

Allegan Public Schools Board of Education

Board Bulletin



A summary of the regular meeting held **January 14, 2008**

District Goal Area #1

Student Achievement -- Elementary

The board review of Student Achievement continued with a review of the elementary level assessment data. West Ward Elementary Principal Harry Dalm presented information regarding the challenges currently faced by our elementary staff (including the number of “at-risk” students, larger class sizes, staff cutbacks due to budget reductions, shorter school year, and stress created by high-stakes test and state mandates). Pine Trails Elementary Principal Dave Kanine explained how the DIBELS Progress Monitoring provides individual assessment for every student, and provides a means for intervention for students who fall behind their grade level. He also informed the board that the elementary MEAP scores have been going up every year, in spite of the challenges listed above.

Board Recognition Month

In honor of Board Recognition Month in Michigan, our board members were recognized with a framed certificate and refreshments. Superintendent Harness read excerpts from the governor’s proclamation and stated, “We are fortunate in our community because our board has never waived in their commitment to our students!” Our Board of Education members and their years of service are listed below:

Chris M. Ward (14 years)
Leslie Samuelson (12 years)
Steve VanderVeen (11 years)
Steve Tibbitts (5 years)
Mark Davidhizar (4 years)
Philip Siegler (3 years)
Dale Wittkop (2 years)

Budget Amendment

The board approved a budget amendment for the current school year, reducing the deficit by \$28,791.00. This brings the current budget deficit to -\$208,343.00 for 2007-08.

Annual School Election – May 6, 2008

Besides two open positions on the Board of Education, the district will be asking voters to approve a renewal of the 18 mills of non-homestead property tax for one year. Nominating petitions for the two open school board positions must be turned into the County Clerk’s office by 4:00 p.m. on February 13.

New High School Courses --

The board approved several new courses at Allegan High School, including:

Business Dept – *Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, RPG Make Game Design, Junior/Senior Seminar*
English Dept – *Advanced Theatre Genres*

Capital Projects –

Director of Operations Bill Hammer presented a Needs Assessment to the board, which was prepared to outline various capital projects needed through the district, in the areas of maintenance or technology. George Zeock, director of special projects and energy manager for the district, explained that many of the upgrades in the HVAC system would not only improve air quality, but would also bring about savings in energy costs. Superintendent Harness will look into financing options that include seeking bids from financial institutions for loans.

Other Action/Discussion --

In other action at the meeting, the Board:

- Heard citizen’s comments from Mrs. Sharon Latimer, who was dissatisfied with an issue relating to her daughter and an alleged bullying incident at L.E. White Middle School.
- Approved a resolution authorizing participation in the Michigan School Readiness Preschool program.
- Voted to change the location of the February board meeting to the Admin Building, and the April meeting to Dawson Elementary.

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting will be Monday, February 11, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Administrative Offices (550 Fifth Street). Persons who need special accommodations should contact the superintendent at 673-5431 ten days prior to the meeting.