



**Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 24, 2024**

**Powell 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy – Media Center**

<b>Called to Order</b>	6:01 p.m. Called to order by President, Anita Banach. 7 members present. 0 members absent.
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Led by the Board
<b>Approved</b>	<p>Agenda for June 24, 2024 Regular Meeting. Eichhorst moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried. Agenda Approved.</p> <p>Mrs. Eichhorst asked for an amendment to the agenda to separate curriculum materials in item #9E (Resolution #48) into 2 different resolutions. Dr. Robinson suggested keeping one resolution and separating them as 'A' &amp; 'B'. 'A' being <i>Amplify ELA for grades 6-8</i> and 'B' being <i>Into Literature for grades 9-12</i>.</p> <p>Dr. Robinson mentioned moving the 'Board Discussion/For the Good of the District' and 'Public Comment' before closed session on the agenda since there is no action after the closed session.</p> <p>Agenda amended. Demas moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried. Amended Agenda Approved.</p>
<b>Presentations- Budget Hearing</b>	<p>Mrs. Laseke Executive Director of Business Services, presented the annual budget hearing. She shared debt fund information - the total taxable values of all properties and the levy needed to pay the debt. The sinking fund and what it can and cannot be used for was explained and the total debt levy was shared. A district overview of financials was given – the annual budget, foundation allowance per pupil and fund balance for 23/24. Changes in revenue and expenditures for 23/24 were reported. General fund YE revenues exceeded expenses and fund balance is expected to be 21.77%. Projected budget assumptions for 24/25 were shared. ESSER III expenditures and District leadership priorities were listed. Original budget expenditures are expected to exceed revenues and fund balance is expected to be 18.89%. Budgets and fund balances were shared for the Community Fund, Food Service, High School Book Store and the Special Revenue/Student Activity Fund for the 23/24 and 24/25 school year. Mrs. Laseke shared a list of items that will continue to be worked on going forward.</p>
<b>Budget Hearing Public Comment</b>	<p>None</p> <p>6:24 p.m. Budget Hearing concluded.</p>
<b>Bulldog Spotlight</b>	Two new employees were introduced and welcomed.
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Consent Action Items.</b> Antoine moved. Conner supported. 6 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. (Mr. Young stepped out and was not present).

- General Fund Bills (check register)
- Financial Reports (summary, revenue & expense reports)
- Wire Transfer report
- Purchasing Card Expenditures
- Minutes from Regular Meeting held on May 28, 2024
- Annual Approvals (2024-25) – MHSAA Membership, MASB Membership, Virtual Online Course Providers (GenNet, Michigan Virtual, Lincoln Learning), Renewal with Macomb County Sheriffs to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2024-2025 school year, Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement for a School Resource Officer at RMS for the 2024-25 School Year, Stormwater Management Consultant-Arch Environmental Renewal), Continuation of suspension of Pay for Participation Fees for 2024-25.

Mrs. Rice stated she supports the suspension of Pay for Participation Fees. She mentioned the cost of suspending the fees and stated she thinks it's amazing that they are offering this.

Mrs. Rice asked for a friendly amendment to separate the second item – the MASB membership renewal, from the list of renewals. Rice moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Mrs. Eichhorst asked how they determine what fees are being waived for the Pay for Participation. Dr. Robinson responded that it does not apply to clubs or club sports. Mrs. Eichhorst asked the definition of club and Dr. Robinson responded that the members of these teams are paying a fee for the clubs to exist.

Mrs. Rice asked who is responsible for assigning clubs. Dr. Robinson responded that the Athletic and Activities Director oversee them but the building Principals decide on the clubs.

**Approved**

**Listed Annual Renewals-** items 1, 3,4,5,6,7 – excluding item 2 (MASB Membership). Rice moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

**MASB Membership Renewal** (item 2). Antoine moved. Conner supported. Roll call: 4 Ayes (Antoine, Banach, Conner, Demas). 3 Nays (Rice, Eichhorst, Young). Motion Carried.

**Informational Updates/New Business**

**Communications –**

*GSOPS Memo* - Board members received an update from the GSOPS group.

*MISD Evaluation Training* – Board members received notification from the MISD that training is being offered on the Superintendent evaluation tool. Mrs. Banach mentioned that by law, everyone on the board has to be trained.

**Committee Reports –**

*Curriculum* – Mrs. Eichhorst stated that they discussed the sex education curriculum for the cognitively impaired students (grades 3-12), the Unique Learning System curriculum adoption for resource room students (K-12), and the new amplify ELA curriculum which was piloted by different grade level teachers. These teachers presented their opinions at the conclusion of the units. They discussed the pilot process at the high school level. They looked at 3 different companies and it was unanimous to go with the one they are moving forward on tonight. There was discussion about supplementing funds for novels to bulk up classroom libraries at the secondary level. They looked at a program called Character Strong, for the middle school Advisory component. They spoke about the web-based intervention platform and the benefits of that, and also discussed some concerns that were brought forth with TCI history and CKLA.

Mrs. Rice asked for some further elaboration on the curriculum. Mrs. Banach responded that *Healthy Relationships* is for cognitively impaired students and was piloted by the ASP teachers and required by law. Ms. McFarlane explained that the *ULS* curriculum is

an online platform to support and assist teachers of cognitively impaired students with core areas. Mrs. Rice questioned *Character Strong* and stated that she's never felt that *Advisory* was beneficial and feels we should spend our hours learning hard skills and not soft skills. Mrs. Banach reminded everyone that *Advisory* is being overhauled. Ms. McFarlane mentioned that *Character Strong* will be used a couple of times a week to support the *Advisory* program and explained that the *Advisory* team of teachers looked at 3 or 4 different curriculums and chose *Character Strong*. The strengths they will work on in this class goes along with 'The Profile of a Middle School Scholar'.

Finance – Dr. Robinson stated that the budget hearing covered most of the items they discussed in the meeting. They had 2 other items that were also discussed - reviewing the current appraisal from 297 Prospect and the transportation rate increase.

*Facilities* – Mr. Antoine stated that there were resolutions that came out of the meeting – additional sitework at Indian Hills (equipment is in place and they are proposing to move forward with replacing the play pad) and the RHS parking lot. The parking lot is showing signs of wear and Mr. Storm is researching what it would cost to have the lot serviced. Discussions took place on another resolution for the purchase of a towable lift. Mrs. Banach stated they also discussed a water issue at Hamilton-Parsons. The water is on a well and it is not producing adequate water flow for the filtration to be maximized. They are looking at solutions to the problem. The well existed prior to the school being built.

#### **Superintendent's Report –**

##### *Academic Services Update – Elementary*

Mr. Murray stated that summer skills started today. Romeo teachers are supporting the program. A few EL programs and some high dosage tutoring sections are taking place as well. Preparation is underway for next year including professional development and establishing goals with teachers and administrators. The report card initiative is continuing and new report cards will be used at the elementary level in the fall.

##### *Academic Services Update - Secondary*

Ms. McFarlane stated that summer school began for high school today as well. She mentioned that staff from Ford NGL, Center Line and Romeo met and talked about the successes and challenges of the Academies, ways to continue to improve their partnership, and ensuring goals are met. They are working on the consolidated application for federal funds and are consolidating data for ESSER grant reporting requirements.

*District Leadership Team Priorities 2024-2025* – Dr. Robinson listed the Group 4 priorities and stated that they are being brought to the board this evening.

*Hiring Update* – Dr. Robinson mentioned positions that are still open and stated that they have hired some great people. They are continuing working on the remaining vacancies. Principal Steve Ameel was congratulated on his retirement and thanked for his service.

**Public Comment**      None

**Approved**              **Resolutions**

- **Employee Services Resolution #44 – Personnel Update**

Rice moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Mrs. Eichhorst asked if exit surveys are a requirement or if it has to be requested by the person and Mrs. Butler responded that they are offered to everyone.

- **Employee Services Resolution #45 – RASPA Tentative Agreement 2024-2027**

Eichhorst moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Employee Services Resolution #46 – Special Services Director - Reclassification**

Demas moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Superintendent Resolution #47 – Leadership Priorities 24-25 Group 4**

Demas moved. Antoine supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Academic Services Resolution #48A (Amplify ELA for grades 6-8) – Cycle of Interdependence Curriculum Adoption – Secondary ELA**

Antoine moved. Banach supported.

Mrs. Rice asked what the teachers that piloted the program had to say about it. Mrs. Eichhorst responded that they felt it was engaging for the students and that they may not be using every novel provided but they do have flexibility with the program. She expressed 2 concerns – because it is the same provider as CKLA, the possibility of the same issues they are experiencing with that and the length of the contract. She asked if the 6-year contract can be shortened.

Ms. McFarlane stated that they spent a long time researching to find something that was middle school appropriate and had a lot of time vested so they chose to go with the 6-year contract and that 6 years is a typical cycle.

Mrs. Rice agreed that 6 years seemed too long due to the potential for the curriculum to diminish over time.

Ms. McFarlane explained some of the flexibility that the program offers for the teachers.

Mrs. Banach mentioned the flip side – that as a teacher you may not fully embrace a program that is short-lived. She stated the teachers did a lot of work to pilot the program and when professionals come to the board and give their recommendation, she trusts the professionals. Curriculum is there to provide support and helps them to do their jobs and there is flexibility for them to supplement. She would like to hear from the teachers if the 6 years is concerning to them. Mrs. Eichhorst mentioned that if a teacher does not like a curriculum, 6 years is a long time.

Dr. Robinson mentioned that the teachers explored and settled on things that they were confident in and he wants to send a message to the teachers that the board is willing to invest in it. He mentioned that this is the first time we are going to have a formal ELA curriculum and the teachers really want it.

Mrs. Eichhorst mentioned that the community expects them to know what they are approving. She stated the committee needs to be more informed of what they are approving or else we should reconsider the purpose of the sub-committee.

Dr. Robinson suggested that the board make a comment that they would review the potential of an extension at the end of the first year. It would be an on-going process with the curriculum committee.

Mrs. Banach mentioned that when you run for school board you run to make sure there is due process, fiscal responsibility and overseeing process. They are not experts at everything. They spend time talking about things but they trust the professionals that give them the information. In general, maybe the subcommittee structure would be more beneficial for everyone if the questions from the subcommittee meetings are being sent and responses are going back to everyone so they are not hearing about it for the first time at the board table.

Mrs. Rice mentioned that with things of this magnitude they should be having more committee of the whole meetings to be informed.

Ms. McFarlane stated that she will have to reach out to the rep. to look into a 2-year contract.

Dr. Robinson felt approving the resolution with the intent of 2 years would be best so they could move forward.

**An amendment was requested to approve 48A (Amplify ELA for grades 6-8) as it is written with the exception of a 2-year contract with the understanding that if a 2 year is not offered, administration will go back to the board.**

Rice moved. Young supported. Roll call: 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**An amendment was requested to approve 48B (Into Literature for grades 9-12) as it is written with the exception of a 2-year contract with the understanding that if a 2 year is not offered, administration will go back to the board.**

Banach moved. Rice supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Academic Services Resolution #49 – Annual Curriculum Adoptions (Healthy Relationships, ULS, Character Strong)**

Antoine moved. Banach supported.

Mrs. Eichhorst asked about the people that get to choose the curriculum and asked how it works. Ms. McFarlane mentioned there is an Advisory lead and grade level advisory teachers in addition to other people involved. Mrs. Eichhorst asked if it's always the same people and Ms. McFarlane responded that every 2 years there is an opportunity for the group to change.

Mrs. Rice asked for an amendment to separate the curriculum adoptions in Resolution 49.

Rice moved. Young supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

#### **49A – Healthy Relationships**

Young moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

#### **49B – ULS**

Young moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

#### **49C – Character Strong**

Antoine moved. Demas supported. Roll call. 3 Ayes (Antoine, Banach, Demas). 4 Nays (Rice, Conner, Eichhorst, Young). Motion Rejected.

- **Academic Services Resolution #50 – 2024-2025 Student Handbook & Code of Conduct**

Demas moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Business Services Resolution #51 – FY2024 Final Budgets**

Conner moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Business Services Resolution #52 – FY2025 Original Budgets**

Demas moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Facilities Resolution #53 – CTE Equipment Purchase – Student Workstations Hide-away LCD Dual – User Tables**

Antoine moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried

- **Facilities Resolution #54 – Operations Dept. Equipment Purchase – Towable Aerial Man Lift**

Antoine moved. Banach supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Conner asked if they are required to have annual inspections on this equipment and Mr. Storm responded that they are.

- **Facilities Resolution #55 – Indian Hills Sitework – Change Order Approval**

Antoine moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Folino gave a GSOPS update. He thanked everyone for their support and gave fundraising goals and updates.

Mrs. Bowman stated that she appreciates the conversations going on and stated that parents often don't know what's going on. She shared concern about political device rhetoric that kids are being exposed to in their school work and textbooks and asked what it has to do with good education for our children. She appreciates that they are looking into the curriculum and asked them to continue doing so.

**Board Discussion/  
For the Good of  
the District**

Mrs. Eichhorst mentioned the tragic shooting of the Oakland County Sheriff who was a Romeo graduate and shared some ways to help support the family.

Mrs. Eichhorst asked if they could propose a board workshop meeting for the month of July.

- **Closed Session – Collective Bargaining**

Demas moved. Antoine supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

8:01 p.m. into Closed Session for the purpose of collective bargaining. Roll Call: 7 members present. Todd Robinson and Julia Butler were also present.

8:33 p.m. out of Closed Session. Into Open Session. Demas moved. Antoine supported. Roll call: 7 members present. Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

8:34 p.m. Demas moved. Antoine supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Approved by: Katherine Rice, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_