

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Riley Education Center • 9601 Vine Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-827-2150 • 313-827-2151 (FAX)

ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES • APRIL 15, 2019 ALLEN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

DRAFT

APPROVED

The regular meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Monday, April 15, 2019, at Allen Park Center for the Arts, 19001 Champaign, Allen Park, Michigan.

Regular meeting called to order/Solicitation of Comment Cards – 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Present: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren

Absent: None

19-031	<p>Motion by Moynihan, supported by Klein, that the consent agenda items be approved as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approval of April 15 agendab. Approval of March 11 and March 21 meeting minutesc. Approval of registers: 3/14/2019=\$179,853.12, 3/15/2019=\$658.43, 3/18/2019=\$9,369.58, 3/28/2019=\$469,368.94, 3/29/2019=\$4,453.45, 4/11/2019=\$178,458.73d. Approval of wire transfers: 3/7/2019 thru 4/10/2019=\$1,856,909.30 Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None <p>Motion carried.</p>
	<p>President's Communications: President Miller acknowledged that he and fellow Board Members have received several emails over the past few days. Emails have been read and forwarded to Central Office and will be responded to accordingly.</p>
	<p>Reading of Communications: None at this time.</p>
	<p><i>Citizens' Comments (pertaining to agenda):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brian Liveoak shared his thoughts in regard to the financial status of the district, APHS Jazz Band for the 2019-20 school year, and the September emergency early dismissal at APHS in relation to the periodic review of the Superintendent of Schools.▪ Cameron Greene (student) shared his thoughts in regard to the periodic review of the Superintendent of Schools.
	<p><i>"In the Spotlight" – Student Presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>APHS Student Representatives:</i> Nikki Hartley and Izzy Obyrcki <p>Izzy shared class and club activities that include: Senior Class is making final preparations for prom, Student Council is holding elections for the 2019-20 school year, ASD Club is planning a support Autism Awareness week filled with activities and t-shirt sales. The Green Team has achieved Evergreen Status for the 4th year.</p> <p>Nikki and Izzy shared a video clip and highlights from the Michigan Student Leadership State Conference in Grand Rapids – the APHS Student Council applied and was chosen to serve as the host of the conference. Being selected to host this powerful event was an incredible honor and opportunity for students and a direct reflection of the caliber of students we have in Allen Park, as well as the exemplary teaching staff who mentor and provide support to our student leaders – Sharon Gabon, Mary McMaster and Cas Melville.</p> <p>Following the presentation a Proclamation from the Mr. William Matakas, Mayor of the City of Allen Park, was shared, declaring the week of April 21-27 as "Allen Park Student Leadership Week" – a week dedicated to recognizing and reinforcing the important role of student leaders and celebrating the many ways schools empower young leaders to shape their schools, their local communities and ultimately the global community we all share. On behalf of the Board of Education, a "You Make the Difference" award was presented in celebration of National Student Leadership Week in recognition of the significant contributions made by Student Council, as well as to remind our student leaders that positive change starts with them.</p>

	<p><i>Presentation – Donation from the Kiwanis Club of Allen Park</i> Mr. Tony Lalli and Mr. Greg Bader, of the Kiwanis Club of Allen Park, shared a bit about the history of the organization and the work they do, and presented a very generous donation to benefit the district's cognitively impaired classrooms. Teachers, Mrs. Katie Jensen and Mrs. Bridget Schroeder, along with student representatives, shared appreciation as well as highlights of how the funds help enrich the education and positively impact lives of students!</p>
19-032	<p><i>Personnel:</i></p> <p>A. Employments/Services – <i>to be approved en masse</i> Motion by Moynihan, supported by Sheppard, that the recommendations for employment and services be approved by the Board for the individuals listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Myklan Kish – Volunteer Asst. Varsity Softball Coach/APHS – Effective 4/16/2019 ▪ Julie Lazarz – Pom Pon Coach/APHS – Effective 4/16/2019 ▪ Patricia Nowak – Food Service/APHS – Effective 4/16/2019 <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p>B. Resignations/Retirements: The following resignations/retirements have been received and accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Candi Cash – Food Service/Floater – Effective 4/12/2019 ▪ Walter Kempf – Custodian/Lindemann – Effective 4/5/2019 ▪ Tomacine Valdez – Food Service/Community School – Effective 4/12/2019
19-033	<p><i>Graduation Requirements – Beacon Day Treatment Program</i> As briefly mentioned in the January 11th board update, Dr. Sokol had provided preliminary information from Beacon Day Treatment. Beacon Day Treatment is a K-12 separate facility for students with severe emotional impairments located within Southgate Community Schools. This program accepts students from all 17 Dearborn/Downriver school districts, including APPS. Allen Park currently has 6 high school level students attending the program.</p> <p>For many years, Beacon Day Treatment was able to provide programming to meet each individual districts' unique graduation requirements beyond the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (18 credits). Once these requirements were met, the student would graduate with a diploma from their resident district. Unfortunately, due to loss of funding, Beacon is no longer able to provide this kind of programming.</p> <p>Going forward, Beacon will continue to provide high school level students programming to fulfill the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, but it will be the responsibility of the resident district to address the additional requirements beyond the Michigan Merit Curriculum.</p> <p>Resident districts have been offered 2 options:</p> <p>Option #1 – The resident district agrees to allow the student the opportunity to obtain a resident district high school diploma upon earning credits as required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum (18 credits) – This option requires Board approval.</p> <p>Option #2 – The resident district agrees to provide the opportunity for the student to earn any additional credits beyond what Beacon offers in order to meet the resident district's graduation requirements for a high school diploma based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The resident district will develop and implement a plan for the student to earn these additional credits.</p> <p>Such plans may include online learning, or electing to have the student attend our high school to earn the credits not offered by Beacon Day Treatment. Credit requirement for APHS diploma is 22 credits. The 18 credits required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum include all core academic areas and are incorporated into Beacon's program which also includes a low student teacher ratio of 10:1, onsite psychologist, daily point system, calming room and major therapeutic involvement.</p> <p>At the March 11th Board meeting, discussion ensued among members of the Board of Education and administration, which included the potential for a 'hybrid' plan that would include a review by the Director of</p>

	<p>Special Education in determining what is best for each student attending Beacon, on an individual basis prior to granting a diploma. District social workers and a special education teacher present at the March 11th meeting supported the ‘hybrid plan.’ Further discussion ensued among members of the Board of Education.</p> <p>Motion by Moynihan, supported by Sheppard, that the Allen Park Board of Education allow high school level students attending Beacon Day Treatment in Southgate Community Schools the opportunity to obtain an Allen Park High School Diploma upon earning credits as required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum, at the recommendation of the Director of Special Education.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, Miller, Warren Nays: Loyd, MacDonald, Moynihan, Sheppard Absent: None</p> <p>Motion failed.</p>
19-034	<p><i>Appointment of Legal Counsel</i></p> <p>Motion by Moynihan, supported by Sheppard, that the law firm of Thrun Law be utilized by the District for legal services during 2019, and further, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to exercise his discretion in utilizing the services of other legal counsel based on the legal expertise needed in each instance.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
19-035	<p><i>Resolution to Designate a School Safety Liaison & Emergency Contact to Attorney General Hotline</i></p> <p>New school safety laws require the creation of an Office of School Safety and a School Safety Commission within the Department of the State Police. Public Act 549 of 2018 requires school boards to designate a liaison to work with both of these entities. In addition, the Revised School Code requires the Attorney General to operate a hotline that allows the public to submit reports regarding potential self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts directed at school students, school employees, or schools in Michigan. Currently, this hotline is known as “OK2SAY” and Allen Park Public Schools has been an active participant.</p> <p>New legislation has made it a requirement for school districts to provide emergency contact information for a school official to the Department of State Police for receiving information from this hotline. Tips received on the hotline are reviewed and analyzed by the Michigan State Police before they are passed on to local police and the school official whose emergency contact information has been provided.</p> <p>Motion by Loyd, supported by Sheppard, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the “Resolution for Designation of a School Safety Liaison and Emergency Contact to Attorney General Hotline” as required by Public Act 670 as presented.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
19-036	<p><i>Resolution in Support of Governor Whitmer’s Budget Proposal</i></p> <p>Tri County Alliance for Public Education has requested that School Boards consider adopting a resolution in support of the Governor’s budget proposal. The plan calls for the biggest increase for public education in a generation of students going back to 2002, with \$507 million in additional resources to support K-12 schools, including \$235 million to increase per pupil funding by \$120-\$180 per student.</p> <p>The proposal would provide Allen Park with an additional, estimated \$336 per pupil, which includes per pupil increases as follows: \$177 foundation increase, \$54 special education change, \$71 at risk and \$33 for CTE. The Governor’s budget recommendation also calls for expanding the Great Start Readiness Program by \$85 million in order to make preschool programs available to more students across the state and improve the programs in place today. Tri County Alliance will compile a list of adopted resolutions and show the Governor that TCA districts are standing behind her bold vision for our schools. Discussion ensued among members of the Board of Education.</p> <p>Motion by Warren, supported by Sheppard, that the Allen Park Board of Education adopt the “Resolution in Support of Governor Whitmer’s Budget Proposal” as presented.</p>

	<p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Sheppard, Warren Nays: Moynihan Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
19-037	<p><i>APHS Boys' Basketball Camp – Adrian College</i> Motion by MacDonald, supported by Klein, : that the proposal for the Allen Park High School Basketball Team to attend the Adrian College Team Camp June 24-26, 2019 be approved as presented. And further, that all necessary parent consent forms, medical treatment forms and emergency health forms be processed prior to departure.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
19-038	<p><i>APHS World Language Trip to France & Spain</i> Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the proposal for a trip to France and Spain in June 2020 by the Allen Park High School World Language Classes be approved as presented. And further, that all necessary parent consent forms, medical treatment forms and emergency health forms be processed prior to departure.</p> <p>Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
	<p><i>Superintendent's Report:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebrating National Public School Volunteer Week <p>Please join me in celebrating National Public School Volunteer Week 2019 as we recognize and thank public school volunteers who contribute unselfishly to the success of Allen Park Public Schools. Parents, guardians, athletic coaches, chaperones, classroom volunteers, booster club members, PTAs, PTSAs, adult crossing guards and morning greeters, and community members make a significant and positive impact on our students, giving of their time, energy and caring all year round - we are incredibly grateful. We know that strong community engagement and the support of our volunteers are important parts of the team that strives to ensure that each and every one of our students thrive and succeed. We will invite PTA/PTSA leadership, booster leadership and district volunteers to the Board meeting on June 10 for a celebration!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Darga offered a statement in regard to Principal Mark Lowe.
	<p><i>Citizen's Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jeni Sauve expressed concerns regarding the state of the district's outdoor athletic facilities, and that spring sports have been cancelled or moved to away sites. ▪ Students, Lidia Cappelletti and Alivia Bedient, expressed support for Principal Mark Lowe, sharing personal interactions. ▪ Student, Katelyn Littleton, expressed support for Principal Mark Lowe, sharing her personal interactions. ▪ Lisa Szymanski commended students for having the courage to speak this evening and stated that the job of adults is to protect kids, not the other way around, and that a recent text message increased the anxiety level for kids. Mrs. Szymanski conveyed that while everyone 'wants to know,' she related the situation to expecting a jury to give a verdict before hearing the case. ▪ Amber Dillon expressed support for Principal Mark Lowe as well as concern for the length of time of the investigation. Mrs. Dillon has asked about plans for the Peacekeeper Club, Art Club and coverage for the day (Wednesday) Mr. Lowe supervised open gym before school. (Follow-up: teacher coverage was secured for these activities to continue) ▪ John Burgus commented on support for a fair process, stating Mr. Lowe has made an impact on thousands of students and deserves a full and thorough investigation. Mr. Burgus conveyed that he is depending on members of the Board of Education 'to get it right' and not let mob mentality get in their way. Mr. Burgus also voiced that Mr. Darga uncovered the \$1.6 million (budget shortfall) as a new Superintendent, and financial problems had been going on for several years. ▪ Student, Cameron Greene, requested that more information be released in regard to the (Principal Mark Lowe) investigation. ▪ Student, Chelbie M., read a prepared and heartfelt statement regarding Principal Mark Lowe, concluding that Mr. Lowe's students 'love him.'

- Glen Hoyt requested that supervisory coverage be arranged for the Peacekeepers Club and Wednesday before school open gym time. (Follow-up: teacher coverage was secured so these activities to continue)
- Dana Holder thanked the Board members for their service, stating that their job is very demanding and that they make numerous, important decisions. Ms. Holder commended the students for speaking, expressed concern for lack of transparency during the investigation and commented on communication to APEA union members.
- Gavin Schonfeld expressed support for Principal Mark Lowe and asked about disciplinary consequences for students who participated in today's rally.
- Brian Liveoak expressed concern regarding the financial status (\$1.6 million) of the district and requested information regarding notification and attendance of Principal Mark Lowe.
- Rania Lowe expressed gratitude to staff and students for their support on behalf of herself and Mr. Lowe, and commended the students who spoke this evening. Mrs. Lowe asked the Board to be guided with the best interest of APPS students.
- Student, Amelia Luecke expressed her admiration for both Principal Lowe and Superintendent Darga, both doing their jobs.
- Student, Jasmine Walker, expressed her support for Principal Mark Lowe, stating that APMS is like a family and he is the glue that holds it all together.
- Joel Burkey, APEA President, stated that he did not tell teachers that they could not express their feelings or direct them to stay quiet. He did share that he reminded them to be careful – that there is an ongoing investigation. Mr. Burkey also asked of the seven weeks Mr. Lowe has been out, how much of that time had been a voluntary leave of absence.

Reports of Officers:

- Mrs. Sheppard shared that the Kiwanis Club of Allen Park is sponsoring two Allen Park students to the Key Club Leadership Camp. Mrs. Sheppard also reminded the school community of the gently worn shoe drive sponsored by Kiwanis, donations accepted in all school offices.
- Dr. Warren thanked Izzy and Nikki for presenting this evening – the video was amazing! Dr. Warren also thanked the Kiwanis for their generosity, and commended the APMS students who spoke in front of a large group this evening. Dr. Warren also reported that a sub-committee is being formed to address training/best ways to support students who have experienced trauma in their lives and provide additional mental health resources at the elementary level. Committee members thus far include: Dr. Warren, Mr. Klein, Mrs. Klein and Mrs. Lauth.
- Mr. Klein thanked the Kiwanis Club of Allen Park for the amazing work they do and for the generous gift! Mr. Klein gave a shout out to the cast and crew of The Little Mermaid, mentioning that APHS is a football, cheer and sports school, but also a school community for the arts! He applauded the members of the APHS Student Council and their efforts in hosting a conference that included 2,000 student council members from across the state! Mr. Klein thanked the public/school community for attending the meeting, stating the school community is passionate because they care, and thanked the school community for their trust.
- Mr. Loyd echoed comments made by Member Warren and Member Klein and added that as a friend of Mr. Lowe, we have to be patient until all the facts come out. Mr. Loyd shared kudos with the young people who spoke this evening – democracy is not a spectator sport. Decisions will be based on facts, law and school policy. Inaccurate information has been shared on social media, an example being the issue brought forth by Mr. Burkey, a directive to teachers that never occurred. Federal and state laws protect employee privacy, we cannot release information in this case. If we are not transparent, it is the law. Mr. Loyd closed by saying the district has great administrators and Superintendent and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mrs. MacDonald conveyed to students and parents that they have been heard, and as a Board member, will do her best to do this right. Mrs. MacDonald congratulated APHS Student Council for hosting the amazing event – an incredible feat to pull off.
- Mr. Moynihan appreciated the positive presentations this evening and noted that Superintendent Darga has his full support for following Board Policy. Mr. Moynihan also shared that it is disappointing that social media is the judge and jury in this case.
- Mr. Miller congratulated Mrs. Klug, Mr. Demorow, volunteers, cast and crew on the success of The Little Mermaid production and congratulated them on a successful drama season! Mr. Miller shared that reading to Lindemann students during the March is Reading Month is a highlight as a Board member. He also thanked Mr. John Kelley and APHS for the use of the Wasko Media Center to

	interview applicants for the Jeffery A. Koniarz Memorial Scholarship, and also thanked Mr. Tom Danosky for mentoring great young men! Mr. Miller also stated that his daughter's APHS home soccer game had been moved off site due to dangerous field conditions and that the district may not be able to wait much longer for an improved athletic complex. Mr. Miller expressed his deepest sympathy to Mrs. Bob Draper on the recent loss of her husband, and fondly remembers Mr. Draper as his principal. In closing, Mr. Miller stated that we can all agree that we want what's best for the students of Allen Park and provided an assurance that anyone involved in this investigation will be provided the opportunity for due process.
19-039	Motion by Miller, supported by Moynihan, that the meeting be recessed at 9:15 p.m. for the discipline of a student in compliance with Section 8(b) of the Michigan Open Meeting Act, to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent in compliance with Section 8(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and to consider attorney/client privilege information in compliance with Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.
19-040	Motion by Miller, supported by Warren, that the closed session be adjourned and return to the regular open meeting at 10:54 p.m.
19-041	Motion by Klein, supported by MacDonald, that the Allen Park Board of Education, having heard and considered the evidence in the case of Student 2018-19 E2, and based on careful consideration of the following factors: 1) student's age 2) student's disciplinary history 3) whether the student has a disability 4) the seriousness of the behavior 5) whether the behavior posed a safety risk 6) whether restorative practices are a better option and 7) whether lesser interventions would address the behavior, resolves that Student 2018-19 E2 shall be expelled from the Allen Park Public Schools. Yeas: Klein, Loyd, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Sheppard, Warren Nays: None Absent: None Motion carried.
19-042	Motion by MacDonald, supported by Warren, that the meeting adjourn at 11:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Sheppard, Secretary