

**South Redford School District
Board of Education
March 10, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the South Redford Board of Education was held Monday, March 10, 2008, in the cafeteria at Thurston High School. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:00 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President asked the Secretary to call the roll.

THE BOARD

Present:

Billie Beverly, President
Tom Dowdy, Vice President
Laurie Hicks, Secretary

Cheryl Flesher, Treasurer
Bruce Mazurowski, Trustee
Gregory Morgan, Trustee

Absent:

Tom Burnosky, Trustee

THE ADMINISTRATION

Linda S. Hicks, Superintendent
Kris Harmon, Interim Curriculum Director

Teresa Davis, Business Manager
Judy Considine, Communications Director

BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with the administrative team and the community, we will provide an environment that will maximize the personal growth and academic achievement of all students.

The President asked if there were any corrections to the Agenda or the meeting of March 10, 2008. An Agenda Item, "SRREA and Board Communication was added to the agenda.

RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS:

- The Thurston Concert Band earned a 1st division in concert and a 2nd division rating in sight-reading and finished with a 1st division overall rating.
- The Pierce Middle School Concert Band earned a 1st division rating in concert and in sight reading for a final 1st division rating.
- The Thurston High School Honors band and Wind ensemble performed at the festival receiving a 2nd division rating overall.
- At Pierce Middle School, Social Studies teacher, Scott Edwards is differentiating instruction in his Africa unit to explore new materials with students he selected for the "Edwards Academy." He meets with these students in cohort groups for deep dialogue related to modern hardships and successes from the African continent.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS:

- MME Testing for 11th grade students begin this week. On Tuesday, the 11th grade students will be in school for testing. All students will attend school on Wednesday and Thursday, March 12 and 13, 2008.
- The Band State Solo and Ensemble will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008.
- The Redford Observer and Eccentric on March 9, 2008 featured an article "Chinese Students Get a Taste of Life at Thurston."
- The South Redford Foundation for Educational Excellence Auction will be held on March 14, 2008, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at George Matick Chevrolet.

- March 20 is the end of the 3rd card marking.
- Spring Break begins on March 21 with students returning to school on March 31, 2008.
- There will be no workshop on March 17, 2008 as reported on the Board Calendar.
- Congratulations to the team members of the Science Olympiad for the first, second and third places in several events.
- The Jefferson Staff and South Redford School District Custodians are being recognized for their outstanding efforts during a difficult time at Jefferson this past week. The school has experienced heat failure in a section of the building which caused four classrooms to relocate.
- Staff working on the Elementary Report Card reporting system was recognized.
- Addams Elementary school held a family movie night.
- Thurston High School student, Reece Boyd's portrait of Malcolm X was accepted from thousands of works of art to be placed in the state art show. He has been invited to take part in the State's Art Festival which is a weekend long art camp for the state's top art students.
- Pierce Middle School PTO purchased units for student use in Dance Revolution. This is a dance unit to use patterns with music and connects to Physical Education.
- Girls softball and Boys golf tryouts were held the week of March 10, 2008.
- Laurie Hicks announced the MASB Certified Board Member Awards Ceremony will take place at Thurston High School on Thursday, April 24, 2008.
- Cheryl Flesher and Laurie Hicks will attend the Wayne County Association of School Boards General Membership meeting on March 17, 2008. The meeting will include a presentation on Freedom of Information Act requirements for board members.
- Laurie Hicks distributed to the Board an updated Tri-County Alliance, Quick Guide to Educational Legislation 2007.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- Thurston Band Boosters presented to the Board the last check from the Band Boosters in payment for their part in the Band's new uniforms.
- Audience member shared concern regarding the recently approved Administrative raises.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Cheryl Flesher, supported by Mr. Gregory Morgan, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2008, be approved. Vote: All ayes (6) – Beverly, Dowdy, Hicks, Flesher, Mazurowski and Morgan. Nay - (0), Abstain - (0). Motion carried.

b. Approval of Warrants:

Mrs. Cheryl Flesher, supported by Mr. Gregory Morgan, that the warrants for the weeks ending February 22, 29, and March 7, 2008 be approved. Vote: All ayes (6) – Beverly, Dowdy, Hicks, Flesher, Mazurowski and Morgan. Nay - (0), Abstain - (0). Motion carried.

c. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cheryl Flesher, supported by Mr. Gregory Morgan, that the Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2008 be approved. Vote: All ayes (6) – Beverly, Dowdy, Hicks, Flesher, Mazurowski and Morgan.

SREA/BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Representatives of the South Redford Education Association presented at Monday night's Board meeting for the purpose of Board/SREA communication.

PRESENTATION FROM THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

William Zolkowski, principal of Lee. M. Thurston High School and members of the Thurston High School Staff made a presentation on many of the instructional programs and initiatives occurring at Thurston High School. The presentation included staff involvement in extra curricular activities at the high school.

DISCUSS PROPOSED CURRICULUM CHANGE FOR PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

We are proposing to change the 8th Grade Science Curriculum from Integrated Science to GeoScience. Current research into the development of Science understanding, upon which the newly adopted Michigan Grade-Level Content Expectations (GLCE) and High-School Content Expectations (HSCE) are written, suggests an organization of curriculum that is centered upon major conceptual themes and allows sufficient time for students to develop deep understandings of the core concepts. While the current sequence (see below) does center upon conceptual themes in the four disciplines, we believe a change in timing and sequence will allow students to attain deeper understandings across the curriculum. A summary of the proposed changes is found in the table below:

	Sequence	Advantages	Disadvantages
Current Sequence	8 th Grade Integrated 9 th Grade Integrated 10 th Grade Biology Chemistry Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows spiraling /scaffolding of high frequency content expectations Content variety in 8th and 9th grade years is age appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breadth of content excludes some in depth learning opportunities Difficult to create reference points or chunking for review purposes Does not align with majority of school systems in Wayne County
Proposed	8 th Grade GeoScience 9 th -11 th ** Grades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physics Biology Chemistry 12 th Grade AP Science (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSCEs across the 4 disciplines are now linked via conceptual themes (systems, change, social implications, etc.) Little overlap with new 7th grade Earth Science GLCEs Earth Science HSCEs lean toward age appropriate topics (concrete vs. abstract). Creates a time reference for review Allows sufficient time with each HSCE to achieve mastery level learning Most Wayne County schools already use this sequence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer scaffolding across discipline content in 8th-9th grade. 9th graders from schools without 8th grade GeoScience will need some means of addressing the Earth HSCE. Creates long time lag between Earth Science course and Michigan Merit Exam.

**order of these classes yet to be determined

The shift to full year 8th grade GeoScience addresses several key issues. First, the full year class would provide sufficient time to develop deeper meaning within the Earth Science discipline. Use of continuous improvement principles can be more successfully implemented within the scope of a single discipline rather than spread over three or four disciplines. Second, the interdisciplinary nature of the Earth Science discipline makes it a logical transitional point between middle school and high school. In addition, many Earth Science questions, such as “How do people’s activities affect the air, land, or water?” fit nicely with the middle school child’s inherent need to find his/her place in the world and make sense of it.

Data indicating the need for the course change: The current sequence was based on 8th grade teaching middle school benchmarks through February. The remaining weeks were then split between high school science benchmarks and the human growth curriculum. Under the current assessment schedule, this arrangement no longer makes sense. There is now sufficient time in the 8th grade year for students to have meaningful experiences with the Earth Science Essentials, allowing the high school department to create a meaningful sequence for the three classes required at that level.

Michigan High School Content Expectations to be addressed in 8th Grade Earth Science: See attached Michigan HSCE Earth Science Essential Content Statements.

Knowledge and Skills to be gained by the students: As stated in the Michigan HSCE Earth Science Essential Content Statements: This course will focus on: “1. The nature and practice of science inquiry; 2. the earth system and the movement of elements, compounds, and energy through it; 3. the solid Earth and its hazards; 4. the fluid Earth and its hazards; and 5. the history of the Earth and the universe.” In sum, students will learn Earth Science by systematically collecting data using a variety of tools and analyzing that data through formal and informal communication with each other and experts in the field.

Assessments to be used to measure student progress toward knowledge, skills, and understandings: This course will use a variety of assessments including multiple choice exams, lab reports, and projects. Due to the cooperative nature of science inquiry, assessments will include both individual work as well as group activities.

Ways that instruction will be differentiated to meet the diverse needs of students and to insure continuous progress for all students: While the Essential Content Expectations contain specific content goals, the materials, activities, and assessments used to attain those goals will be varied in order to align with student interest, current ability level (e.g. reading level), and learning style.

The Grade Level Implementation: All 8th Grade Students

Curriculum Alignment: 8th Grade GeoScience will serve a dual purpose in the science curriculum. It will serve as the culmination of the middle school science experience and an introduction to the high school experience.

Projected Costs: Projected costs will involve classroom materials for 10 sections of 8th grade science classes. Due to materials-related variables, such as the number of books needed and the costs of lab materials, a complete estimated cost is difficult to provide. A class set of books may be \$6000 while a complete set of books and lab materials may exceed \$20,000.

Recommended Materials: Upon Board approval of this proposal, we will follow the District's Textbook Adoption Process to recommend appropriate materials.

Staff members from Pierce Middle School gave a presentation on the proposed curriculum change of 8th Grade Integrated Science to GeoScience at the Board Meeting.

DISCUSS PROGRESS ON THE ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD

Dr. Kristina Harmon, Interim Curriculum Director, will provide an update to the Board on the progress of the development of the new elementary report card. This will be related to the rationale for developing a new reporting system for the elementary level that was presented to the Board on December 10, 2007 by Mrs. Syndee Malek. Current effort is focused on the content to be reported in terms of essential learning achieved by students at each marking period and each grade level.

REVIEW PLUS/Delta FROM MARCH 10, 2008 BOARD MEETING

Plus	Delta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading exercise interesting. • Students taking on leadership roles in the school. • Thank you to Link Crew for tee shirts. • Teachers supporting positive student interactions as role models. • Preview of student performance for upcoming play. • Good to see preview of performing arts center. • Mr. Kuhn presenting final re-payment from band for uniforms. • Students stayed for meeting. • New Report card progress update. • Understand programs in school (amount of teacher participation). • Good to be able to hear speakers. • SREA continuing to report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No portable sound system for Board Meetings.

Upcoming Board Calendar Information

May 19, 2008 – Junior National Honor Society at Pierce Middle School.

June 2, 2008 – Superintendent Annual Evaluation.

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, the President adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Laurie A. Hicks, Secretary
Board of Education

Present: Dee Gwaltney, Connie Marshall, Larry Kuhn, Steve Baker, Michele Devrol, Colleen Donakowski, Rich Bacolor, Brian Bates, Wesley Krum, Lyla Saad, Erin Ferris, Michelle vanWell, Christine Roberts, Desmond Smith, Dough and Michelle Masheff and Nadine Mazurowski.