

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Almont Community Schools Board of Education**  
**November 27, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Edwards called the Regular Board Meeting of the Almont Community Schools Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. in the High School Auditorium, Almont High School 4701 Howland Rd, Almont, MI 48003 and via YouTube.

**Present**

James Wade, Janaea Smith, Tim SaintOnge, Sue Frederiksen, Angela Edwards, Rick Battani

**Absent**

Dallas Walton

**Visitors:** Approximately 75

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. Additions
  - a. The Description of 'Student Discipline' added next to XII 'Closed Session'.
  - b. Under XIII 'Open Session' item '1. Recommendation for Student Discipline'.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Student Council updated on events going on at AHS, including food drive, float for the Holly Day Parade, Rachel's Challenge Cookie Sale.
- B. Fall Sports Programming- Mr. Gauthier gave a summary of the Fall Sports and then coaches and players got up and spoke to the various accomplishments of their programs.
- C. Raider Recognition- Mr. Shifflett gave results on the findings of a Student Survey that he conducted, highlighting areas that the High School is excelling and how he hopes to continue to improve all areas.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

Mr. Wetzel congratulated the Fall Sports on their accomplishments and thanked the High School Marching Band for their performances at the 5 extra games this season and the incredible chance to play at Ford Field. Mr. Wetzel also spoke to be excited for the upcoming Bond Proposal and the improvements it could provide to the Music Department.

- Mrs. VonHiltmayer told Mr. Wetzel that the Music Department will be recognized in the future and how proud everyone is of the band.

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## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

- Mr. SaintOnge thanked Mr. Wetzel for such a great band experience for the students.
- Mrs. Edwards stated how happy she was to see everyone at the meeting.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Smith, supported by Wade, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the Minutes from the October 23, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Approval of the Minutes from the November 6, 2023 Special Meeting
- Approval of the Minutes from the November 21, 2023 Work Session

Discussion- Ms. Frederiksen stated the Minutes from October 23, 2023 had two errors in them, as pertaining to two of the motions when Board of Education members abstained. The vote was recorded incorrectly in the minutes.

**P, 204, 6-0-0**

Moved by Frederiksen, supported by Smith, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda with the amended minutes for October 23, 2023.

**P, 205, 6-0-0**

## BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Moved by Wade, supported by Smith, the Board of Education approved the bills payable and the financial reports as proposed by the administration and reviewed by the Finance Committee.

### 10/19/2023 to 11/17/2023

|                       |    |            |
|-----------------------|----|------------|
| General Fund Total    | \$ | 477,242.08 |
| School Lunch Fund*    | \$ | 74,723.41  |
| Student Activity Fund | \$ | 24,405.60  |
| 2014 Sinking Fund     | \$ | 7,122.39   |
| Sub-total             | \$ | 583,493.48 |

### ACH/Wire Transactions:

|                       |    |              |
|-----------------------|----|--------------|
| Payroll 10/30 & 11/15 | \$ | 746,921.37   |
| EduStaff              | \$ | 26,979.81    |
| Health Equity H.S.A.  | \$ | 36,825.42    |
| Credit Card (BMO)     | \$ | 11,837.28    |
| Health Insurance      | \$ | 106,704.57   |
| Arbiterpay            | \$ | 8,000.00     |
| ProCare Fees          | \$ | 124.62       |
| Total Funds Spent     | \$ | 1,520,886.55 |

Check numbers **43829 - 43946**

Void checks  
43920  
43921  
43925

**P, 206, 6-0-0**

# ORCHARD PRIMARY, ALMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT REPORTS

The Student Activity Accounts were approved as presented.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Superintendent's Report

Mrs. VonHiltmayer thanked Mr. Gauthier and Mrs. Lemon for all their hard work during Fall Athletics; it was amazing to see such a large turn out from the community at Ford Field and such a great end to the Fall Season. Mrs. VonHiltmayer reported on current happenings at each school building, highlighting the test scores at Orchard Primary, the Almont Middle School Rock Shop rewards for good behavior, and thanked Almont High School Principal, Mr. Shifflett for all of his hard work and everything he is doing for the school.

## Finance

### Call to Ballot

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member James Wade, supported by Member Rick Battani:

#### WHEREAS:

- 1. In the opinion of this Board it is necessary and expedient to ask voters whether to approve a bond project consisting of erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping a new multi-purpose building; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, athletic fields and sites.*
- 2. This Board estimates the necessary cost of the project to be Fifty-Nine Million Six Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$59,652,641).*
- 3. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of Fifty-Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$58,400,000) and issue the bonds of the District therefor, the remaining funds to be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.*
- 4. This Board intends to submit a proposition at a special election to be held on the 2024 Michigan presidential primary election date, which will be either Tuesday, February 27, 2024 (the "February Primary Date") or Tuesday, March 12, 2024 (the "March Primary Date"), as designated by law.*
- 5. By 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District (the "Election Coordinator").*

#### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. A special election of the school electors of the District be called and held on either Tuesday, February 27, 2024 or Tuesday, March 12, 2024, whichever date is designated by law as the election date for the 2024 Michigan presidential primary.*
- 2. The proposition to be voted on at the special election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit A.*
- 2*
- 3. The Election Coordinator is requested to:*
  - a. Utilize Tri City Times and/or Lapeer County Press, a newspaper published or of general circulation within the District, for publication of notices in accordance with the election law requirements.*
  - b. Utilize ballot proposition summary information, as prepared by legal counsel, in the forms of the notices of last day of registration and election in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto.*

- c. Provide a proof copy of the ballot to the District and its legal counsel in sufficient time to allow the ballot to be proofread prior to printing.
4. This Board estimates the period of usefulness of the improvements for which bonds of the District in the amount of Fifty-Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$58,400,000) are to be issued to be not less than thirty (30) years.
5. The Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Election Coordinator and with any Election Clerk or clerks designated to conduct elections within the District by 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, or by the filing deadline for the March Primary Date, if applicable.
6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

*Ayes: Members: Janaea Smith, Timothy Saint Onge, Rick Battani, James Wade, Angela Edwards*

*Nays: Member: Susan Frederiksen*

*Resolution declared adopted.*

### **Roll Call**

Ayes- Smith, SaintOnge, Battani, Wade, Edwards

Nays- Frederiksen

**P, 207, 5-1-0**

A copy of the resolution will be attached to the official minutes and marked VIII B (1).

### **Personnel**

#### **Approval of Resignations**

Moved by Frederiksen, supported by Battani, the Board of Education accepted the resignations of Angelique Sharp, Renia Pierog, Dawn Wedemeyer, and Kristin Rohrbeck and wished them well.

**P, 208, 6-0-0**

#### **Approval of New Hires**

Moved by Frederiksen, supported by Battani, the Board of Education approved the hiring of the individuals listed and welcomed them to the district.

**P, 209, 5-1-0**

**Nay- S.Frederiksen**

#### **Approval of Contract**

Moved by Frederiksen, supported by Wade, the Board of Education approved the compensation package of the non-represented individual, as discussed in the work session.

**P, 210, 6-0-0**

### **Curriculum**

Moved by Frederiksen, supported by SaintOnge, the Board of Education approved the addition of the new High School Biology Program.

**P, 211, 6-0-0**

### **COMMENTS: AUDIENCE**

- Mrs. Campbell asked when the Application for Pre-Bond Qualification will be posted online.
- Mrs. Edwards responded that it can be added to the website.

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- Mrs. Brinker- Had questions about the contract with Roncelli and the 3rd party outreach. Who is the 3rd Party? Is there a date for community events? Where will meetings be held?
  - Mrs. Edwards responded that the company is Idea 39, we could not hold meetings/community events until the Bond was approved for Ballot, and we will publicize when the meetings/community events will be held.
- Mr. Campbell asked when the Board planned to go for a sinking fund.
  - Mrs. Edwards responded that the district has until next August to decide and that Board of Education plans are decided at vote, so it will be decided in an open meeting.

**COMMENTS: BOE**

- Mrs. Edwards- Ford Field playoff game was amazing. Thanks to the band, cheerleaders, and dance team. Such a great community event.
- Mr. Battani- The send off held in downtown Almont was great.
- Mrs. VonHiltmayer- reminder to the Board that the MASB Workshop is scheduled for 5:00-8:00pm in the High School Media Center.
- Mrs. Smith- Thank you to Mr. Shifflett for all of his work and for attending the meeting. Thanks also to Amanda Myers, Max Shafik, and Mrs. Von. She heard great things about the traveling pep assembly.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Frederiksen asked about taking a closer look at the STEAM programming.

**Closed Session**

Moved by SaintOnge, supported by Wade, the Board of Education moved to go into Closed Session at 8:08pm for a Student Discipline Matter.

Discussion- Ms. Frederiksen will be abstaining from Closed Session, due to previous working relationship with the student.

**P, 212, 6-0-0**

**Time back into Open Session: 10:25pm**

**Student Discipline**

Moved by Battani, supported by Wade, the Board of Education approved the Disciplinary Recommendation for a 10 Day suspension for Student 22059 for violating Offenses MJ10, MJ20, MJ14, MJ33, and MJ36 in the Almont High School Handbook.

Discussion- Battani and Wade discussed amending the language to only include Code of Conduct violations as written in PowerSchool #20 and #33.

Moved by Battani, supported by Wade, the Board of Education approved the amended Disciplinary Recommendation for Student 22059 to serve a 10 day suspension for Code of Conduct violations of Almont High School Power School Policies #20 and #33.

**P, 213, 5-0-1**

**Adjourn:**

Moved by SaintOnge, supported by Smith, the Board of Education adjourned the November 27th Regular Meeting at 10:33 pm.

**P, 214, 5-0-0**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dallas Walton, Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Edwards, President