools. School Board Members put in countless hours attending and reviewing information to make decisions to provide the best education for the school district. Please join me in recognizing our Almont School Board of Education.

January 27, 2014

Mr. Candela also stated that he realizes that being a Board Member is one of the toughest jobs out there and he appreciates the work the Board does in making the right decisions for the kids knowing they are hard decisions that may not be popular.

Because of the snow days both the dinner and breakfast for the Board have been postponed. We will keep the Board posted as to the new dates.

### **Update from Township/Village Meeting**

Mr. Candela met with the township on Saturday to discuss the possible building swap. The Township is concerned with things like the roof, flooring, air conditioning etc. Mr. Candela stated that Hendricks does free cost estimates and walkthroughs, with the Boards consent to pursue this option, he would be happy to have them come out and do an estimate.

The township would also like a copy of the health review and air quality reports that have been done in the past.

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

Mr. Owens wondered about the kids that do not have internet access at home and how this will work when teachers send home videos on snow days?

Mr. Candela stated that they will be given time when they return to watch them and catch up. Students will not be penalized for not having internet access while not at school.

Mr. Owens stated he wanted to make sure that teachers are aware that there are some students that do not have access.

Mr. Candela stated that they are aware.

Mrs. Boxey had a document from the meeting with the township to pass out to the Board.

## **CURRICULM**

### **Approval of New High School Courses**

Moved by Brzozowski supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the course, **AP English Literature and Composition**, to be offered as a High School elective for students beginning in 2014/2015.

**P,21,6-0-0**

**Discussion:** Mr. Owens wanted to make sure that all the classes that were being approved were being done so knowing that they had to meet both budget constraints and enrollment expectations.

Mr. Candela stated that yes this was the case for all the new classes.

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the course, **AP World History**, to be offered as a High School elective for students beginning in 2014/2015.

**P,22,6-0-0**

Moved by Brzozowski supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the course, **Digital Photography**, to be offered as a High School elective for students beginning in 2014/2015.

**P,23,6-0-0**

**Discussion:** Mr. Candela pointed out that the syllabus was updated since the work session.

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the course, **Jazz Band**, to be offered as a High School elective for students beginning in 2014/2015.

**P, 24,6-0-0**

**Discussion:** Mrs. Boxey wondered if Mr. Candela had found out how the students would be eligible for the Jazz Band. Mr. Candela stated that the class description had been updated to include that tryouts and auditions would be required. Mr. Kmetz asked how many trimesters the class was. Mr. Owens and Mrs. Boxey stated that they thought it was two. Mr. Candela stated that we would verify this with Mr. Woelkers to be sure.

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the course, **Robotics**, to be offered as a High School elective for students beginning in 2014/2015.

**P,25,6-0-0**

## **POLICY**

### **Approval of Resolution Calling for a Special Election**

Moved by Manko supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the attached Resolution which outlines the Boards intent to submit a one millage proposition at a special election as well as outlines the ballot language for the Building and Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy. A copy of said resolution to be attached to the official minutes of this meeting and marked VIII C(1).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Boxey, Owens, Manko, Kmetz, Brzozowski, Miles

Nays: None

**P, 26,6-0-0**

**Discussion:** Mr. Miles pointed out that Mr. Candela's note on Friday had included notes in regard to the ballot language discussion from the work session. He stated that there would be no changes as it is regulated by the State of Michigan.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Approval of Resignations**

Moved by Boxey supported by Manko, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Tomaszewski with thanks for all her years of service.

**P,27,6-0-0**

### **Approval of New Hire**

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education employ Mandy Gilbert as a Special Education Teacher effective January 27, 2014.

**P,28,6-0-0**

## **FINANCE**

### **Approval of Budget Adjustment**

Moved by Brzozowski supported by Manko, the Board of Education adopt the revised General Fund Budget for the 2013/2014 school year, with Revenues totaling **Twelve Million, Three Hundred Ninety Thousand, One Hundred Fifty Six (\$12,390,156) Dollars** and Expenditures of **Twelve Million, Three Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety Three (\$12,357,493) Dollars**

**P,29,6-0-0**

## **COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Tim Busch wondered if the financial reports that were referenced in the meeting are available to the public.

Mr. Miles stated yes they are on the web site.

Rick Throope wondered where we are on snow days and how they will be made up.

Mr. Candela stated that that is determined by the Governor.

January 27, 2014

Mr. Throope feels that adding minutes to the day is not the best way to go for a lot of parents who have extracurricular activities going on in the evenings with their children

Mr. Candela stated that until the Governor makes a decision we will not know what the options are for making up the time. This might not be until April.

Mr. Miles stated that the district he works in is on their 10<sup>th</sup> snow day.

The Athletic Council presented a check to the School Board for \$25,000.00 to cover the Athletic shortfall. Mr. Jamie Wade, Mark Bone and Sue Frederiksen were on hand to deliver the check. The Board thanked the Council for all their efforts and told them they appreciate everything the council is doing.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mrs. Boxey stated that she sent an e-mail to the Board members today with Mr. Candela's evaluation form. It needs to be completed by Feb 17<sup>th</sup> for the worksession.

There was discussion in regard to new vs. old evaluation and whether they needed to attend a training session in North Branch in February in regard to the new evaluation. It was decided that they do not need to attend this training.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Miles summarized the evaluation steps as follows:

Table the training for now

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> will be the work session and the review

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> will be a regular meeting

Policy meeting (regarding new evaluation) on hold at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Hoffa, President