



**Parchment, Michigan
November 25, 2013**

Parchment School District
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Parchment, MI 49004
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The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Parchment School District, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, was held on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Parchment North Elementary, 5535 Keyes Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Nancy Lenz, President.

MEMBERS PRESENT Nancy Lenz, Joel Shaffer, Rhonda Newman, Tim Lasher, John Madaras, Doug Heaney and Thomas Andrews

MEMBERS ABSENT None

OTHERS PRESENT Matthew Miller, Shauna Collison, Bob Champion, Julie Rohrer, Jeff Egberts & Matt Kelly from Plante Moran, Tina Maxwell, Kristy Mattern, Julia Kaemming, Anna Wessing, Lindsey Gernaat, Marcy Patterson, Katherin Sheftic, Sonja LeRoy, Jason Misner, Sarah Johnson, Liz Honeysett, Molly & Dennis Lacy, Robin Madaras and others

CONSENT AGENDA Tim Lasher moved to approve the consent agenda with support from Rhonda Newman. All voted aye – motion carried.

- Included:
- Adoption of the Agenda
 - Approval of the Regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2013
 - Contract Approval for Anna Wessing, Director of Parchment Early Learning Ctr; Lindsey Gernaat, GSRP teacher and Katherin Sheftic, Speech Pathologist
 - Financial Reports

Oct. Expense (Gen. Fund):	\$ 1,546,613.97
(Payroll related \$ 829,841.64)	
Trust & Agency	\$ 11,519.42
Hot Lunch	\$ 98,363.69
1998 Debt Fund	\$ 197,750.00
2005 Debt Fund	\$ 106,650.00
2007 Debt Fund	\$ 404,065.64
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 2,364,962.72

CORRESPONDANCE President Nancy Lenz referenced a communication from a staff member requesting leave.

Parchment High School
1916 East G Avenue
Parchment, MI 49004
(269) 488 1100

Parchment Middle School
307 North Riverview Drive
Parchment, MI 49004
(269) 488.1200

Central Elementary
516 North Orient Street
Parchment, MI 49004
(269) 488 1000

North Elementary
5535 Keyes Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 488 1400

Northwood Elementary
600 Edison Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 488 1300

Barclay Hills
Education Center
1125 East Mosel Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 488.1470

Preschool &
Childcare Center
600 Edison Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 488.1360

RECOGNITIONS

Sarah Johnson introduced Anna Wessing to the board as the new director for the Parchment Early Learning Center saying she brings a lot of experience and energy to the position. Ms. Johnson also introduced Lindsey Gernaat who is a new Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) instructor at Northwood. Lindsey is a Parchment graduate and coach and is excited to join the Northwood team.

Principal Julia Kaemming, introduced Katherin Sheftic to the board. Katherin is the district's newest Speech Pathologist. She brings experience from both a former school district and from her most recent position with a hospital where she worked with young children.

COMMENTS

None were heard.

**FINANCE / AUDIT
REPORT**

Rhonda Newman reported briefly on the committee meeting held prior to the regular meeting tonight. She then referred the presentation to Jeff Egberts and Matt Kelly from Plante Moran. They said the district audit for 2012-2013 was an unmodified opinion or clean audit and met GASB standards.

Mr. Egberts told the board it appears changes are coming for 2015 when districts will be required to report the full accrual of their Michigan Public School Employees Retirement liability on their audits. It is a standards change. Matthew Miller added it is interesting the liability will be reflected on districts' audits when it is a State Constitutional obligation.

**PR COMMITTEE
UPDATE**

Nancy Lenz said the PR committee had met to review website modifications. Updated pictures will now be found on the website. Other discussions will continue on new ways to access the website via mobile or tablet devices.

**NORTH ELEMENTARY
REPORT**

Principal Marcy Patterson presented a PowerPoint report for her building highlighting, 'What's New at North,' as well as about continuing programs this year. North's schedule no longer contains multi-age classes in 1st & 2nd grades, but an attempt to keep what was best about multi-age programming remains. Lunch is now 40 minutes and the shorter timeframe works well. Happenings include Walk-A-Thon that brought in a record \$7,700, Girls on the Run, Battle of the Books and tutoring opportunities.

School Improvement is a major focus. North Elementary was identified by the State as a FOCUS school and specific methods are implemented to address the improvement criteria. 10% of North's Title I funds had to be used in one of 6 State approved strategies. North chose to collaborate with a KRESA facilitator to coach teachers on instructional strategies. Ms. Patterson admitted she'd rather apply that 10% funding directly to student interventions, although the coaching model seems to be getting positive reviews from staff. Improving both Reading and Math strategies are targeted by staff via PLC's, School Improvement Goals and professional development. Due to the make-up of the student population, getting the FOCUS label removed will be challenging.

Board members briefly asked questions regarding the FOCUS criteria.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Matthew Miller provided copies of an article re-run in the Panther Press identifying 'Structural Flaws Driving the School Funding Crisis,' by John Austin and Casandra Ulbrich, President and Vice-President respectively of the Michigan State Board of Education.

Mr. Miller reported KRESA will likely bring an Enhancement Millage request to voters again in May 2014 - if districts with 51% of county student population resolve to put it on the ballot. Board trustee, Joel Shaffer, added it would be a renewal of the current millage. Parchment receives about 4% of annual budget funding via the current millage or about \$600K per year.

Matthew updated members on a legislative change to restructure/eliminate the school loan borrowing fund. Elimination of the borrowing option will require our board make the decision to raise the debt millage tax from 7.0 to 7.73 mills per estimates provided by the State, unless the State comes up with other options for districts.

The state is considering a mandatory retention of any and all third graders who do not reach MEAP proficiency levels in reading. Also, the State is considering changing the ability for school districts to hold new bond/other millage elections other than during an August primary or in even ending November years when there are State or national elections. Municipalities are speaking out against this change. The potential length of the ballot form may not be allowed by scanning equipment.

**ACTION ON 2012/2013
AUDIT**

Rhonda Newman moved to accept the 2012/2013 audit as presented by Plante Moran. Joel Shaffer seconded the motion.

All voted aye – motion carried

**ACTION ON AD HOC
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

Doug Heaney moved to; 1) begin to weight grades with the 2014 incoming Freshmen class as recommended by the Ad Hoc committee and administration; 2) eliminate public ranking; and 3) move to a Latin nomenclature of cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude for current honor graduates and into the future. Thomas Andrews supported the motion.

Much discussion followed. Mr. Heaney said this is to address the most time sensitive recommendations in the process. Nancy Lenz said this is a first step to address the recommendations and more discussion and action will follow as needed.

All voted aye – motion carried

**SUBSTITUTE BUS
DRIVER RATE INCREASE**

Thomas Andrews moved to increase the current substitute bus driver by \$1 an hour to \$14.00 per hour effective December 1, 2013. Rhonda Newman seconded the motion.

The action is intended to retain sub drivers and attract new drivers to the district. Tim Lasher presented figures that it appears two thirds of sub drivers leave after the district pays for their training. He suggested a bonus after one year of service to help with retention. Doug Heaney asked if we knew what other districts pay and Rhonda said, yes, the rates were shared in the Finance Committee meeting.

All voted aye – motion carried

COMMENTS

Liz Honeysett said the High School drama group presented a fantastic play, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” last weekend. It is only the third production for the high school after many years of having no plays. The production was well attended and more students are now signing up for Drama and Performing Arts class.

Athletic Director, Jason Misner, recapped the successful fall programs. The High School Band performed well at Ford Field. It was a banner year for football, highlighted by the big win over Jackson Lumen Christi. Volleyball, cross country and soccer also had great seasons. Heading into winter, Girls basketball starts up on December 3rd, the wrestling team has 29 members ready to compete, and a bowling club is set to begin. The District hopes to house more district tournaments. Jason said, community support has been awesome, Parchment is a great community and it’s great to showcase our athletes and facilities.

FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There will be a Special board meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School.

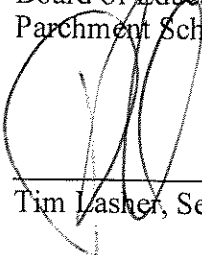
Community Wassailing takes place Wednesday, December 4, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The middle school is again a stop on the route.

Nancy Lenz heard discussion about holding the next regular meeting early at 6:00 p.m. to allow for a function afterwards. It was agreed by mutual consent, to begin the next regular Board meeting on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Elementary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Board of Education of the
Parchment School District



Tim Lasher, Secretary