

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education

August 27, 2012

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. at the Almont Elementary School.

Present

Steven Hoffa, John Miles, Nancy Boxey, John Brzozowski, Dallas Walton, Scott Kmetz, Stephan Manko and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 25

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Shirley Morin is concerned because the busses will no longer be coming down private drives. She lives on a private drive off General Squire and she is concerned that her granddaughter will have to cross General Squire to get on the bus. She is also concerned that parents will be driving their children to the end of the road and there will be 5 cars sitting there. She said that because of the hills, and in the winter the slippery conditions, she does not feel it will be safe. She would like the Board to reconsider.

Mr. Candela explained the decision was based on two things: we were the only district in the area that goes down private drives and it is a cost saving measure for the district. We are all concerned with the safety of the children and the bus will pick the children at the end of the street.

Mary Culver said she is concerned about the 5th grade schedule. She said the kids had to pick Choir or Band and in doing so lost all other electives. Mr. Candela explained that the reason for some of the changes this year had to do with the job sharing that is taking place with OP. Mary feels this is a big decision for 10 and 11 year olds to make (Band/Choir), she understands that we had to move the 5th graders to the Middle School but wants to make sure they are still treated as Elementary students because they are young and need the variety of classes that they had last year at OP. Mr. Candela stated that we could not solve the scheduling issue tonight but would discuss it with Mrs. VonHiltmayer tomorrow. Mary also mentioned that she heard there would be no recess for 5th grade. Mr. Candela assured her this is not true.

Victoria LaMaticzy (Quail Run Resident) wanted to also voice her concerns about the safety of the bus stopping on General Squire to pick up her children.

Melissa Lane also spoke of her concerns about the 5th grade Band/Choir so specials (electives) situation. Mr. Candela will be looking into this tomorrow.

Another parent asked about the 'no touch' (high five) policy at the MS. Mr. Candela had not heard about this. She also wondered about Latch key on the late start days. Mr. Candela said it would be available. We are also working on possibly having kids that need extra help come in during this time and get the help they may need. She also wondered how the bussing would work for after school to latch key. Mr. Candela stated that we are still working this out. It has not been decided whether 1 bus with all latch key kids will go to the AE or all busses will stop there. She also heard no 5th grade recess and Mr. Candela assured her this was not the case.

Pam Ferzacca stated that in her 25 years her as a teacher she has never known there to be an issue with the floors (slippery etc.) because of recess. She does not understand the issue now. She said she is speaking for the 5th grade teachers who are not at the meeting. She also does not understand that why if a child chooses Band or Choir they are not in a rotation with the other electives. Mr. Candela stated that he has not seen the schedule because they were still working it out, he has just talked to Mrs. VonHiltmayer about it. Ms. Ferzacca does not understand why Band is so important to the Board/Administration if it causes such a scheduling problem, why not just offer general music to the 5th graders. She feels this would eliminate problems at MS and OP. Mr. Candela stated that we have high numbers and a great band because we offer it to 5th graders. Ms. Ferzacca would like Board to think about a General Music option.

Melissa Wheeler is also concerned about Band/Choir choice. She has boys who don't want to do either so they choose choir but would much rather have gym. She feels that at this age they still need the choices of gym, tech, art and music. They should not be elective that should just get them (like in K-4th grade). She does not want her child to be an experiment. Mr. Candela stated that with the closing of the AE building these are they things that happened. The Board does not want to force the kids to grow up and of course wants what is best for all the children. It is our intention to offer the best education. Melissa would have liked to see Mrs. VonHiltmayer at the meeting to answer these questions. Mr. Candela stated that this is not the place for that but they should most definitely ask about it at orientation tomorrow evening.

Sally Tanascu stated that for years it has been mandatory to choose Band or Choir. She feels maybe they should also just be electives. She feels kids would choose gym over music if given the opportunity.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

July 23, 2012 Regular Meeting

August 20, 2012 Work Session

(P), 195, 7-0-0

BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Kmetz, supported by Boxey, the Board of Education approve the bills payable and the financial reports as proposed by the administration and reviewed by the Finance Committee.

General Fund Total	\$	1,956,157.13	
2002 Debt Fund	\$	-	
2002 Bldg. & Site Fund	\$	-	
2004 Refunding Bonds	\$	-	
2006 Refunding Bonds	\$	-	

QZAB bond	\$	199,838.90	
School Lunch Checks	\$	76.11	
General Fund transfers in for payroll	\$	-	
General Fund Total	\$	2,156,072.14	

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 29457-29557 and voided checks as presented : Voided check(s): None

(P), 196, 6-0-1 Mr. Brzozowski abstained because checks this month include a check to his business

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

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Candela discussed the following:

Orchard Primary

As of today OP has 512 students

Mrs. McWilliams is still reviewing teacher requests

OP has received many positive compliments in regard to the cleanliness of the building

Staff attended the IPAD training and are excited to get going

All rooms in the building are being used this year – Music will be on the stage

Middle School

MS teachers also attended IPAD training with more to come on PD day Aug 29th

5/6 Grade open house will be Wed Aug 28

7/8 Grade open house will be Thursday Aug 29

Mrs. Von would like to thank the office staff for working hard to organize for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Von also thanks Jim Brownrigg and Neal Valcaniant for their assistance with the IPAD initiative

High School

Mr. James attended an AP conference in Lapeer which has led to a great opportunity for our students. We will be offering a trip to the 2013 Presidential Inauguration in January

Six applicants were interviewed for the Spanish position. Ruxhandra Marita was chosen, she was the unanimous selection.

Interviews have begun for the band position

Our yearbook students finished 3rd among 30 schools in their design and marketing of the yearbook.

Students had their photos taken last week. Retakes will be available later in the fall.

Freshman Orientation was a success. Various topics were discussed

Work at the high school is coming along nicely – roof, carpet, lights
New Athletic Director Becky Byam has settled in nicely in her new role
High School Athletics have begun .

PERSONNEL

Acceptance of Resignation

Moved by Boxey supported by Brzozowski ,the Board of Education accept the resignation of Scott Jones with regrets, best wishes for the future, and thanks for his years of dedicated service to the children of Almont Community Schools.

(P), 197, 7-0-0

Employment of Teacher

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education employ Ruxandra Marita to fill the position of Spanish Teacher.

(P), 198, 7-0-0

Employment of 3rd Party Coaches

Moved by Boxey supported by Walton, the Board of Education staff the following positions with personnel provided by Professional Contract Management Incorporated.

- JV Assistant Football
- 7th Grade Assistant Football
- Freshman Assistant Football
- JV Volleyball
- Freshman Volleyball
- JV Soccer

(P), 199, 7-0-0

Approval of 3rd Party Custodians

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education staff the following positions with personnel provided by Professional Contract Management Incorporated.

Orchard Primary

Lead Custodial 8 hour position (1)
Assistant Custodian 6.5 hour position (1)
Day Porter Custodian 4 hour position (1)

Middle School

Lead Custodial 8 hour position (1)
Assistant Custodian 8 hour position (1)
Day Porter Custodian 4 hour position (1)

(P), 200, 7-0-0

Approval of Step Increase

Moved by Boxey supported by Brzozowski, Board of Education advance Shannon Jacksy to the appropriate level of the salary schedule in accordance with provisions outlined in the Master Agreement between the Board of Education and the Almont Education Association, and

commend Ms. Jacksy for her commitment to continued learning.

(P), 201, 7-0-0

Recommendation of LCISD parent Advisory Committee Candidate

Moved by Boxey, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve Mrs. Jennifer Zott as representatives to the parent advisory committee.

(P), 202, 7-0-0

POLICY

Approval of Trip Resolution

Moved by Miles, supported by Kmetz, the 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 2012/2013 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

(P), 203,7-0-0

BUSINESS

Approval of School of Choice Students

Moved by Miles supported by Walton, the Board of Education accept the following students for the 2012/2013 school year through the 105 and 105C Schools of Choice Programs.

Kayla	Wilcox
Megan	Wilcox
Katelyn	Lutjens
Caitlyn	Hill
Daniela	Hill
Lee	Smith
Hunter	Smith
Chase	Kunz
Jayne	Hein

Leah	Gilbert
James	Gilbert
Lindsey	Albrecht
Rayana	Slack
Tara	Tencza
Haley	Dempz
Lauren	Dempz
Gavin	Dempz
Jason	Lane
Matthew	Miller
Lavaughn	Davis
Breanna	Davis

Allissa Salvatore
 Gabriella Ujkic

(P), 204, 7-0-0

Approval of Trip

Moved by Miles, supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education approve the overnight trip to Washington, D.C. from January 18, 2013 – January 23, 2013 as presented.

(P), 205, 7-0-0

Approval of Regular School Election Resolution

Moved by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the “Regular School Election Resolution”, a copy of which to be marked VIII E(1).

(P), 206, 7-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

Pam Ferzacca would like to thank the summer custodial staff for their efforts. They worked hard this summer and she feels they did an outstanding job.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Special Meeting August 30th 5:30 in the OP Media Center

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm

Approved _____

Date

Signed: _____

Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: _____

Steve Hoffa, President