MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ALTAMONT COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALTAMONT, ILLINOIS

The **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of Altamont Community Unit School District Number 10 was held in the Board of Education Room at 7 South Ewing Street on **Monday** evening, **November 9, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jim Holland, President.

The following members were present: Mr. Randy Tillman, Mr. Rodney Schultz (arrived 8:07), Darren Feldkamp, Mr. Jim Holland, Mr. Gary Goldstein and Mrs. Shelly Kuhns.

Also present were Superintendent Jeff Fritchtnitch, Principals Jerry Tkachuk, Doug Hill, Asst Principal/Athletic Director Todd Arnold and the following guests: Nathan Scholes, Kris Ledbetter and Karla McGinnis.

Presentation:

- Superintendent Fritchtnitch projected and presented 2014-2015 School Report Card.
- ACHS Principal Tkachuk presented the PARCC Test Results, Exhibit 1

A motion was made by Mr. Goldstein and seconded by Mr. Feldkamp to accept the following:

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes:
  - October 12, 2015 – Regular Meeting
  - October 20, 2015 – Special Meeting
- Approval of District Financial Reports:
  - Listing of Bills – Totaling $272,517.48
  - Reimbursement of Imprest Fund
  - End of Month Fund Balances
    - Utilities Tracking
    - Fuel Purchases
    - Cash Flow Analysis
  - Activity Accounts
    - AGS
    - ACHS
- Approval of Fundraising Requests:
  - Fall Baseball – Pork Loin Sales – November 20 – December 18.
  - Library Club – Auntie Anne's - ASAP
  - FCCLA – Club's Choice – November 9 – November 20.
  - AGS Student Council – Fall Dance – November 20.
  - Class of 2018 – Raffle – November 16 – December 4.

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – absent, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 5-0**

Administration Reports:

- **Asst Principal/Athletic Director – Mr. Arnold**
  - High School Volleyball – 10-17
  - High School Golf - Boys
    - Adam Mayhaus and Dylan Miller advance to Anna Sectional on Monday, October 12th. Did not advance
  - High School Fall Baseball
    - 16 – 4 – 1
    - NTC Regular Season Champions
    - NTC Tournament 2nd Place
    - NTC All Conference – Klaiton Wolff – MVP, Nick Miller – 1st Team, Caden Miller – Honorable Mention
  - High School Soccer
    - 9 – 9 - 1
    - IHSA 1A Sectional – Thanks to Lance Freezeland for announcing, Soccer moms for the concessions, ball boys/girls both nights and Altamont City Police officer Doug Holman for stopping by on Friday night.
  - High School Cross Country
    - Jesus Flores finished 37th out of 157 runners at Sectional meet.
    - Brittney Finn finished 88th out of 156 runners at Sectional meet.

- **AGS- as presented by Mr. Hill**
  2015-2016 Enrollment as of Wednesday, November 4th.

Class	*Current*	*Last Month*	*Last Year*
TLC/DDC/Tri-Star	5	5	3
Pre-K/ECE	13	12	13
Kindergarten	55	56	47
First Grade	47	47	48
Second Grade	47	47	39
Third Grade	34	34	73
Fourth Grade	71	71	55
Fifth Grade	52	53	49
Sixth Grade	48	48	47
Seventh Grade	51	51	53
Eighth Grade	52	52	68
Total	475	476	495

**Life Safety Verification Form (All Drills Completed)
**Parent Teacher Conferences well attended and very productive. Grade School teachers reported visits from most of their parents and appointment schedules were full both days.
**Red Ribbon Week very successful. Thank you to Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Lester and the Student Council for sponsoring a week full of events. Thank you also to Officer Suckow and the Effingham SRO for sponsoring the Heroine Awareness assembly for the high school and junior high students. The students were very attentive to the strong message.
**Team meetings and evaluations are ongoing.

- **ACHS - Mr. Tkachuk**
  - Mrs. Golden has notified us that she will not be returning from her maternity leave this year. She wishes to be a stay at home mom. Mrs. Munoz will have to leave us on November 20th to fulfill an obligation she made prior to coming to Altamont. I have posted for a new Spanish teacher, and I am contacting Universities to see if they have anyone currently student teaching who would become available in January. Cross your fingers.
  - Our failure rate continues to improve. We moved from 15% at midterms down to 11% at the quarter. Our goal is still to get under 8% by the semester, and our teachers are working to reduce the number of students who failed a single class.
  - Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Elam are starting a peer tutoring program at the high school, which will match underperforming underclassmen with upperclassmen who will work with them during activity period.
  - Be sure to stop by on Thursday, November 12th for "Meet the Indian Night". We are hoping for a huge crowd, and the Athletic Boosters will be hosting a tailgate event in the Community Room prior to the festivities. The evening officially begins at 6:30pm.
  - The Band has been selected to perform at the IHSA Volleyball Championships on Friday, November 13th.
  - I may have PARCC data to share with the board.
  - There are three new class proposals for your consideration. In Agriculture, Mrs. Perkins would like to add a Horticulture/Landscaping course and a Veterinary Tech course. In Industrial Tech, Mr. Hanebrink would like to add a Welding course. There is no need for approval until December; they are given to you this month for you to have time to consider the requests.
  - Our enrollment is as follows:

	This Month	Last Month
DDC/Swain	1	3
FRESHMAN	95	96
SOPHOMORES	71	71
JUNIORS	73	73
SENIORS	45	45
TOTAL	285	288

Last year's starting enrollment was 261

Superintendent Report – Mr. Fritchtnitch

- **Regional Office Annual Compliance Review:**
  - On Thursday, October 29th the Regional Office of Education was in District to conduct our annual compliance Review. Donna Kroening is our District Records Keeper and assists the ROE with this review.
  - The review consists of employee file review for certified and non-certified employees. This consists of all new hires and a sample of previously employed. Within these employee files the ROE confirms that we have collected and filed all of the proper employment documents for compliance.
  - This year we were 95% compliant for certified staff, as we are still waiting on official transcripts from universities for four certified staff.
  - We were 100% compliant for non-certified staff.

- Donna does a fantastic job of assuring that we have all documents in order for all employees. The ROE is always happy to come to Altamont as we are one of the better districts in the region for maintaining proper records.
- The other areas that are reviewed are updated bullying policy, Required survey (5 Essentials or other) every two years, Salary and Contract information on Website, and Board Agenda and Minutes on Website. All were 100% compliant.

- **Annual State Fire Marshall Review:**
  - On Wednesday, October 28th the State Fire Marshall's Office was in District to conduct our annual review. Mr. Whitt assists with this review.
  - The review is a complete facilities walk-through.
  - There were only three immediate issues that needed to be addressed. An exit in the weight room was obstructed by a piece of equipment and an alarm pull box was obstructed in the weight room by another piece of equipment. The other immediate issue was that the BBQ grill propane tank had not been disconnected from the grill. Those have all been rectified.
  - An area that we were cited on for the first time was that the sprinkler system must have an internal inspection every five years. We had no record of the last inspection, therefore it was deemed not completed. We will have both systems tested during this year's Decennial Health Life Safety Survey.
  - There are no Exit signs in the grade school. We will be contacting GRP regarding that oversite. We missed it too.
  - All of the doors and door closures at the south end of the high school don't meet fire rating code due to age. Alan and I discussed a door replacement program to begin to address this matter.
- **Fiber Optic Project with Telescopic Bleacher:**
  - Telescopic Bleacher Company is in need of greater bandwidth for their technology needs. They have received quotes to bore to the Grade School.
  - Another option that Mr. Niehaus and I have discussed with them is to only bore to our fiber vault box south of the high school and to lease our fiber to them. We will be setting us a meeting to discuss this further.
- **Shurley English Phase I Implementation:**
  - There has been a bit of consternation among some of the Grade School staff regarding our implementation of Shurley English. I met with Mrs. Arney on Wednesday, November 4th to discuss the matter. The main issue is that the staff wasn't included in the conversation to transition to this program. I agreed with her on that and stated that this was my decision and I presented to the Board last spring and my justification for the need to have a scope and sequence program for ELA, knowing that it would have a positive influence on writing and reading in the future.
  - The other matter is that many of the teachers don't feel that it will address the needs of reading. I explained that I have seen firsthand the positive affect that this program has on reading. Although it won't be immediate (will see results in 2-3 years) it certainly will have a positive refection on our individual and district reading scores. I also admitted that if the program doesn't, that it falls on my shoulders. That said, teachers need to embrace and implement otherwise the program will certainly fail, like any other curriculum that isn't fully implemented across grade levels.
  - I have already been in discussion with two other districts who have implemented Shurley English and they are willing to provide teachers to assist our teachers on the do's and don'ts of implementing.

- **January Teacher Institute Planning:**
  - We have begun to discuss and seek input from teachers for our January 4th Teachers Institute. We will be fully including Altamont Lutheran Interparish School in the programming this year as well. We will keep you posted as the Principals meet with their teachers to discuss their requests and needs.

A motion was made by Mr. Feldkamp and seconded by Mrs. Kuhns to accept the following:

Old Business:

- 3rd Reading Board Policy Updates:
  - Board Attorney – 2:160
  - Exhibit – Checklist for selecting a Board Attorney – 2:160-E
  - Uniform Grievance Procedure – 2:260
  - Payment Procedures – 4:50
  - Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition – 5:50 – add option as discussed and reviewed
  - Copyright – 5:170 – add DMCA as discussed
  - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment – 5:270
  - Employment Terminations and Suspensions – 5:290
  - Education of Homeless Children – 6:140
  - Equal Educational Opportunities – 7:10
  - Nonpublic School Students, including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students – 7:40
  - Restrictions on Publications – 7:310
  - Student Fundraising Activities – 7:325
  - Connection with the Community – 8:10
  - Gifts to the District – 8:80
- Review of Draft of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Altamont
- Discussion regarding District Finances:
  - Meeting set for December 8th at 6:30pm to discuss finances

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – yes, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 6-0**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kuhns and seconded by Mr. Goldstein to go into closed session to discuss:

A. The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the District;
B. Collective Bargaining Matters Between the District and Its Employees or their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees;

At 9:31pm

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – yes, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 6-0**

Returned to open session 10:34pm

A motion was made by Mr. Schultz and seconded by Mr. Feldkamp to accept the following:

Action as a Result of Closed Session

- Approve Personal Leave Request for Mrs. Marlene Perkins on January 27th through February 1st, 2016.

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – yes, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 6-0**

A motion was made by Mr. Goldstein and seconded by Mr. Schultz to accept the following:

New Business:

- Approve Resignation of Certified Staff:
  - Mrs. Emily Golden
- Approve Resignation of Extra Curricular Coach/Sponsor
  - Mrs. Bonnie Lester – Jr. High Volleyball
- Approve Employment of Extra Curricular Coach/Sponsor
  - Ms. Kelsey Leitschuh – Jr High Volleyball
- Presentation of the NaviGate Prepared School Safety Planning
- Discussion on Curriculum Proposals:
  - Welding Class
  - Horticulture/Landscaping
  - Veterinary Tech
- Approval of 2015 School Report Card
- Reviewed proposal for 2017 High School Band Trip
- Set Date and Time for Tax Levy Hearing:
  - December 14, 2015 at 7:30pm

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – yes, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 6-0**

A motion was made by Mr. Feldkamp and seconded by Mr. Goldstein to adjourn at 11:06pm.

Vote was as follows: Mr. Tillman – yes, Mr. Schultz – yes, Mr. Feldkamp – yes, Mr. Holland – yes, Mrs. Runge – absent, Mr. Goldstein – yes, and Mrs. Kuhns – yes. **Motion carried 6-0**

President

Secretary

PARCC Test Results

English Language Arts

*Total Students Tested = 54

- Mean = 752.629
- Median = 759
- Mode = 785
- Range = 124
- State Mean = 736
- PARCC Mean = 739

If we eliminate the student who did not test here, due to placement at an alternative school, our Mean improves to 753.396, and our Median improves to 760. If we further eliminate students who transferred in to the district after the start of their freshman year, our Mean improves to 756.12 and our Median improves to 761.

The cutoff for a designation of "Meets" was set at 750. Altamont had 3 students exceed the threshold of "Exceeds" (which was set at 791) and 26 who exceeded the threshold of "Meets," for a total of 29 (53.7%). The threshold of "Does Not Meet" was set at 725, and we had 10 students fail to score above this threshold. There were 15 students who scored in the range labeled "Nearly Met," which we are counting as "Does Not Meet." If we eliminate the students in the above example who tested off-site and who transferred in after the start of their Freshman year of school, our "Meets" percentage jumps to 59%, and only seven students fall into the "Does Not Meet" category.

In Reading, the state established scoring ranges between 10 and 90, and the average of students who "Just Met" expectations is 50. Using that as the cut line for "Meets," we had 32 students above the line, and 22 below, for a percentage of 59%. When we eliminate the off-site and transfers, the number improves to 64%. Our mean score in Reading would improve from 52.741 to 54.12, our Median score would improve from 53 to 54, the Mode was 43 and the Range was 54. The state Mean was 44, so our students are well above the state scores.

In Writing, the state established scoring ranges between 10 and 60, and the average of students who "Just Met" expectations is 35. Using that as the cut line for "Meets," we had 26 students above the cut line, and 28 below, for a percentage of 48%. When we eliminate the off-site and transfers, the number improves to 52%. Our mean score in Writing would improve from 33.074 to 34, our Median score would improve from 34 to

37, the Mode is 38, and the Range is 40. The state Mean was 29, and once again, our students are well above that number.

Mathematics

*Total Students Tested = 43
- Mean = 737.907
- Median = 740
- Mode = 724, 732, 733, 739, 744, 745, 747, 748, 762, 764
- Range = 100
- State Mean = 730
- PARCC Mean = 731

If we eliminate the student who did not test here, due to placement at an alternative school, our Mean improves to 738.809, and our Median improves to 742. If we further eliminate students who transferred to the district after the start of their freshman year, our Mean improves to 739.975 and our Median improves to 744.

The cutoff for a designation of "Meets" was set at 750. Altamont did not have any students who exceeded the threshold for "Exceeds," and 12 students who exceeded the threshold for "Meets," for a percentage of 28%. The threshold of "Does Not Meet" was set at 725, and we had 13 students fail to score above this threshold. There were 18 students who scored in the range labeled "Nearly Met," which we are counting as "Does Not Meet." If we eliminate the students in the above example who tested off-site and who transferred in after the start of their Freshman year of school, our "Meets" percentage jumps to 30%, and only 10 students fall into the "Does Not Meet" category.

The final complicating issue is the category of "Nearly Met." In Reading and Writing, the state provides the average score of those students, which could be interpreted as the old "Meets" cut score. If we were to do that, our percentages of "Meets" improves to 70.3% in ELA (76% if we drop the outside group), and 55.8% in Mathematics (60% if we drop the outside group). Both of these numbers would be consistent with the scores we would always receive on PSAE testing, so they may provide a more valid comparison. As the scores stand, we have three students who missed the cut line in ELA by less than four points, and only one who cleared it by that margin. In Mathematics, we have five students below the cut line by fewer than four points, and only one who cleared it by that margin.