



**Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 24, 2025**  
**Powell 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy – Media Center**

- Called to Order** 6:00 p.m. Called to order by President, Rachel Eichhorst. 5 members present. 2 members absent with notice (Antoine, Rice).
- Pledge of Allegiance** Led by the Board
- Approved** Agenda for February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting. Boyer moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried. Agenda Approved.
- Mr. Boyer made a motion to amend the agenda and separate the policy readings (Consent Action Item F on the agenda) into 3 items (F1, F2, F3). Bowman supported. 4 Ayes. 1 Nay. Motion Carried. Amendment Approved.
- Bulldog Spotlight**
- Ms. Evva Dossin gave an overview of the CTE Program in honor of CTE month. She shared photos, reviewed the various programs that are offered and discussed the benefits and opportunities of the program. Students spoke on their experiences with the program. She introduced the two 24/25 MCTEAA Award winners and they were presented with a certificate.
- Presentations**
- Ms. Laseke gave a Budget Amendment Presentation. She shared revenue, expenses and fund equity balance ending June 30, 2024. The 24/25 budget assumptions and state budget adoptions were presented. Remaining funds for 24/25 grants were shared and 24/25 expenditures were outlined. Revenue, expenses and the estimated ending fund equity balance for June 30, 2025 were presented. A spreadsheet was shared comparing actual financials for 23/24, originally reported financials for 24/25 and amended financials for 24/25.
- Dr. Robinson thanked Ms. Laseke and stated he's grateful for our financial position.*
- Approved**
- Consent Action Items A-F.** Banach moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- General Fund Bills (check register)
  - Financial Reports (summary, revenue & expense reports)
  - Wire Transfer report
  - Purchasing Card Expenditures
  - Minutes from Organizational Meeting held on January 27, 2025
  - BOE Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – MJL Nov. 2024 update – *Bylaw-Conflict of interest, Policy 3001 and 4004*
- F1. Bylaw-Conflict of Interest.** Motion to go back to committee for revisions and have a revised reading at a subsequent meeting. Banach moved. Boyer supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- F2. Policy 3001.** Banach moved. Boyer supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- F3. Policy 4004.** Boyer moved. Cichocki supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

## **Informational Updates/New Business**

**Communications** – Correspondence regarding the MASB Region 8 board election information and bereavement thank you cards were shared with the board.

### **Committee Reports –**

*Policy* – Ms. Banach gave an overview of the meeting. They discussed several of the Miller Johnson policy updates. Several policies needed additional development or are waiting on legislation so they did not bring those to the board at this time. Two policies pertaining to curriculum development and 1 bylaw pertaining to language that can be removed from evaluations because it is no longer state law were brought forward.

*Curriculum* – Mrs. Eichhorst stated that most of their meeting time was spent on the topic of Special Education. Mrs. Mary Selden presented a special education state of the district and shared statistics on the increase in 504's and IEP's. Staffing was discussed and the curriculum committee recommends approving Resolution #21 to hire a Special Services Supervisor. Other discussion items included the AP calculus BC class as a potential class for next year, outstanding teacher awards, CKLA and the math pilot. At the secondary level, they had a follow-up of new courses that were approved last year, discussed upcoming field trips and the non-profit fair that is taking place at the middle school.

*Finance* – Mrs. Laseke's presentation covered much of what was discussed at the meeting. Mr. Boyer shared other topics including the 297 Prospect RFP which was released with bids being due 3/14. Interviews will follow and recommendations will be brought to the board. Discussions also took place on the sale of the 3<sup>rd</sup> series bonds. They reviewed the 3 bond sale methods, bond investment and 2025 bond planning.

*Dr. Robinson clarified that the RFP process will likely take 4-6 weeks to review the bids and be brought to the May regular meeting.*

*Facilities* – Mrs. Banach stated that Barton Malow, Mrs. Laseke and, Mark Nelson were in attendance at the meeting. Discussions took place on 4 projects which are on the agenda tonight. They discussed some work that needs to be paused and redesigned at the high school courtyard. They reviewed change orders, discussed the lawn service RFP, custodial services and bond planning.

### **Superintendent's Report –**

#### *Academic Services Update –*

*Elementary* – Mr. Murray gave an elementary update. He shared the upcoming PD date and stated that teachers will work on gaining a better understanding of ELA curriculum's approach to writing and will do some further work on IXL. They discussed March is Reading month. Updates were given on the math pilot and teachers have been working hard, sharing pros and cons and taking notes so they are ready to compare the 2 products.

*Secondary* – Ms. McFarlane gave a secondary update. At the upcoming PD Day, the high school will be working on vertical alignment and the middle school will continue working on their culture with Capturing Kids Hearts and also have time for vertical alignment. She mentioned exciting upcoming events taking place -the RHS Annual Retreat and the RMS Non-Profit Exploration Fair.

#### *Facilities Bond Update –*

Dr. Robinson listed the construction projects that are on the agenda tonight and those that will be brought to the March meeting (drinking fountain replacements and 9GA furniture). He shared information on district communications including the Bulldog Bulletin – Special Edition "Celebrating our Transformation" which will be mailed to residents and highlights building improvements and allows the community to see the progress made in the last 9+ years. An update has also been made to the Bond Projects Page on the website with an updated bond construction timeline and photos of the projects.

#### *March Study Session -*

Construction topics (the 2025 Facilities Assessment and bond planning discussions) and 25/26 planning topics (district leadership priorities and year 3 Strategic Plan update) will be covered at the March study session.

**Public Comment**      None

**Approved                      Resolutions**

- **Employee Services Resolution #20 – Personnel Update**  
Banach moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Employee Services Resolution #21 – 2024-25 Leadership Priorities – Group 4**  
Cichocki moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Facilities Resolution #22 – RHS Renovation Project**  
Banach moved. Cichocki supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Facilities Resolution #23 – Playground Renovation Project (Washington)**  
Cichocki moved. Boyer supported. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Facilities Resolution #24 – Lawn Service Contract Approval**  
Banach moved. Cichocki supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Technology Resolution #25 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Large Venue A/V Systems**  
Banach moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Business Services Resolution #26 – FY25 General Fund Budget Amendment**  
Cichocki moved. Boyer supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Business Services Resolution #27 – 2021 Facilities Bond – Sale of 3<sup>rd</sup> Series**  
Banach moved. Boyer supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**Board Discussion/  
For the Good of  
the District**

Mr. Boyer stated that he went to the open house at the STEM and Robotics Center and spoke about their new space and the advantages it has brought. He thanked the community for supporting this.

**Public Comment**

Resident Sean Demers spoke about the future use of the Prospect Street property and stated he would like to see it be an educational green space versus some kind of development.

Resident Sarah Kasper stated she is a painter and sculptor and spoke about the healing effects of nature and her experiences growing up with nature. She stated that natural spaces bring many benefits and asked the board to consider green space on Prospect.

Resident Andrew Gomez stated that green space is a service to the entire community and will benefit generations to come. He spoke of raising children in Romeo, the importance of the schools to align with family values and the benefits of living near green spaces. The lack of green space is something he is not proud of in the village. He stated he has not met a person who does not want the property to be green space and asked the board to make the right decision for everyone's futures.

Resident Don Rochon stated that he is the President of the Romeo Area Optimist Club speaking in support of GSOPS. The mission of the club is to bring out the best in youth, communities and ourselves and he feels strongly that what is proposed by GSOPS is an excellent example of this. He asked the board to consider green space so it can become a source of enrichment for our community for generations to come.

Resident Elizabeth Miller read a quote and spoke about the efforts over the past 2 years to save 297 Prospect St. She mentioned making the community proud together.

Reverend Dr. George Johnson spoke in support of GSOPS and stated that this green space is in the heart of historic homes and that it has a 200-year history and a sacred

feel. He asked the board to walk the property and look at the stone memorial on the property. He hopes the school board will vote to protect it.

Resident Sue Poosch stated she is a lifelong resident of Romeo and spoke in support of GSOPS. Her husband was a former board of education member and she knows he would have supported their proposal to develop the land as an outdoor space of learning as well. She hopes they will consider the proposal that GSOPS will bring forward which will allow the opportunity to honor the educational history of this property for generations to come.

Resident Charles Turner spoke in support of GSOPS. He understands the fiduciary responsibility but stated the GSOPS offer transcends dollars and cents. There is a decision to make between development or a beautiful green space to be enjoyed for generations to come. He has seen firsthand the effects that being outdoors has on adults and children. He envisions the property to be a place of learning, a meeting place, etc. and urged the board to look at the GSOPS proposal and preserve the land.

Resident Dave Putt stated he is the past President of The Macomb County Master Gardener Association and showing his support for GSOPS. He feels strongly that what is proposed could be an excellent example of how a master gardener project can both educate the public and provide a beautiful space. He is excited that the plans include installing pollinators and rain gardens and has offered their services to the committee. He envisions that it will be an excellent venue for education and mentioned that his organization has a small grant program that could be used to support the gardens. He asked the board to strongly consider the GSOPS offer.

Resident Kimberly Voss spoke in support of GSOPS and stated that it could enhance our educational product. She mentioned that the land has been devoted to education and can continue to provide a learning experience. She shared ideas on learning opportunities and how it could be used to support the pathway model as well as partnering with the middle school as a local non-profit to encourage a service spirit among students. She urged that they continue the legacy of the land as a place of learning.

Resident Kevin Voss spoke in support of GSOPS and stated that the board will be making a historic decision. He spoke of the history of the property and that it was intended to serve as a place of learning. He mentioned the historic nature of the homes and village and stated it's remarkable that there is a group of people who are so committed and have worked so hard to save the land on Prospect Street.

Resident Richard Cory stated that he appreciates that the board has worked with the GSOPS group for nearly 2 years and looks forward to continuing that. He mentioned that the district has a history of using extra property to help the community and gave examples. He believes that most school board members serve many years because they want to do good things for the community and stated in 15 years from now, they can walk by the green space and feel good that they had something to do with that.

Kristin Brewer, a substitute teacher for Romeo, spoke in support of GSOPS and stated she believes strongly in green space. She mentioned that it is essential to a vibrant community and provides incredible educational value. It has been an educational cornerstone for 171 years and she is hopeful that the educational tradition of this space will be preserved for years to come.

Resident Ed Kiefer stated that he frequently walks around prospect street. He wrote a song about the property called "This Place Matters" and performed the song for the board and audience.

## **Adjournment**

7:55 p.m. Boyer moved. Bowman supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Approved by: Anita Banach, Acting Secretary \_\_\_\_\_