

On Line With the Board

The following actions, comments, or discussions took place at the November 10, 2010 meeting of the board of education.

1. President Leacher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. New Teachers Stephanie Stein, Maryanne Leadbetter, Jillian Gourwitz, Corinne Fulton, and Josh Tropea were welcomed by the board.
3. Symons teachers Sarah Farmer and Jessica Stafford presented information and a slide presentation on the Community Service Week Projects (Coats for the needy, Humane Society pet supplies, UNICEF donations, canned goods for Aid in Milan, and supplies for the Military Soldiers serving abroad) that all Symons students took place in. The students were rewarded with an assembly for meeting their goals in all the categories.
4. Approval for the October board minutes, payment of bills and reimbursement of expenses and the resolution to levy summer taxes was approved.
5. A resolution for participation in the Great Start Readiness Program was approved.
6. Maryanne Leadbetter was hired to teach Spanish at Paddock and Symons Elementary.
7. The board approved to change the School Board Election date from May until November of each year. This will be a considerable cost savings for the district.
8. Representatives from Plante Moran, Fanning Howey, Clark Construction and Barton Malow Technology presented a bond update.
9. Superintendent Girbach reported on the following.

Staff Issues

- Custodian, Dianna Odekirk's mother passed away.
- MHS teacher and Swim Coach Dan Heikka was named the Boy's Swimming Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Coaches Association.
- The district received a Thank You letter from United Way for our recent district campaign donation.
- Superintendent Girbach officially thanked substitute teacher Chris Rowe for the great job she has done at Paddock and Symons covering the Spanish position while the district posted a search for a certified Spanish teacher.

Student Info

- MHS/MMS teacher Shayla Powell provided a list of student choir honors to be distributed to the board.
- The athletic director provided a list of recognitions recently earned by our student athletes.

Board Info

- Board Member Diane Hovatter became a proud grandmother to two grandbabies in one week.
- Superintendent Girbach provided information to the board on fund balance and total revenue throughout the State and where Milan fell in the list.
- Information on Strand 2 of the District Accreditation Process was distributed. An invitation for the "Governance and Leadership" conference was received and distributed.
- The board was informed that there will be a Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. They need to plan 2 – 3 hours for the meeting.
- Final Count Day numbers are almost complete. The district has 2,687 students overall, with 622 students coming from School of Choice. This is an increase of 72

new students from the September 2009 count and 41 of the students were from School of Choice.

- A letter from a parent was received by the district and copies distributed to the board asking them to consider installing artificial turf on the football field.

Bond Update

- November 17th is the final day for punch list items to be complete.
10. Each board member that attended the recent MASB Conference commented on the sessions they attended and what they individually felt was important information to bring back to our district.
 11. Board Member Bushart commented on the issues of student bullying and gang graffiti that are getting much attention in the media.
 12. Community member Sean Duvall thanked the board for their attendance and contribution at the Ele's Place fundraising breakfast.
 13. Middle School Principal Bill Brown extended an invitation to the board for the Veteran's Day breakfast and student assembly scheduled for Thursday, November 11th.
 14. President Leacher adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.