

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
December 14, 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, John Brzozowski, Stephan Manko, Jonathan Owens and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 12

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council

2 students from Student Council updated the Board on Student Council activities:

1. Chalkboard wall. This is a place for students to answer a prompt. So far they have had: What I'm Thankful For, What I Want for Christmas and next will be What I'm Sorry For
2. Rachelle's Challenge Assembly on bullying was a big success
3. This is Spirit Week. Each day has a theme:
PJ Day, Color Wars, Ugly Sweater, White Out, Christmas
They also decorated the hallway by the cafeteria
4. There is a new Bulletin Board in the Café where kids can leave little notes of encouragement
There is also a calendar for birthdays and sporting updates
5. New TV with pictures in Library for daily student life pictures and announcements.
6. They are presently working on Snow Coming details – theme is Old Hollywood

Mr. Miles asked what the date of Snow Coming was and if he would be putting up balloons?

Mr. Hoffa wondered if the iPads could run the same program as the TV's in the library so the students could get the same information directly to their iPads. He also wondered if the HS had an official Twitter account.

SC responded that they are looking into the link to the iPads and at this time we do not have a Twitter because it is blocked by the filter but it's a good idea that they can research.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Pam Ferzacca asked if we had listed the AE building with a commercial real estate yet.

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Mr. Hoffa stated we had not.

Mrs. Ferzacca suggested we put 'For Sale' on the AE sign since it is lit and visible

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes Regular Meeting November 23, 2015
- B. Approval of the Minutes Special Meeting December 7, 2015

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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.

December

General Fund Total	\$ 563,411.82
School Lunch Fund	\$ -
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
2012 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
2013 SBL Refinance	\$ -
2013 Refunding Bonds	\$ -
Sinking Funds	\$ -
QZAB Bond	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 563,411.82
General Fund (transfer in for Payroll)	\$ -
PESG	\$ 12,361.51
Coach EZ	\$ 19,785.15
Participant Benefit Claims	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDS SPENT	\$ 595,558.48
Check numbers: 33955-34037	
Void Checks: None	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 33955-34037 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): None

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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

Primary students spent lots of time outdoors this fall. They've made apple cider on the new press, walked the trails exploring for adjectives, prepared homemade salsa, and worked on their team building skills. One of the bigger outdoor projects was the mud oven. The kids had a ball stomping out the mud to get it ready to turn into the oven.

Indoor projects have included turning recycled items in to signs to use around the school and getting ready for the learning expo.

Third graders spent a day discovering the past at the Troy Historical Museum where they dressed the part and learned things like dipping candles, printing on a printing press and doing old fashioned chores. After spending the day at the museum the students came back to work on some fun projects that included making shelter for their pioneer families and designing old fashioned toys.

6th graders from AMS are mentoring the younger kids with much success. The younger students look forward to the big kids helping them.

De Bug is working well at OP. These strategies include:

- D-Decide to ignore
- E-Edit the area, walk away
- B- Be friendly, use words to tell a person to stop
- U- Use firm talk, repeat message in firm voice (no yelling)
- G- Get help

STEAM is in full force at OP. We are encouraging our students to predict, model, analyze, and observe as they use hands on learning. Successful STEAM projects include:

- Boat building – students build the Mayflower and sailed across the sea.
- Cookie decorating – they decorated cookies in the shape of the United States.
- Number arrays – they built number arrays to brush up on math skills.
- Engineering – building structures with apples and different shapes challenged the students.

In other news:

RAD Raiders are piling up, 59 shirts have been given out so far this year!

Middle School

Achievement Series

*Participants: K. VonHiltmayer, R. Kline, S. Chayka, J. Sullivan, C. Purvis, H. Murphy, & M. Gilbert

*Brief Review of Series-Closing the Achievement Gap-Book Series being read

*AMS Teacher Status on "Success Period PILOT"

*Attended on 12/7- Each grade level working on schedule, roster, and resources. The Middle School is attempting to address ALL tiers in the Jan. 2016 schedule.

AMS PARENT SURVEYS

Mrs. VonHiltmayer shared the parent survey results with the school board at the December 7th work session.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/THANK YOU

Thank you to Mr. Bostian, Mr. Kline & Student Council.

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Middle School Play

The AMS Play/Skits took place on Dec. 11th @ 7:00 PM and Dec. 12th @ 2:00 PM in AHS Auditorium students perform multiple acts.

A big thank you to Mr. John Miles for **VOLUNTEERING** his time and efforts to organize and supervise an AMS Play/Skit for our students this school year. The play was well done and allowing students the opportunity to perform.

AMS Charity Event

AMS students are collecting socks to donate to families less fortunate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMS Choir Concert @ 6:30 PM in Auditorium (Grades 6-8) on December 14th!
Music Program

AMS Band Concert @ 7:00 PM in AMS Gymnasium (Grades 6-8) on December 15th!

High School

Rachel's Challenge and Defeat the Label Assembly took place on December 11th @ Almont High School: Purple out Day was the theme.

Guest Speakers Included:

- Defeat the Label spoke on cyber bullying
- Four Students from Almont High School spoke on bullying
- Earl Cureton former Piston players spoke to students on the message of doing the right thing when speaking out against bullying.

Channel 6 News and 98.7 were part of the event to raise awareness on the issue.

Students passed out wrist bands and a raffle was held to those that wore purple.

Robotics:

Girls Competed on November 8th at West Bloomfield. The girls finished second at the competition. Students on the Robotics Club made a float for the Holiday Parade.

Competition Preparation will begin in January

Past & Upcoming Events:

- Nov 18: Counseling Dept. made an Ed Tech presentation to the 10th grade. Current Ed Tech students had display boards and passed out information for their Ed Tech program in the cafeteria after the presentation in the auditorium.
- Nov 18: Get Set for College Night (Counseling Dept.) 66 students represented
- Nov 19: Fall Sports Awards Night
- Nov 20: Neon-Out Dance to benefit LACADA (Capstone project for Lauren Creger)
- Nov 23: 9th grade vision screening
- Dec. 2: College Financial Aid Parent Presentation (Counseling Dept.) 26 students represented
- Dec. 5: Holly Day Parade – Choir/Band/Robotics participating
- Dec 14: Field Trip to Ed Tech for 10th graders interested in attending Ed Tech next year
- Dec 14: HS and MS Christmas Choir Concerts – 6:30-MS, 7:30-HS (HS Auditorium)
- Dec 18: Assembly 2nd hour – Band and Choir will sing

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- Jan 13: PLC Day
- Jan 18: PD Day – no students
- Jan 20-22: HS Semester 1 Exams

The first of two 20 minute teacher observations have been completed.

Semester 2 tentative schedule has been submitted to the teachers.

Other

Township Purchase of Baseball Fields

We will approve the purchase of the property at the January board meeting. I will be working with the title company to finish up the details. We are looking for at least a 10 year lease if not longer. The village is aware of the lease from the township to the school district.

Roof at OP Follow-up

Dan LaPan from Hendricks provided the following information regarding the OP Roof:

1. If we change to 24 gauge steel we will save \$11,700
2. If we change the steel to 24 gauge and go with a standard color we could save up to \$40,200

Board of Education: Questions

None

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum

Approval of Class

Moved by Miles supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the following High School classes beginning with the second semester in the 2015/2016 school year.

Science Lab Assistant

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Personnel

Approval of Resignation

Moved by O'Neil, supported by Owens, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Stephanie Russ as an Almont Community Schools Para Professional and wish her luck in the future.

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Approval of Third Party Coach

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education staff the following positions with personnel provided by CoachEZ:

- Varsity Girls Tennis

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Finance

Approval of Roof Bid for Orchard Primary

Moved by Kmetz ,supported by Manko, the Board of Education enter into a contract for the Metal Roof Replacement at Orchard Primary with Boom Construction and J. Ranck Electric. Bid information to be attached and marked VIII D(1).

Discussion:

Mr. Owens asked if there was damage at this time in the building due to the current roof.

Mr. Candela said that because of the leaking roof there is damage to tiles etc.

Mr. Owens inquired about mold etc.

Mr. Candela stated that no extensive damage to the prolonged leaking.

Mr. Brzozowski asked that the potential saving be explained again.

Mr. Candela explained that at least \$11,700 could be saved by going with the 24 gauge material. Even more could be saved by going with a stock color – potential just over \$40,000.

Mr. Manko suggested we look for a color that compliments the Terra Cotta on the front of the building instead of trying to match it so we can save the dollars.

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Dates

Discussion Only

Set the date for the annual Organizational Meeting for Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 pm.

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Comments BOE

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION: Superintendent’s Quarterly Review

Motion by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose of Superintendent’s Quarterly Review as permissible under the Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call Vote: Aye’s –Manko, Miles, Owens, Brzozowski , O’Neil, Kmetz , Hoffa

Nays - None

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Adjournment of Closed Session

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education adjourn the December Closed Session at 8:59 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education adjourn the December Regular Meeting at 9:00 p.m.

P, 175, 6-0-0

Approved _____

Date

Signed: _____

John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____

Steve Hoffa, President