

South Redford School District  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 26, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the South Redford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 26, 2009 in the Board Room at the Jan W. Jacobs Educational Services Center. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:15 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President asked the Secretary to call the roll.

**THE BOARD**

Present:

Laurie Hicks, President  
Tom Dowdy, Vice President  
Cheryl Flesher, Treasurer  
Bruce Mazurowski, Secretary

Gregory Morgan, Trustee  
Stephen Baker, Trustee  
Elizabeth Kangas, Trustee

**THE ADMINISTRATION**

Linda S. Hicks, Superintendent  
Susan Wright-Barnes, Director of Finance

Kristine Harmon, Curriculum Director  
Judy Considine, Communications Coordinator

**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 or changes to the Agenda of the meeting of October 26, 2009. Since there were none, the agenda was approved as printed.

**RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS**

- Dr. Linda Hicks welcomed the Thurston High School students who were videotaping the Board meeting.
- Dr. Hicks updated the Board on the following:
  - Addams Elementary School PTA sponsored their first fall festival which was well attended.
  - Addams Elementary School's families were encouraged to attend the presentation by Dr. David Walsh held at Thurston High School.
  - On November 5, 2009, Addams Elementary School will hold a math carnival.
  - Jefferson Elementary School's families had wonderful activities to enjoy at the Fall Festival held at the school as a fund raiser for 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp.
  - Four sunset maple trees were planted on the playground at Jefferson Elementary School through funds earned at the school garage sale held early in October.
  - Grades 3-5 had MEAP testing this past week. Schools are proud of their students' efforts.
  - The Coordinated School Health Care Team of Terri Czerwinski, Brooke Hempton, Sarah Jacobsen and Sheila Horbatch, will be attending training this week to support the District's Coordinated School Health focus. This training will continue our work in developing a Healthy School Improvement Plan.
  - The walking track at Vandenberg Elementary School is completed. Mike Dennis of Redford Township and the Bush Brothers Asphalt have done an outstanding job. The children at Vandenberg Elementary School are forever grateful.
  - Vandenberg Elementary School families enjoyed a "tailgate party" at Vandenberg on Friday, October 16, before traveling to Thurston High School to cheer on the Eagles and be dazzled by the Band. Seventy-five students, parents and teachers, from Vandenberg Elementary School attended this event.
  - Kindergarten teachers at Vandenberg Elementary School held a kindergarten curriculum night on Wednesday October 21, 2009. It was well attended by parents.
  - Students at Vandenberg Elementary School are holding a canned food drive this week to support Luella's Food Pantry at Lincoln Behavioral Services. They have collected 500 cans so far.
  - The families at Vandenberg Elementary School that attended the presentation by Dr. Walsh thought it was awesome.

- o Fisher Elementary School started their Say Yes to No book study sessions last week. So far 100 parents are participating.
- o Fisher Elementary School is hosting the "Love and Logic" program on Monday evenings through November 23. These sessions meet in the Media Center from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- o The PTO at Fisher Elementary School hosted their first Bingo for Books on Friday. Eighty students attended with their parents. Each student walked away with at least one book.
- o The District held the New Family Orientation on Thursday, October 22 and it was a success.

#### **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

- o Ms. Cheryl Flesher and Ms. Laurie Hicks attended the Michigan Association of School Board Fall Conference in Lansing on October 23-25, 2009.
- o Special Meeting of the Board will be held on November 2, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.
- o The Thurston High School Football Team will be in a playoff game at Martin Luther King High School in Detroit on October 31, 2009.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes:  
The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2009 and the Special Meeting of October 19, 2009 were approved as printed.
- b. Approval of Warrants:  
Warrants for weeks ending October 18 and 22, 2009 were approved as printed.
- c. Approval of Cooperative Education Program Agreement with Taylor School District for 2009-2010 School District.  
The Cooperative Education Program Agreement with Taylor School District for 2009-2010 School District was approved.
- d. Donations
  - o A check in the amount of \$7,000 received from Vandenberg Elementary School PTO to be used towards the installation of the walking track at Vandenberg Elementary School was approved.
  - o A check in the amount of \$25.00 received from Pierce Middle School PTO to be used towards the New Family Orientation was approved.
  - o Cash in the amount of \$100.00 received from an anonymous donor to be used towards the New Family Orientation was approved.

Ms. Cheryl Flesher moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-d listed above, supported by Mr. Tom Dowdy. Vote: All ayes (7) - Hicks, Dowdy, Mazurowski, Flesher, Morgan, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

#### **FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009**

Mr. Paul Bryant of Plante and Moran was present at the Board meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 for the purpose of presenting the audit report in detail and to answer any questions regarding the audit report.

Ms. Cheryl Flesher moved adoption of the following resolution,

WHEREAS, Plante & Moran has completed their audit of the District's financial records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and

WHEREAS, a complete report of this audit has been presented to the Board of Education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, is hereby accepted.

Supported by Mr. Stephen Baker. Vote: All ayes (7) - Hicks, Dowdy, Mazurowski, Flesher, Morgan, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

### **REVIEW BUDGET**

Dr. Linda Hicks and Ms. Susan Wright-Barnes, Director of Finance discussed the budget with the Board and audience members. A special meeting/budget workshop will be held on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

### **DISCUSS CHANGING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MAY REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION DATE**

The South Redford School District Board of Education passed a resolution at the Board of Education meeting on August 10, 2009, to hold a hearing of the Board of Education on the proposed adoption of a resolution to change the School District's regular election date to the November Regular Election date in even years, four year terms. The School Board gave notice of said public hearing in a manner designed to reach the largest number of the School District's qualified electors in a timely fashion, all in accordance with the provisions of Section 642 of the Michigan Election Law. The hearing was held on September 14, 2009. After the hearing a resolution was brought before the Board, but was not passed by a 3-3 vote. The Board requested that the resolution be brought before the Board at the Regular meeting on October 12, 2009 to be considered. At that Board Meeting, the Board did not consider the resolution, but had a discussion on moving the election date.

At the Board meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009, the Board discussed the different options. This will be brought back to the Board at the next regular Board meeting.

### **DISCUSS RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN MICHIGAN**

With the financial crisis that School Districts in Michigan are facing, a Board member requested that the Board review the following resolution. The Board discussed the following resolution and asked that it be brought back at the next regular Board meeting for consideration.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the South Redford School District believes that each child in the State of Michigan deserves an appropriate education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education also believes that the success of the State of Michigan depends on having quality K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education and the State of Michigan legislature have all created targets for achievement for the students of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the expectation to meet those targets are the responsibility of local school districts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is currently facing a school funding crisis that seriously puts in jeopardy the ability for all public schools to provide a quality educational experience for their students; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan legislature has the responsibility to educate students in this state, and is the body that has the ability to make policy and appropriate funds to provide for an appropriate education for students in this state; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have made many cost reductions in the past seven years to address state funding shortfalls, and

WHEREAS, local school districts can no longer absorb funding cuts, including a proposed \$165 reduction in its 2009-2010 per pupil foundation allowance; and

WHEREAS, a \$165 per student funding reduction represents over \$516,214.50 in lost revenue for the South Redford School District; and

WHEREAS, the 2010-2011 school year budget projections look even more dire; and

WHEREAS, we need long-term solutions that represent true structural reform for school district revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan legislature needs to complete its budget for schools at least 30 days prior to the date school districts must complete their budget so districts have time to plan for their upcoming school year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Redford School District does hereby implore the State Legislature to adopt short-term and long term solutions so the school funding crisis in Michigan so schools will not receive a per student foundation allowance decrease for the 2009-2010 school year that has already started and been planned for, and to avoid the major budget cuts that will be necessary in 2010.

**DISCUSS RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AT AN AFFORDABLE COST**

A Board member requested that the Board review a resolution in support of quality health care for school employees at an affordable cost at the state level. At the consensus of the Board, this resolution will not be brought back to the Board for further discussion.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the South Redford School District recognizes the importance of quality health care for its employees to attract, retain and protect its most important resource, its staff; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education also recognizes that resources for an excellent educational experience are at risk as a result of a statewide financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, the state controls the majority of local school revenues and dictates much of its expenditures; and

WHEREAS, health care costs for public employees have increased dramatically, leaving elected School Board members with the decision between decreasing benefits or cutting programs, and

WHEREAS, the budgeting process has become more and more challenging and uncertain due to the challenges Michigan and the United States face; and

WHEREAS, we need long-term solutions that represent true structural reform to ensure high quality education and state services; and

WHEREAS, we need quality health care for our employees at an affordable cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Redford School District does hereby support the investigation and exploration by the legislature of health insurance benefit cost savings for employees that results in substantial financial savings and fair and quality benefits for the dedicated individuals who serve our schools.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Staff, parents and community members addressed the Board with concerns.

**PLUS/DELTA FOR THE BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009**

Plus	Delta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation by Paul Bryant.</li><li>• Helpful to have many parents, teachers, students here for the presentation.</li><li>• Audit with current information was helpful.</li><li>• Handout was especially helpful.</li><li>• Board interaction.</li><li>• Audience sharing opinions.</li><li>• First Board meeting for a member of the audience to thank the Board.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not enough information for election.</li><li>• Sound system difficult to use. Look at the system, does it need work?</li><li>• Meeting too late to be video taped.</li></ul>

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

---

Bruce Mazurowski, Secretary  
Board of Education

Present: Janis Key, Bridget Eversole, Heather Barlow, Sue Carver, Karen Sterns, Bill Triolet, Patty Thomas, Laura Schweda, Victor Micaller, Mark Zerial, Dan Barber, Deb Casey, Kim Meray, Michelle vanWell, Donna Ghannam, Katie Ragla, Brian Gulick, Sue Pevovar and Joshua Bzovi.