

Allegan Public Schools Board of Education

Board Bulletin



A summary of the special and regular meetings held April 9, 2012

Blended Instruction for High School English--

High School teacher Melissa Benoit piloted a program this year for her Senior English class utilizing “blended” instruction which combined classroom discussion with online activities to provide students with a college-like experience. She reported that students were actively engaged in their assignments, through blogging and other online techniques. They hope to repeat this course next year, opening it up to even more students.

Business Office Employees Re-certified --

Business Manager Amy Christman was re-certified by the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) as “Chief Financial Officer” and Payroll Manager Jodi Pinnell was re-certified in the areas of “School Payroll Specialist” and “Human Resources Specialist”. This voluntary certification program combines attendance at MSBO conferences and workshops with college credits earned to grant certification. Both business office employees were recognized for their commitment to remaining educated and informed in their respective areas of expertise.

Athletic Accolades --

This year’s men’s swim team, coached by Andrea Murphy, piloted a co-operative agreement with Hopkins and had a very successful season. They set two school records and had four students who qualified for the State meet -- Ben Wallace, Mason Swartz, Alex Walker (from Allegan) and Linden Arndt (from Hopkins). Coach Murray Rose introduced members of the highly successful wrestling team, which won the Conference title for the 19th time (12th consecutive year) and made it to the State semi-finals. Several of the team members were introduced, including two-time State champion Taylor Simaz, who will be attending Cornell University in the fall on a wrestling scholarship. Athletic Director Gary Ellis then introduced Andrew Kelley, who was selected as an MHSAA Scholar-Athlete and scholarship winner for 2012! This award, which is based on athletic participation, academics, service to school and community, and an essay contest, is awarded to only 32 athletes state-wide annually. Andrew joins only 3 other AHS students who have won this award historically (Nathan Hoffman 1996, Stosh Mintek 1999, Carolyn Hammer 2000).

Change in Board Meeting Time

The board voted to change the time of the May 14 board meeting. Originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m., the meeting was changed to 5:30 p.m. in order to accommodate the high school Awards Night. **Reminder: Board meetings in June, July, and August are also scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are held at the Administrative Offices (550 Fifth Street, Allegan).**

Board Self-Evaluation --

At a special meeting held just prior to the regular meeting, the board met to conduct a board “self-evaluation”. Areas of reflection included: Board Qualities, Board/Superintendent Relations; Policy Development, Vision and Planning, Financial Management, Personnel Relations, Instructional Programs, Board/Community Relations, and Team Building/Boardmanship.

Other Action/Discussion --

In other action at the meeting, the Board:

- Heard complaints from citizens/parents Kim Hayes and Teresa Creech, and student athlete Shelby Hayes, who were disappointed that Shelby and Charlie Creech did not make the varsity soccer team.
- Expelled a student from the Alternative High School for the remainder of the school year for possession of illicit substances.

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting will be Monday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Building (550 Fifth Street). Persons who need special accommodations should contact the superintendent at 673-5431 ten days prior to the meeting.