

South Redford School District  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
May 24, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the South Redford Board of Education was held on Monday, May 24, 2010, in the Board Room at the Jan W. Jacobs Educational Service Center. The meeting was called to order by the President at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President asked the Secretary to call the roll.

**THE BOARD**

Present:

Laurie Hicks, President  
Tom Dowdy, Vice President  
Bruce Mazurowski, Secretary  
Cheryl Flesher, Treasurer

Gregory Morgan, Trustee  
Stephen Baker, Trustee  
Elizabeth Kangas, Trustee

**THE ADMINISTRATION**

Linda S. Hicks, Superintendent

Kristina Harmon, Curriculum Director  
Judy Considine, Communications Coordinator

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT**

Working together with the administrative team and the community, we will provide an environment that will maximize the personal growth and academic achievement of all students.

The President asked if there were any corrections or changes to the agenda of the regular meeting of May 26, 2010. Since there were none, the agenda was approved as printed.

**RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Brian Galdes, Interim Superintendent, recognized the following people and programs:

**BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Brian Galdes, Interim Superintendent, communicated the following to the Board:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2010, and the Special Meeting of April 26, 2010, were approved as printed.
- b. Warrants  
The warrants for weeks ending April 30 and May 7, 2010, were approved as printed.
- c. Expulsion of student: Allen Bratcher.

Ms. Cheryl Flesher moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-c listed above, supported by Mr. Bruce Mazurowski. Vote: All ayes (6) - Hicks, Mazurowski, Flesher, Morgan, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR MEDIA ROLL**

In an effort to promote the fact that our public schools are quality places to educate Michigan school children, and to foster positive relationships with local media, Michigan Association of School Boards is proud to introduce the Media Honor Roll.

Reporters have the power to shape community attitudes about public schools, and the Media Honor Roll is a way to recognize fair and balanced reporting about our schools. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives in three categories: print, radio and television. Criteria for honorees include:

- (1) make the effort to get to know the superintendent, board president and the district's mission and goals;
- (2) report school news, in a manner that is fair, accurate and balanced;
- (3) give a high-profile position to good news about schools;
- (4) Visit the schools; and
- (5) maintain a policy of no surprises by sharing information with school representatives.

South Redford School District has been working with the reporter, Larry Ruehlen from the Redford Observer and Eccentric who deserves recognition.

Mr. Bruce Mazurowski moved adoption of the following resolution,

WHEREAS, in each community, the public schools are shaped by that community to provide the most appropriate and effective education for the school children who attend those schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools are dependent on the community's support in countless ways, including support in setting goals for the education of our children, in establishing successful volunteer and booster programs at the schools, for annual funding of operations, in periodic bond elections, in the election of qualified school board members; and

WHEREAS, much of the community's knowledge and opinions about the public schools rely on responsible reporting by local media representatives who decide which news to share with the community, how much attention will be focused on various issues, and what the tone of the reporting will be; therefore,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Redford Board of Education places the name of Larry Ruehlen, Staff Writer for the Redford Observer and Eccentric on the statewide Media Honor Roll, calling attention to the ongoing responsible and exemplary nature of reporting on this community's public schools. We express our appreciation for his balanced and accurate approach to sharing with this community both the challenges facing our schools and the successes achieved by the teachers and students. His work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child who attends them.

Supported by Ms. Elizabeth Kangas. Vote: All ayes (6) - Hicks, Mazurowski, Flesher, Morgan, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

### **CONSIDER WAYNE COUNTY ENHANCED MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Section 705 of the Revised School Code of 1976, as amended (MCL 380.705) ("Section 705"), provides for the levy of a regional enhancement property tax by an intermediate school district, at a rate not to exceed 3 mills, for the purpose of enhancing other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes, if approved by a majority of the intermediate school district electors.

Proceeds of a millage levied pursuant to Section 705 are paid to each constituent school district by the intermediate school district in an amount calculated on a per pupil basis as provided in Section 705;

In an effort to increase revenue for school districts in Wayne County, Wayne County RESA has submitted to its electors the question of a regional enhancement millage proposal for 1.90 mills for a

period of five (5) years, 2010 to 2014, inclusive, at the state primary election to be held on August 3, 2010.

The Board has received information from Wayne County RESA regarding the Wayne County enhanced millage over the last several months. The Board is asked to either support the enhanced millage proposal or not.

Mr. Stephen Baker moved the following resolution,

WHEREAS, Section 705 of the Revised School Code of 1976, as amended (MCL 380.705) (“Section 705”), provides for the levy of a regional enhancement property tax by an intermediate school district, at a rate not to exceed 3 mills, for the purpose of enhancing other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes, if approved by a majority of the intermediate school district electors; and

WHEREAS, proceeds of a millage levied pursuant to Section 705 are paid to each constituent school district by the intermediate school district in an amount calculated on a per pupil basis as provided in Section 705;

WHEREAS, Section 705 provides that a school district may request an intermediate school district having a population of more than 1,400,000 to submit the question of a regional enhancement property tax to the voters at the next state primary or general election; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the South Redford School District to request the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (“Wayne RESA”) to submit a regional enhancement millage proposal to the electors at the state primary election in accordance with Section 705.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The South Redford School District hereby requests that Wayne RESA submit to its electors the question of a regional enhancement millage proposal for 1.90 mills for a period of five (5) years, 2010 to 2014, inclusive, at the state primary election to be held on August 3, 2010, pursuant to a ballot proposal substantially in the form attached hereto at Exhibit A.
2. The South Redford School District hereby approves the ballot wording of the regional enhancement millage proposal substantially in the form attached hereto at Exhibit A, provided that such ballot wording is subject to revision and finalization by Wayne RESA as may be necessary or convenient.
3. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Board of Education of the Wayne RESA.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

Supported by Ms. Elizabeth Kangas. Vote: All ayes (6) - Hicks, Mazurowski, Flesher, Morgan, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal – Exhibit A

*Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed enhancement millage will be collected by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and distributed to local public school districts within the boundaries of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency based on pupil membership count.*

Shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.90 mills (\$1.90 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2010 to 2014, inclusive, as new additional millage to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes? It is estimated that 1.90 mills would raise approximately \$92,000,000 when first levied in 2010.

The revenue from this millage will be disbursed to the following school districts:

Allen Park Public Schools  
Crestwood School District  
Dearborn City School District  
Dearborn Heights School District #7  
School District of the City of Detroit  
Ecorse Public School District  
Flat Rock Community Schools  
School District of the City of Garden City  
Gibraltar School District  
Grosse Ile Township Schools  
The Grosse Pointe Public School System  
Hamtramck Public Schools  
City of Harper Woods Schools  
School District of the City of Highland Park  
Huron School District  
School District of the City of Inkster  
School District of the City of Lincoln Park  
Livonia Public Schools  
Melvindale – North Allen Park Schools

#### **DISCUSS REDUCTIONS OF ELEMENTARY ART, MUSIC AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

In preparing for the next school year, the Board approved budget reductions at the April 12, 2010 Board meeting. On Monday night Mr. Brian Galdes and Ms. Syndee Malek discussed with the Board the schedule for the elementary art, music and physical education, with only needing the reduction of one art teacher. Additional information will be brought to the Board.

#### **DISCUSS HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Last year Dr. Kristina Harmon shared with the South Redford School District Board of Education the need for changes in the graduation requirements for the graduating class of 2011 to include changing from 2 credits of Foreign Language in high school to 1 credit of Foreign Language. Consideration of achievement data from Thurston High School indicates the need to align our Foreign Language requirement with the MDE requirement for the class of 2016.

One unintended issue for students who transfer into Thurston High School in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade from a high school which currently requires one year of Foreign Language is the almost insurmountable challenge to meet our district requirement for completion of 2 credits for on-time graduation. Currently, for the seniors graduating in 2011, it is projected that 52 of those students will not have met successful completion of 2 credits of Foreign Language.

There is a Foreign Language committee comprised of staff and parents considering Foreign Language options. Pierce Middle School has one teacher teaching Spanish and no other Foreign Language option. This experience can be considered as a means for meeting one credit of the Foreign Language requirement if a student successfully meets the language criteria for the class.

There are three and a half highly qualified Spanish teachers at the high school. For the 2010-2011 academic year, there will be a section of German taught by a teacher who is both highly qualified to teach German and Social Studies. There are online Foreign Language options; however these are the more expensive online courses. Efforts are being made to provide a rich Foreign Language experience for our students.

Dr. Harmon requested that the Board consider aligning with the Michigan Department of Education Foreign Language requirement. This requirement is for 2 years of Foreign Language or American Sign Language at the novice high level for the graduating class of 2016. Currently, this is the District's requirement for the class of 2011.

## **REVIEW WAYNE RESA PRELIMINARY BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Section 380.624 of the Revised School Code requires each constituent school board of Wayne RESA to participate in RESA's budget development process. Not later than June 1 of each year, each local school board must review the proposed budget, adopt a board resolution expressing its support for or disapproval of the proposed budget, and submit to the RESA board any specific objections and proposed changes the constituent district board recommends on the budget. The RESA board is then obligated to consider the specific objections and proposed changes.

This year's presentation of the Wayne RESA 2010-2011 budget to local school board representatives is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the Boyd Arthurs Auditorium of the RESA Education Center.

Please review the Wayne RESA budget that was sent to the Board by email. If you are planning on attending the scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, please let Dr. Hicks know.

This budget will be brought back to the Board at the May 24, 2010, Board meeting with a resolution for support or disapproval.

## **DISCUSS THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR GIBSON PROPERTY**

On May 6, 2010, a District Purchase and Sale Agreement was received by the business office for the sale of the Gibson/Rogers Elementary School building. Matthew Dewitt contacted South Redford in November regarding an interest in the Gibson Building, and toured the building with Tom New late in November, 2009. Mr. Dewitt is working on behalf of Murray Wikol, who is incorporating under the name Gibson Commons, LLC for purposes of buying the building. Mr. Wikol currently operates The Early Intervention Center in Southfield. This is a program for children 18 months to 8 years old with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is Mr. Wikol's desire to open up a similar program in Wayne County, and feels the Gibson building's geographic location (Telegraph and I-96) is beneficial for his goals.

Attorney Michael Petermann, Real Estate Specialist, from Miller Canfield has looked over the original agreement and negotiated back and forth with the client to come to acceptable terms for South Redford School District. He negotiated a shorter due diligence period (90 days from 120 days) with a \$5,000 refundable deposit, and at the end of the initial period they can extend for another 90 days with a \$10,000 non-refundable deposit. During the initial 90 day period, the purchaser will contact the township regarding any possible zoning changes necessary. Should that be approved (if necessary) by the township, and depending on the purchaser's satisfaction with the building, it is reasonable to expect that the sale could be finalized within 180 days of the date that the District signs the agreement barring any withdrawal of the offer by the seller in that 180 day period. At the request of several Board members in earlier communications with the Board regarding interest in the building, Mr. Petermann included a section in which the stated purpose was to be disclosed in the Agreement by the purchaser – the purchaser indicated the following in the Agreement: Purchaser intends to develop the property for commercial purposes with the intended uses as a educational facility and office space.

South Redford School District currently has a signed agreement by Murray Wikol dated April 5, 2010. The stated offer is for \$1.6 million dollars. The Board needs to decide whether to proceed with this sale, or not. It also needs to designate who signs the Purchase and Sale agreement; the Board can designate the superintendent, the business manager, or a representative of the school Board. In addition, until the sale is final, the District and the Board should not count on this potential sale as a done deal until we have cash in hand.

This will be brought back to the Board on May 24, 2010 with a resolution.

Mr. Gregory Morgan left the Board meeting at 9:08 p.m.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT’S PARTICIPATION IN RACE TO THE TOP**

On January 6, 2010, the Board considered a resolution to approve the District’s Participation in the first round of the Race to the Top, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”). Race to the Top created an opportunity for States to apply to the United States Department of Education to (“USDOE”) to receive Federal funding for education reform through a “Race to the Top” grant program.

The USDOE required that interested States submit a Race to the Top application and plan that includes assigned Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) from each of the State’s local and intermediate school districts and public school academies. South Redford School District Board of Education signed the Memorandum of Understanding as did Wayne County Intermediate School District, but Michigan was not chosen as one of the top 20 states to receive funds from the ARRA.

The Michigan Department of Education posted the second round application for the Race to the Top and Wayne County RESA instructed the South Redford School District that the Memorandum of Understanding for Michigan participating Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must be approved and returned to the Wayne County RESA no later than the close of business of May 20, 2010.

Mr. Stephen Baker moved the following resolution,

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides, among other things, 4.35 billion dollars for a competitive grant program entitled *Race To The Top*, which is designed to encourage and reward states and participating local educational agencies (LEAs) that reform and improve education standards and assessments, collection and use of data, teacher effectiveness and equity in teacher distribution, and struggling schools; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education has issued program guidance on the *Race To The Top* program which requires Michigan LEAs to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Michigan that describes a scope of work designed to implement the elements of the State of Michigan’s education reform plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Department of Education has instructed the South Redford School District that the Memorandum of Understanding for Michigan participating LEAs must be approved and returned to the Wayne County RESA no later than the close of business of May 20, 2010, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the South Redford School District to participate in and be eligible for funding under the *Race To The Top* grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Superintendent of Schools of the South Redford School District and the President of the Board of Education shall be and hereby are authorized to sign the Michigan Participating LEA/ISD Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto.

Supported by Ms. Cheryl Flesher. Vote: All ayes (5) - Hicks, Mazurowski, Flesher, Baker and Kangas. Nay - (0). Abstain - (0).

**PLUS/DELTA FOR THE BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010.**

Plus	Delta
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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

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Bruce Mazurowski, Secretary  
Board of Education

Present: Linda Chenoweth, Gary Segadi, Syndee Malek, Carrie Morfino, Julie Troyanek, Karen Stearns, Lindsey Wolfe, Kara Clayton, Diane Lewis, Lenanne Gaina, Jacqueline Cole, Amber Berry, Connie Marshall, Donna Ghannam, Heather Barlow, Alberta Frazier, Harold Weinenger and Bill Triolet.