

On Line With the Board

The following actions, comments, or discussions took place at the September 11, 2013 regular meeting of the board of education. The meeting was held in the Board Room at the districts Central Office at 100 Big Red Dr.

1. President Bushart called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval for the minutes to the August meetings and approval for bills/reimbursement of expenses was given.
3. Several members of the Milan Logo Committee along with the professional artists that have designed renderings for consideration of a new logo were present. They showed a slide presentation of the renderings. The committee will work with the board at the workshop meeting to make a decision on the logo.
4. The Superintendent is working with a student on an Eagle Scout project that will display a plaque retiring the American Indian logo and the history behind its use.
5. Discussion by several board members took place regarding the recommendation for Administrators, Deans, Central Office, Supervisors, Managers, Technology, Mechanic, Energy Educ. Athletic Director, and Adult Education salaries.
6. Approval was given for salary amounts for each position mentioned previously in Attachment A and the extension of all contracts until June 30, 2014.
7. Approval of the Administrative Handbook as it is presented in Attachment B was given.
8. The Superintendent's contract as presented was approved.
9. Approval to change some substitute employee pay rates were discussed and approved as presented in Attachment D.
10. Superintendent Girbach reported on the following:
 - Staff Issues
 - Middle School teacher Michelle Gierke's father passed away recently.
 - Symons Elementary teacher Melissa Reeves recently had a baby boy – Jonah.
 - The board was informed that there are approximately 7 or 8 maternity leaves upcoming in the school year.
 - Other District Information
 - Student counts are looking favorable. The preliminary count done last week showed 2,245 students present. The count that was built into the budget was 2,231 students. The official count day is October 2nd.
 - Board Issues
 - Superintendent Girbach informed the board that the start of the school year has been smooth. All building had successful Open Houses and positive feedback has come in from many venues.
 - An email was recently sent to the Key Communicators group and the board will receive a copy of the email.
 - Asst. Superintendent Peter Kudlak reported on the following:
 - Peter informed the board of some birthrate percentage facts that are now impacting our new Kindergarten classes.
 - New Symons Principal Will Wright has jumped right into a working situation in the building getting to know the staff, kids and parents. He already tackled a few things that have popped up and needed attention. He is asking the right questions and doing the right work.

- Great discussions at all the buildings regarding Focus School Status have been happening. Bryan and Peter met the new support person at the State that has been assigned to our district. They have heard good things about her and she is willing to dig into our Gap situation and help.
 - The Open Houses in the district went very well. Mr. Kudlak attended two of them. The MCIS had the President of Washtenaw Community College attend and introduce the college's partnership with the MCIS at the high school. It was a huge feather in our program. The Middle School also featured a new format for their Open House. Parents were able to walk through their students schedule and each teacher did a presentation within the classroom. Positive feedback all round.
11. Board Member Kerri Moccio commented on the new Middle School Open House format. She and her husband enjoyed walking through their daughter's schedule.
 12. Board Member Kiger thanked all the staff for readying the buildings. She commented on how nice everything looked. She also commented on how well attended all the open houses were and how great the presentation by the WCC President in the MCIS was.
 13. Board Member Vershum commented about the press release for the MCIS partnership with WCC. She also thanked the students on the Logo Committee for their input and comments.
 14. Student Board Member Harry Irvin made a comment that the board should not worry about the students in the top 30% being left behind and that they should focus on the bottom 30%.
 15. Student Board Member Nathan Pyle commented on the need to look at the ACT scores and GPA ratio and possibly adjust some curriculum in the classroom.
 16. Motion by Leacher supported by Peacock to enter into closed session as allowed by the Open Meetings Act for a negotiation strategies. Roll call votes all ayes. Carried 7-0.
 17. Time entered closed session – 8:54 p.m.
 18. Motion by Leacher supported by Peacock to return to open session. Roll call vote all ayes. Carried 7-0.
 19. Time returned to open session – 9:15 p.m.
 20. President Bushart adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.