

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
**February 22, 2016**

**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 High School, 4701 Howland Rd, Almont, MI 48003

**Present**

Steve Hoffa, Jill O'Neil, John Miles, Scott Kmetz, John Brzozowski, Stephan Manko, Jonathan Owens, and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

**Visitors:** 16

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All Present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved as presented

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Student Council:

Best turnout for snow coming yet, over 300 attendees.

They have come up with vision statements that they will email to the board.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Pam Ferzacca inquired about the Reading specialist that was recently hired.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the January 25, 2016 Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the February 15, 2016 Work Session

**P, 36, 7-0-0**

**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.

**February**

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| General Fund Total   | \$ 954,008.63 |
| School Lunch Fund    | \$ 33,050.02  |
| 2006 Refunding Bonds | \$ 98.35      |
| 2012 Refunding Bonds | \$ 506.37     |

February 22, 2016

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 2013 SBL Refinance                     | \$ 542.05              |
| 2013 Refunding Bonds                   | \$ 242.90              |
| 2016 Refunding Bonds                   | \$ 16,250.00           |
| Sinking Funds                          | \$ 164.46              |
| QZAB Bond                              | \$ -                   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                        | <b>\$ 1,004,862.78</b> |
|  |                        |
| General Fund (transfer in for Payroll) | \$ 67,600.56           |
| PESG                                   | \$ 11,560.62           |
| Coach EZ                               | \$ -                   |
| Participant Benefit Claims             |                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS SPENT</b>               | <b>\$ 1,084,023.96</b> |
| Check #'s - 34177-34277                |                        |
| Void Checks - None                     |                        |

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 34177-34277 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): None  
**P, 37, 7-0-0**

**ORCHARD PRIMARY, ALMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRUST AND AGENCY ACCOUNT REPORTS**

The Trust and Agency Accounts were approved as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Miles asked about the amount of money that Robotics has.

Mr. Candela stated that they will use that money coming up for entrance fees, travel, materials etc.

First outing with the Robot is March 11 -12 at Kettering.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Superintendents Report**

**Mr. Candela discussed the following:**

**Orchard Primary**

Orchard Primary students join CSI! The Attorney General of Michigan presented information about being safe on -line to our students. Retired teachers instructed the groups in ways to stay safe all grade levels. Feedback was very positive from students and staff.

During our professional development day, teams of educators discussed our pending reports to the state. Information compiled from all stakeholders is incorporated in to these yearly reports. The school improvement team is working hard to finalize those state reports. Our next step is to research the areas needing improvement and develop OP's goals for the next school year.

Our recent honor roll awards featured ice cream sundaes, provided by the PTA. Sixty-one percent of our fourth graders made the honor roll (A and B). Sixteen percent of the class received all A's on report cards!

OP has been awarded a Targeted Literacy Intervention Grant from the State of Michigan for \$15,676. We have also applied for an Assessment Grant from the State to help cover the costs of the DIBELS (reading) and Star (math) assessments.

As of 2-16-16, the students at Orchard Primary are 100 days smarter than they were on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Kindergarteners celebrated their achievement with a morning of math activities. Our thanks to all the parent volunteers who allow us to create these special learning activities!

- Daddy Daughter Dance took place on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Limo ride and chocolate fountain party on February 26<sup>th</sup> for the winners of the fundraiser contest.
- March is reading month activities are being planned by our Reading Committee.

## **Middle School**

### **District Curriculum Update**

The DCC met in January. Topics of discussion included: School Improvement Goals, PLTW Updates, and PLC's. K-12 Pacing Guides will be posted in June 2016. Teachers will continue working on Unit Organizers (to be posted in June 2017).

### **Teacher Evaluation Update**

Mrs. VonHiltmayer has finished all of her formal observations and has met with the teachers. Teacher binders (to include evidence for the domains) are due on April 1st. Final conferences will begin at the end of April/early May.

### **M-STEP Schedule**

Thank you to Mrs. Deneweth for helping with the M-STEP testing schedule! The AMS testing schedule will be shared with all staff, parents, and students as soon as the final draft is completed.

**Note:** Mrs. VonHiltmayer and Mrs. Deneweth met with all grade levels during the last PD Day to discuss M-STEP results and preparation for the upcoming M-STEP.

### **Success Period- "Vent w/Von"**

As Success Period has been implemented (starting second semester), Mrs. VonHiltmayer scheduled two sessions of Vent w/Von to speak to 7th and 8th grade students openly about their thoughts on this intervention/enrichment period.

Mrs. VonHiltmayer will also be surveying the students at the end of the quarter to ensure all students have the opportunity to provide feedback on this PILOT.

### **Counseling Corner**

Mr. Kline has been working on the following initiatives/programming at AMS:

- **Career Cafe**-Students are able to learn about specific careers (presentations given by our students' parents), such as: Children's Author (Mrs. Lehman), Physical Therapist (Mrs. Koskodan), and Veterinarian (Dr. Schapman).
- **EDP's**- Mr. Kline will be working on Educational Development Plans with our 8th grade students the first week of March.
- **Ed Tech Trip**- The 8th grade teachers and Mr. Kline are finalizing details; Trip on February 29th.

### **Flint Water Crisis**

AMS Staff and Students have collected almost **\$500.00** to be donated to Flint Community Schools. This money will be allocated to families in need.

If possible, Mrs. VonHiltmayer and Mr. Kline are trying to connect with another school/Student Council to make this crisis a “teachable moment” for all students.

### **R.O.C.K. STARS (Student Recognition)**

Students have gone above and beyond to demonstrate **Respect, Ownership, Compassion, and Knowledge**: Students pictures will be displayed in the Middle School.

### **R.O.C.K. STARS (Staff Recognition)**

In effort to recognize several staff members’ efforts, staff members are now able to award each other ROCK tickets as well. Staff members place the tickets in a box in the office. If their ticket is pulled, they receive a FREE LUNCH! Staff members/Winners have included: J. Sullivan, M. Martin, A. Malloy, and N. Turvill thus far.

One staff member/per month.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

\***5th Grade Music Concert** on 2-23-16 @ 7:00 PM

\***Grades 5-8 Internet Safety/Cyberbullying Presentation** on 2-26-16

\***8th Grade Ed Tech Trip** on 2-29-16

\***Book Fair** starting on 2-29-16

\***PTSA Meeting** on 3-9-16 @ 7:00 PM

### **High School**

The second semester at the High School is progressing well. They have already begun the scheduling process for next fall. The Counseling Department has started collecting course request sheets from students. This process will continue for the next several weeks and then we will begin to build our schedule for the 2016/17 school year.

At the high school the second round of teacher observations have been completed.

Almont Schools is up for North Central Accreditation this coming school year and will be having an external review. This review takes place every five years and will take a lot of planning and preparation. Mr. Woelkers will be participating as a member of an external review team of another district to help better understand the process.

### **Robotics**

The Robotics club has been working hard on the designing and building of their Robot. The Robot has to be completed by tomorrow. We continue to have a large amount of students and parents participating in the robot project each night.

### **STEM Program**

Administration, along with teachers from the STEM program, attended a fundraiser meeting at Venture Global Engineering. Venture Global Engineering will be hosting a large golf outing in late July with the proceeds going to local charities. Almont’s STEM program has been selected as one of the charities to receive funding from the event. There is a potential that Almont’s STEM program could receive over \$15,000 from this fund raiser. We will be notified by the end of February if we will be a recipient of the General Motors Grant, which would provide \$35,000 over a three year period for our STEM classes at the High School.

### **Drama**

The High School will be performing “Annie” as the spring Musical. A kick off meeting was held this past week. The students are very excited and we are expecting good participation from all grades.

### **Athletics**

Winter sports quickly are drawing to a close. This past weekend the High School Wrestling Team competed in MHSAA Individuals District Tournament. Four wrestlers will be moving on to Regionals. Girls and Boys Basketball will be holding their districts in the beginning of March.

### **Up Coming Dates**

Week of Feb. 22 & Feb. 29: WIDA (2<sup>nd</sup> language) Testing

March 5: MSBOA Band Festival at Davison High School, 2:05 performance time

March 10: Choir Festival @ Swartz Creek High School

March 17: 11<sup>th</sup> grade trip to CMU

March 22: Winter Sports Awards, 6pm in High School Auditorium

### **Other**

The OP roof suffered damage in the wind storm that we will be getting fixed this week.

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

Mr. Miles asked why we decided to do a metal roof at OP vs. another layer of shingles.

Mr. Candela responded that the steel roof is a 50 year investment and will save money in the long run. Also, wind should not cause damage like it does on a shingle roof.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Curriculum**

#### **Approval of ESL Class**

Moved by Miles supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the ESL (English Second Language) Class at the High School.

**P, 38, 7-0-0**

### **Personnel**

#### **Approval of ACS Coaches**

Moved by Kmetz, supported by Owens, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following coaches for the spring 2015/2016 sport season:

- Erik Johnson – Girls Varsity Softball
- Ritchie Feys – Varsity Baseball
- Ryan Kline – Middle School Track

**P, 39, 7-0-0**

#### **Approval of Third Party Coaches**

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

- **Girls Varsity Soccer**
- **Girls JV Softball**

- **JV Baseball**
- **Boys Golf**
- **Varsity Girls Track**
- **Varsity Boys Track**

**P, 40, 7-0-0**

### **Policy**

#### **Approval of Cedar Point Trip-7<sup>th</sup> grade**

Moved by Owens, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the out of state trip to Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**P, 41, 7-0-0**

#### **Approval of France Trip**

Moved by Owens, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the trip to Paris, The Riviera and Rome April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**P, 42, 7-0-0**

#### **Approval of Montana Trip**

Moved by Owens, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the out of state trip to Glacier National Park in Montana from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, for the backpacking club.

**P, 43, 7-0-0**

### **COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

**None**

### **Comments BOE**

Mr. Owens asked if there was a plan to fix some of the holes in the service drive.

Mr. Candela stated that as soon as the weather gets good enough we will fill in the holes.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Goals Workshop the 19<sup>th</sup>

Hall of Fame first inductees Feb 26<sup>th</sup> home game

### **CLOSED SESSION: Superintendent's Evaluation**

Motion by Miles, supported by Manko, the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:33 p.m. for the purpose of Superintendent's Evaluation as permissible under the Open Meeting Act.

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

Nays - None

**P, 44, 7-0-0**

**Into open session at 9:29 pm**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Miles, supported by Owens, the Board of Education adjourn the December Regular Meeting at 9:30p.m.

**P, 45, 7-0-0**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Miles, Secretary

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