

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
August 24, 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, Jonathon Owens, John Brzozowski , Stephan Manko and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 9

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Scott Kmetz was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Addition to Agenda – Approval of Resignation

COMMUNICATIONS

Acknowledgement of Letter from Township regarding the AE Building.

Mr. Candela explained that the school did receive a letter from the township/village stating that they were not interested in the building swap and wished to withdrawal from any negotiations.

Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Manko said they would be abstaining from approval of checks since they have family members receiving checks.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Mr. Bush stated that he had recently moved out of the district and that is why he has not been at the meetings lately but he wanted to thank the Board for their hard work and let them know that he appreciates them and prays for them.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting July 27, 2015
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the Work Session August 17, 2015

P, 118, 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.

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August

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| General Fund Total | \$ 2,621,018.88 |
| School Lunch Fund | \$ 66.99 |
| 2006 Refunding Bonds | \$ - |
| 2012 Refunding Bonds | \$ - |
| 2013 SBL Refinance | \$ - |
| 2013 Refunding Bonds | \$ - |
| Sinking Funds | \$ - |
| QZAB Bond | |
| Subtotal | \$ 2,621,085.87 |
| | |
| General Fund (transfer in for Payroll) | \$ - |
| PESG | \$ - |
| Coach EZ | \$ - |
| Participant Benefit Claims | \$ - |
| TOTAL FUNDS SPENT | \$ 2,621,085.87 |
| Check Numbers: 33496-33580 | |
| Void Checks: 33514 | |

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 33496 to 33580 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 33514

P, 119, 4-0-2 (Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Manko abstained because they had family members receiving checks)

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

THANK YOU TO THE CUSTODIAL STAFF

A well-deserved thank you goes out to the custodial staff! They have done a tremendous job of cleaning and readying Orchard Primary for the new school year. We are very appreciative of their hard work!

KIDS CLUB

It is our pleasure to welcome Kids Club back to Orchard Primary. We are still working out the logistics of storage space and entrances, but nevertheless, we are very happy to have Mrs. Wheatley, Mrs. Horn, and all of the students aboard!

PRESCHOOL INTERVIEWS

On Tuesday, August 18, Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Weigand completed interviews for the Teacher's Assistant position for the preschool program. All candidates were excellent, leaving us with a very difficult decision! Chris Kline was chosen for the position.

MATH AND READING INTERVENTIONS

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Mike Hinkley and the Literacy and Beyond Foundation have once again granted 100 Lexia Core5 licenses to be used as an intervention tool for reading! Mr. Hinkley's generosity continues to be a terrific help to us in meeting our literacy needs at Orchard Primary. In addition, we will be adding the STAR Math screener to our intervention toolbox in the fall. Teachers and paraeducators will spend a portion of our upcoming PD day receiving webinar training on how to best use this program with our students.

ADDITIONAL iPADS

According to Mr. Bostian, an additional set of 50-55+ iPads will be coming to Orchard Primary this year. Teachers already have four iPads to use with students in stations or individually. However, when Mrs. Weigand surveyed the staff last year regarding their technology wish list, most everyone requested to have access to more devices. With the additional iPads, teachers will have 6-8 iPads available for use within their classrooms. Plus, we currently have 30 iPads available in the library for checkout.

As part of our School Improvement Plan for the 2015-2016 school year, we agreed to adopt an app each marking period. All teachers will use the chosen app to develop at least 2-3 activities during that time frame, and 15-20 minutes will be set aside once a month during staff meetings to share ideas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-one teachers attended summer P.D. with Peter McCreedy and Mark Fleming at Camp Lael in late June/early July. We spent three days and two nights developing hands-on activities and project-based curriculum units. Many of these will include work in the outdoor garden/orchard classroom.

As part of this initiative, we decided to adopt a school-wide theme for each marking period, the first one being SURVIVAL. We also mapped out the plans for an expo night, which will take place in late October. Families will be invited to an interactive, fun-filled evening of project presentations and outdoor activities. We hope the students will be as excited as we are!

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM UPDATE

The outdoor learning areas are a work in progress. Eight garden boxes have been built behind the building at the south end of the school, and we are working on installing an herb garden at the north end. The OP staff will be looking for help next year from the community members to water through the summer.

The staff is also in the midst of gathering resources, such as gardening equipment, stumps for seating, and books with project ideas aligned to the K-4 curriculum standards. Additionally, beginning this week, Mark Fleming is working with us to ready the orchard and the garden grounds. Mark is extremely collaborative and will be attending our first two staff days on September 2 and 3 to work with teachers as we plan our first few "onsite field trips" for each grade level. We were fortunate to plan alongside Mark at Camp Lael. He comes very excited with lots of ideas to help us launch this active-learning initiative.

FOUR COUNTY GRANT

We owe a big thank you to the Four County Community Foundation! Orchard Primary was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1000 from the Foundation's 21st Century Education Fund in support of our outdoor classroom project. With the money, we will purchase pond-dipping nets, a cider press, and orienteering materials.

OTHER NEW FACES

We are privileged to welcome a student teacher to Orchard Primary for the fall semester. Nick Bara will be working with Sarah Savage this year and could not be in better hands. He also attended Camp Lael with us. He brought lots of energy and was a terrific fit! We are excited to have him!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Thursday, September 3 Teachers will meet and greet new students at the Popsicle Pop-in open house from 2:00-3:00.

Tuesday, September 8 First day of school for grades 1-4 (half day)

Tuesday, September 8 Kindergarten Orientation

From the Middle School

TEACHING STAFF

There will be some changes/additions to the AMS Staff for the 2015-16 school year. Thus far, Noelle Graver has been assigned to 8th grade Math. However, Carol Purvis has been assigned to teach Algebra I for our 8th graders. Presently, we still need to assign a 6th grade teacher and ensure coverage for Brea Jostock (during her maternity leave).

ACHIEVEMENT TRAINING SERIES

This training series (six sessions) is designed to increase student achievement.

Note: ACS would like to target our Bottom 30/explore strategies and a data-driven process to ensure student progress.

This series is a Plan-Do-Check-Act Model; Patricia Davenport will present this series. She is known for taking failing schools to exemplary status. Almont High School and Orchard Primary will also participate in this series; there will be K-12 representation. Series held at the Saginaw ISD. First two sessions were held on August 20th and August 21st.

STEM TRAINING/UPDATE

Beau Beneson received STEM training via *Project Lead the Way* at Eastern Michigan University last week. Mr. Bostian has installed a new STEM lab at AMS; there are thirty computers. Each eighth grader will take the Design & Modeling course for a marking period.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 5th and 6th Grade Open House on 9-1-15 from 6:00-8:00 PM
- 7th and 8th Grade Open House on 9-2-15 from 6:00-8:00 PM
- Welcome Back Breakfast/Teacher Work Day on 9-2-15

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- PD Day for All Staff on 9-3-15
- First Day of School on 9-8-15; Half Day for Students & Teachers
- District Curriculum Council (First Meeting) on 9-23-15 from 4:15-6:15 PM at OP

From the High School

The custodians have done a nice job on the summer cleaning of the building. The waxing of the floors was completed this past weekend and the building is now open for both staff and students. The administrative staff and secretaries are back to work as of August 18th. Schedules will be going out to students in the next week and the counseling office will be meeting with those students that may need to make changes.

Kris Rohrbeck and Mike Savage have successfully completed the two week training sessions for the STEM courses that will be offered at the High School this fall. The new computers for the STEM program have been delivered and Mr. Boston is loading up the needed software.

We will be holding freshman orientation for parents and students on August 25th. We are looking forward to welcoming the graduating class of 2019! The Band had a very successful band camp, it was well attended and the band is ready to start the school year.

Athletics

Fall sports are in full swing. Mr. Weigand held a meeting with all the coaches before fall sports began to cover changes in MHSAA policies and to update them on District Athletic policies and procedures. We have very good numbers of student participants in our fall sports programs. With the later start of the school year all teams will have started their season competitions before students are back in school

Upcoming events

| | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------|
| August 20 th & 21 st | 8:30am – 2pm | Picture Days |
| August 25 th | 6pm – 8pm | Freshman Orientation |
| September 2 nd | | Staff Reports |
| September 8 th | | First Day of classes |

Other News

Robotics Gift

The Almont Robotics team received a \$10,000 dollars donation from the Muir-Murphy charity golf outing. The charity golf outing is part of the Roth-Muir Funeral home annual golf outing each year. Mr. Savage was present to accept the award on August 18th.

Companion 3rd Grade Reading Bills Introduced in the House

Rep. Price has introduces HB 4822 – the 3rd grade reading bill which is a companion of her HB 4823 which introduces a training component for teachers of students with certain reading disabilities.

Preparations

All the buildings are close to ready to go inside! We still have some work on the outside that will need to be completed before the start of school. Mr. Jones is working on those areas in front of the buildings and the OP playground to prepare for opening day of school. The offices for central office at the high school have been painted and carpet replaced where needed. We hope to cut the entrance door into the classroom sometime this week. Parents will pick up iPads next Wednesday and Thursday.

Athletics

The fall sports season has begun. High school teams at all levels have begun practice. Boy's tennis, soccer, cross country, girls volleyball and golf have started or will begin there seasons soon. The Varsity Football will open this Thursday home against Dearborn Annapolis.

Board of Education: Questions

Mr. Miles stated that he is excited about the outside classrooms. He wondered how many of the teachers at the OP participated in the summer training. Mr. Candela stated that 21 of the 24 teachers attended.

NEW BUSINESS

Business

Approval of School of Choice Students

Moved by Miles supported by Manko the Board of Education accept the students on the attached list for the 2015/2016 school year through the 105 and 105C Schools of Choice Programs.

P, 120, 6-0-0

Personnel

Approval of PreSchool Aide

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education employ Chris Kline as PreSchool Aide beginning with the 2015/2016 school year.

P, 121, 6-0-0

Approval of LD Teacher

Moved by O'Neil supported by Manko the Board of Education employ Kristy Robinson as a Special Needs Teacher beginning with the 2015/2016 school year.

P, 122, 6-0-0

Approval of Resignations/Retirements

Moved by O'Neil supported by Manko the Board of Education accept the resignation and retirement of Ms. Pam Ferzacca with best wishes for the future.

P, 123, 6-0-0

Discussion:

Mr. Owens stated that he was sad to see Ms. Ferzacca go, he was hoping she would change her mind and stay. Ms. Ferzacca stated that she appreciated this but she feels she is doing what is best for kids while others may not be. She has been with the district 27 years.

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Cheryl Boren with best wishes for the future.

P, 124, 6-0-0

Approval of Recall of Teacher

Moved by O'Neil supported by Manko the Board of Education approve the attached resolution as presented. Said resolution is to be marked VIII C 5 and attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

P, 125, 6-0-0

Approval of 3rd Party Coach

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

JV Assistant Football Coach

P, 126, 6-0-0

Approval of ACS Coach

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education approve the employment of the following coach for the 2015/2016 8th Grade Girls Basketball season:

Erik Johnson

P, 127, 6-0-0

Approval of Resignation

Moved by O'Neil supported by Owens the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mr. Nathan Immekus with best wishes for the future.

P, 128, 6-0-0

Finance

Approval of State Aide Note

Moved by Brzozowski supported by Manko Board of Education approve the establishment of a State Aid note in the amount of Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) Dollars with the Tri-County Bank at a 0.84% fixed rate of interest.

P, 129, 6-0-0

Policy

Approval of Overnight Trip Resolution

Moved by Manko supported by Miles Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Almont Board of Education supports extracurricular programs as an extension of the classroom learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the various extracurricular clubs and teams are provided opportunities to participate in activities and competitions which require overnight stays at locations outside of the Almont School district service area; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires that extracurricular clubs and teams and/or individual club or team members take advantage of these opportunities.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve overnight trips for students participating in extracurricular programs during the 2015/2016 school year, with the Board of Education to be provided with the following information prior to any students embarking on such trips:

Date of Event

Accommodations for Food/Lodging

List of Chaperones

Trip Itinerary

Means of Transportation

Cost

Roll Call:

Ayes: Brzozowski, Manko, Owens, O'Neil, Miles, Hoffa

Nays: None

P, 130, 6-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Sue Fred asked if Mr. Immekus would still be coaching tennis this fall.

Mr. Candela stated yes he would.

Ms. Ferzacca stated that she hopes that in the future the Board will take a closer look at where teachers are being placed, she feels some placements are wrong. Bottom line is that the kids are our future. Please do not thank her she gets thanks from all the students that she has taught over the years and those are the people that matter to her.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Candela stated that he would like to send a letter to the township/village regarding the purchase of the baseball fields. The appraisal came in at between \$100 and \$115 thousand dollars for the land and he would like to see if the village/township is interested in the purchase so the Board can make a decision as to the disposition of the property.

Mr. Hoffa read a email from Ms. Gryspreed about a \$15,000 dollar grant the Robotics Team received from Venture Global Engineering.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
John Miles, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President

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