

ATHENS AREA SCHOOLS  
Board of Education  
East Leroy, Michigan 49051  
September 16, 2024

REGULAR MEETING  
High School Media Center  
7:00 P.M.

Athens High School  
300 E. Holcomb Street, Athens  
TELEPHONE: 269-729-5414

1. Call to order, Knowles presiding at 7:00 pm.

Membership count to determine quorum presence:

Present: Stanton: ✓ Setlak: ✓ Harvey: ✓ Knowles: ✓ McClure: Absent/Excused  
Loew: ✓ Penick: ✓

A quorum is present. 14 guests were in attendance. Loew appointed to record minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education (BOE) approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Harvey, Second: Penick

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: ✓

3. Public Comments: None

4. Presentations/Discussions:

A. WMHIP Resolution – see attached West Michigan Health Insurance Pool resolution.

This 3-year policy allows us to continue to participate in an insurance pool, accessing different health insurance as needed. This updated policy simply adds Superintendent Kipp F. Beaudoin as Trustee, with Tonia M. Vorce as Alternate Trustee.

B. Door Access Control Bids – for all buildings (drawings were previously provided to the Board for review) This project will provide ADA compliance doors and the use of the multi-purpose room at the middle school complex. Superintendent Beaudoin is pleased that grant monies can be utilized to complete these projects. The original projected costs were \$68,970; however, our costing will be less due to leveraging of these grants. As of today, the drawings were sent to the state for approval; once approved we can proceed with installation. Three suppliers' have submitted bids for this project ranging from \$47,290 to \$54,550; however, one did not meet the qualifications. Superintendent Beaudoin complimented Facilities Manager Darrel Vorce for assisting with this project.

C. New Hires – Superintendent Beaudoin shared information about the additional new staff hires for the 2024-2025 school year (both alumni of Athens Area Schools):

a. Jessica Wagaman, one-on-one paraprofessional at high school

b. Jody Bulifant, high school counselor

D. EduStaff Coaches Pay Increase – our coaches pay scale has not been reviewed in several years which has resulted in discrepancies in pay. It is imperative to be fair and equitable in our staff payment, not only with recruitment and retention, but for the integrity of our district. Upon the recommendation of our Athletic Director, it is crucial to adjust our coach's pay scale.

- E. Accepting of Grants – NHBP Security Grant & ACF Band Equipment Grant – Athens Area Schools has been awarded \$25,000 from FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB) for our request to provide a safer environment for our students and community members. We are also the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Athens Area Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Committee for our Athens Area Schools Band Program. This grant is in addition to the \$10,000 from the Binda Foundation, \$5,000 from the Athens Youth Council, and \$500 from the Athens MACWARD VFW, bringing the total to \$25,500. In accordance to Policy 7230, the BOE needs to accept these funds.

5. Routine Matters.

- A. Presentation of minutes of prior meetings:

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2024 Regular Meetings as presented.

Motion: Setlak, Second: Stanton

Ayes: 6    Nays: 0

Passed: √

6. Reports.

- A. Board President – Mr. Knowles reported that next month we will be visited by Matt Saxton.
- B. Facilities/Strategic Planning Committees – the FPC met last Wednesday with the main focus being the removal and upgrade of the Fuel Tank. \$100,000 has already been approved by the BOE; however, the project will require an additional \$40,000 from the General Fund or Sinking Fund. There were also discussions regarding the ADA Compliance at the Middle School complex, and the need for an informational sinking fund flier. The SPC also met last week to review financial goals, curriculum and buildings and grounds. It is the committee’s desire to allocate the necessary resources for the educational needs of our students through solid fiscal planning including up-to-date resources, curriculum alignment and instructional vision, and in the care and keep of the physical buildings.
- C. Superintendent – see attached report. Expressed great pride in the fact we have covered a great deal of ground in the past few weeks reflecting a busy summer from our administrative staff.
- D. High School Administrator – see attached report. Mr. Thompson reported we are in a good spot - our technology with the chrome books and Smart boards is going well, new teachers are doing well, open house attended well, switching the student and staff parking lots is much better. The loss of our counselor Lloyd Service has been challenging as this is a very important position. Mr. Thompson thanked Kristin Loew for stepping up to help with scheduling and is confident that our new hire will be a good fit. We also have some new 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students that will require a lot of attention. Mr. Thompson thanks Kristin Loew, Lynn Wood and Rebecca Kinney for their efforts.
- E. Elementary Principal – see attached report. It feels like we are running a sprint! We have a new Mental Health Specialist Caitlin Wood who replaces Bridget Wood from last year, we will be partnering with the CISC the next 3 years pertaining to positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS). We have a great Interventions team working to identify students at risk and provide support, and training paraprofessionals in building skills for literacy. The leadership teams will start meeting by the end of September. The monkey bars have been removed and the playground looks good. Mrs. Wilson thanks the PTSO and Shannon Tuttle for providing meals for their Professional Development days.
- F. Athletic Director – see attached report. Current coaching vacancies include 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys’ basketball and JV boys’ basketball. Starting with the 25-26 school year, boys’ volleyball and girls’ field hockey will be MHSAA sponsored sports. Volunteer help is still needed for home events. Mrs. Parlin thanks the Stanton and Morgan families for the use of their land for our Cross County meets.

- G. School Improvement, Assessment and Compliance – see attached report. Mr. Dubbeld commends the Special Education Staff and General Education Teachers for their assistance in scheduling – this shows their dedication and willingness to work together. We have reviewed the spring K-12 state assessment scores which show strengths and weaknesses in skill levels. There is only one area where we were below CISD. We continue to work on the curriculum as our number one priority to improve the education of our students.

7. Action Items.

A. WMHIP Resolution

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing Kipp Beaudoin to be listed as the Trustee in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool.

Motion: Setlak, Second: Penick

ROLL CALL VOTE: Penick: Yes Setlak: Yes Harvey: Yes Knowles: Yes Loew: Yes  
Stanton: Yes McClure: Absent

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

B. Door Access Control Bids – all buildings

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the bid from Town and Country Group in the amount of \$47,290.00.

Motion: Penick, Second: Stanton

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

C. New Hires

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Jody Bulifant as Jr/Sr High School Counselor.

Motion: Harvey, Second: Stanton

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Jessica Wagaman as a Paraprofessional.

Motion: Penick, Second: Stanton

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

D. EduStaff Coaches Pay Increase

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education approve the increase for EduStaff Coaches.

Motion: Stanton, Second: Setlak

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

E. Accepting of Grants

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education accept the Security Grant from NHBP in the amount of \$25,000.

Motion: Harvey, Second: Setlak

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education accept the grant from Athens Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the additional amount of \$10,000 for the Athens Area Schools Band Program. (Note: \$15,000 already approved, passage of this motion would total \$25,000 altogether)

Motion: Setlak, Second: Loew

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √



F. Underground Fuel Tanks

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education seek bids for the proper removal of the current underground tank and replacement of two tanks.

Motion: Loew, Second: Harvey

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

8. Public Comments: None

Break out at 7:45 p.m.

Break back in at 7:52 p.m.

9. Closed Session

A. Student Discipline Hearing

MOTION: Move that the Board of Education go into closed session for a Student Discipline Hearing.

Motion: Stanton, Second: Harvey

ROLL CALL VOTE: Penick: Yes Setlak: Yes Harvey: Yes Knowles: Yes Loew: Yes

Stanton: Yes McClure: Absent

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √ Time: 7:53 p.m.

B. Board President returns meeting to open session

Time: 8:22 p.m.

MOTION: The recommendation of the Board of Education is to expel student for 180 days from an incident occurring on September 3, 2024, and to return in 160 days to appeal his return.

Motion: Knowles, Second: Setlak

ROLL CALL VOTE: Harvey: Yes Penick: Yes Setlak: Yes Loew: Yes Knowles: Yes

Stanton: Yes McClure: Absent

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

MOTION: Athens Area Schools will provide an online learning platform through Edgenuity and requires the student to maintain a 3.0 or higher Grade Point Average.

Motion: Knowles, Second: Setlak

ROLL CALL VOTE: Harvey: Yes Setlak: Yes Loew: Yes Stanton: Yes Knowles: Yes

Penick: Yes McClure: Absent

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

Clarification: The student is not allowed to be on any school district property including the Battle Creek Math and Science Center.

10. Adjournment.

MOTION: Move the meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Stanton, Second: Penick

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Passed: √

Time of adjournment: 8:41 p.m.

Minutes signed by: Eileen McClure, Acting Secretary of the Board of Education

Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for publication by the Board of Education on: Oct. 21, 2024