



Almont Board of Education Work Session Agenda

Work Session Minutes Tuesday October 18, 2022 6:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by President Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: A. Edwards, J. Smith, M. Sullivan, D. Walton, J. Mitchell

Absent/Late: S. Frederiksen arrived at 6:08, J. Wade arrived at 7:30

Attendees: 13

Adoption of Agenda

- A. Additions
 - State Guide to Assessments
- B. Deletions
 - Focus Group results moved to regular meeting

Communications

- A. Kasie Allen – OP
 - Presented activities and updates at the Orchard Primary
- B. Bill Kalmar – Focus Group Results
 - Moved to Regular meeting

Comments: Audience

Cheryl Bowman spoke as a grandparent of a 4th grader, volunteers and substitutes in the OP Office; asks why the school is being reactive and not proactive; questions why 7-8 didn't move with 9-12, 3-4 move with 5-6, etc.

Work Session Only

Dr. Kalmar discussed the recognition of Almont High School from the US News
Dr. Kalmar noted the letter from Tennis coach Kim Frederick regarding Women in Sports Leadership

Building and Site

1. Maintenance Update
 - Projects list provided for review
 - Have confirmed the fire alarms are connected with all buildings to Almont Fire Dept
 - M. Sullivan asked about the outdoor classroom; it is being used and have a shared calendar for scheduling

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Almont Community Schools Mission Statement

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Almont Board of Education Work Session Agenda

- Finance
2. Sinking Fund Update
No updates and major plans
 1. Checks Written (Beth Granger)
Random checks pulled
Payables
Discussed water bill for high school, appears much higher than usual
If bus runs are missed, is there a credit back; yes, there is a credit
Account adjustment, confirmed was an account usage error which had to be amended
 2. Account Balances (Beth Granger)
 3. Trust and Agency (Beth Granger)
B. Granger plans a budget amendment in December
Limbach contract expires in March 2023 so will be working on potential changes
- Personnel
1. **Resignations**
 - a. **LatchKey Aide (A. Varveras)**
Recommended 3 to 0
 2. **New Hires**
 - a. **GECS**
 - b. **MS CI Teacher**
 - c. **SE Para Pro**
Recommended 3 to 0

S. Frederiksen asked about the grievance process; Dr. Kalmar stated that his response will be submitted to AEA, if solution is not accepted it will move to next step
- Curriculum
1. 98C Funding update
Not fully determined but expect \$50-\$100k
 2. 98B Goals update
Full presentation and discussion move to regular meeting
Dr. Kalmar also shared the Guide to State Assessments as a reference
- Policy
1. **Policy Updates (First Read)**
Recommended 3 to 0
Discussion on policy 8805 not recommended to be adopted
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Request to include Revised date in these updates

2. Acceptance of Gift – Volleyball net

Recommended 3 to 0

- This is a welcome donation, much appreciated

3. Hosting of Immunization Clinics

Discussion regarding holding immunization clinics during non-school hours for the Lapeer County Health Dept.

4. January SOC

Discussion regarding SOC for January.

Questions and Comments: Audience

- Tom Schoen, father of 4th grade student, asking if it would be possible to extend the Aides on Friday with General Fund support; in support of our teachers
- Amy Bowers agrees SoC should be closed,
- Tim St. Onge asked about SoC Policy and the funding related; Dr. Kalmar explained how student enrollment and funding takes place
- Tim St. Onge asked if there is data about SoC students and Title 1 needs; Dr. Kalmar stated that we cannot ask that it would be against the law
- Rick Battani asked if the Flags and Displays policy is available; Dr. Kalmar offered to provide. Spoke to vaccination clinics and concerned about the risks of doing this. Has a 4th grader and does not want his child included with 7th & 8th graders, also does not want 7th & 8th graders with high schoolers. Asked about current status of Sinking Fund, what has and has not been done and its expiration; Dr. Kalmar stated it is around \$300,000 funding with two more allocations expected. Sinking Fund pamphlet included the track, but it was not done.
- Mike Flinn asked why the 4th grade concern cannot be discussed tonight; Dr. Kalmar clarified that he was referring to the minutes taken during the grievance meeting
- Andrea Mette is a building substitute at Orchard Primary and described her experience in the classrooms
- Paulynne Bartlett clarified last year's Para-Ed support and stated there are no substitute Para-Eds
- Andy Bartlett asked how overages have been handled in the past; Dr. Kalmar stated that most overages have been paid to the teachers, or additional aid support given, A. Edwards clarified that we added a section last year
- Mike Flinn stated that AEA representative has signed the minutes and the AEA would like this process to move forward

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Questions and Comments: Board

- J. Smith asked if there were other ideas brought up such as additional Aides or a long term substitute
- Edwards asked what Aide support was done with Kindergarten last year; Dr. Kalmar recalls some Aide support but cannot recall details
- Edwards referenced the NWEA data and expressed concern with using this as a current data point without taking into consideration that it was a result of previous years of learning
- J. Mitchell stated this 4th grade concern has been discussed in previous meetings including possibly adding classroom aide but to find some meaningful support going forward, no one expected to grow by 8 students in this grade
- J. Smith asked for clarification on classroom Aides; no other recommendation while in process of grievance
- M. Sullivan expressed concern with the time to resolve and would like it to be resolved soon
- D. Walton stated this concern has been discussed in previous months and we have been focusing on needs of all Almont students
- J. Wade stated while our focus is on all of the students and we should keep in mind those that need the most support, would like to see the 4th grade concern resolved soon
- S. Fredriksen asked about the current grievance timeline
- Edwards asked if there have been other attempts to resolve this before the grievance was issued, did the teachers ask for additional classroom support;
- S. Fredriksen thanked Mrs. Allen for her presentation and for the audience support

Future Agenda Items

OP planning for 23-24 school year; Dr. Kalmar will have a presentation in November
Include model of 7-8 move to AHS and 3-4 move to AMS

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Dallas Walton, Secretary

Jennifer Mitchell, President

Date

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