Alexander Local Board of Education Regular Meeting

Alexander Library 7:00 P.M. October 11, 2023

The Alexander Local Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on October 11, 2023, at the Alexander Library. Members present at roll call were: Mr. Aaron Ramsey, Mr. Josh Collins, Mrs. Lucy Juedes, Mr. Regan, and Mr. Jay Barnes.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Regan.

23-10-01: Mr. Regan moved, seconded by Mrs. Juedes to adopt the agenda with addendum.

Vote: Mr. Barnes, yes; Mr. Ramsey, yes; Mrs. Juedes, yes; Mr. Collins, yes; Mr. Regan, yes. Motion carried.

Reports and Comments

A. Annah Korpi – Alexander Inclusive Playground Project – Update came in March to announce project and now to explain changes to our plan. To do the whole playground in phases. Our goal is to raise $100,000 by Thanksgiving. Have raised $60,000 so far, we got $25,000 from the Athens Rotary foundation and another $20,000 from an anonymous donor, 88 community donations totaling $15,000. **Mr. Regan** – Congratulations on raising the $60,000. Well done.

B. Curriculum Coordinator – Report on the District Report card and curricular changes. We got an overall rating of 4.5 stars out of 5 stars. The achievement component we received 3 out of 5, progress component 5 out of 5, early literacy 3 out of 5, graduation 4 out of 5 and GAP closing 4 out of 5. Three stars technically meet State expectation and 4 and 5 are above State expectation. We had improvement on early literacy and graduation and GAP closing we went down one star. We are in the top 30% of districts. **Mr. Regan** – After looking through all that data, I knew there was a lot of PD at the beginning of the semester on this is that directly new implement? How do you see that overall affecting these scores? **Mrs. Karr** – The professional development for the elementary, we are actually going through a very extensive two-year PD called LETRS. It is a science of reading based PD that helps teachers with instructional strategies around early reading intervention and instructional strategies that should support reading a more explicit systematic way. For early literacy it is going to have a positive impact. It is laying the ground work for the new curriculum to come next school year. **Mrs. Juedes** – What are we doing for preschool and the OU students? **Mrs. Karr** – We are doing them as well they are using Acadian screener preschool version that way we will have reading data for our preschool students when they hit the ground in kindergarten. Then the OU students are essential component of what we are doing right now and we have multiple different facets process. First part is we have an OU partnership where junior candidates come here several days a week and they help the teachers provide small group instruction. Then we also have fellows who are basically half-time teachers, they are here everyday all morning. They do the targeted Intervention, they go to every grade level for 30 minutes a day and pull out our students who have been identified by our screeners who need intervention. **Mr. Collins** – Thank you for pushing professional development to you and the rest of the team. It's something that hasn't been hard-

pressed to be meaningful and seeing this is going to pay off most definitely for our staff as professionals but also for the kids in the near-term.

C. Jordan Hill – Levy Committee – Sent out a digital survey to gather information for the upcoming renewal levy that is happening in November, we ended up with 102 responses. If the vote was today 47.1 For the levy, 32.4 Against the levy and 20.5 still considering. The school system is the very heart of our community and what we supply this heart determines its strength, its ability, its resiliency longevity and its culture. In other words, we determine the future of our school system, so we have to ask what are we going to supply the heart. And just remember we are all on the same team. **Mr. Barnes** – I just want to say thank you for stepping up to the plate and doing this. Thanks for doing the poll, thanks for getting the information out. The levy brings in 10% of our budget and is we don't have it there will be some changes. I don't know what they are going to be, that will come later but if any of us go home tonight and lose 10% of our income. We have to make some changes and please don't take this the wrong way either, I'm not saying this to scare everybody but Mr. Hampton sent out an email this is pure politics. Years ago, Aaron Schrim, when he was the treasurer would tell us about this 20mill floor and I will ask Mr. Hampton to jump in and correct me where I falter here. Right now, we are on the 20-mill floor. I don't know what millage we are on that we pay tax on, but the state has if we only pay 13 mills voted on everybody in our district is going to pay at a minimum of 20 there is chatter and its plausible chatter that they might remove the 20-mill floor. So, what does that mean for Alexander well if that happens, we're on the minimum right now of 20 everyone of us that owns property. You're getting tax at 20mills, if they do away with that your property taxes are going to down, but where's the property tax reduction coming from the school. So, we are in an uncertain time as a board as a district. How do we plan. I mean we are asking Kim to plan five years out, she is required to do that, she's required to update us every six months. I'm an accountant and I deal with figures all time, but if you give me a business proposition and a client come in says Jay forecast what my revenue is going to be in five years and you throw that at me, I don't know how to advise you. I just want to let the district know that it the levy itself which is up in a month is the deadline to vote. It represents 10% of our operating income and with the potential changes that the state is talking about it could negatively impact our property tax revenue, so as Jordan mention what do we want the district to look like next year. I'll just shorten it not five years, what do we want it to look like next year. My kids are grown, if I am blessed with grandkids, I still think about what I want the district to look like you know 10-15 years for them. Like Mr. Hill said Go Spartans! **Mr. Hampton** – All of what Mr. Barnes just said is relevant, there are a couple things that are in the works that are undecided. Obviously, the levy is one, the 20mill floor being removed or reduced is another. Both of those if the levy were to fail and that's one thing a 10% adjustment in your living is immediate and its big so we will have to adjust and the floor I don't know how that's going to look but the models that we've seen are pretty hard to get over. It could really impact how school happens. We are blessed with a system that provides a great deal for our families, we but breakfast for all of our kids. We don't have to, we do, we have the ability to do that. We don't have any fees, we don't charge our kids fees for school or

participation fees for athletics. We have all of these things that we offer and that keeps us from nickel and diming our families to cover those expenses. Anyone who wants to talk about our numbers, I would be glad to sit down and go through them in detail. We could talk about personnel, class size, and all the programs that we offer and the ones that we want to provide that don't yet exist. There is always potential to grow if you have the resources to do so. I think that the families in this area want to be here. I think we have set a good pace and a good direction. I believe people are behind that, they just have to show us that when they come out in November all of that levy talk is important.

D. Superintendent's Report
   1. Track Update – It is 90% complete, there still are things that we will do along the way, there are still improvements to be made along the way. We didn't get it all in one sweep, this will be a constant evolution. There are some little changes and tweaks that we'll do. The track is open. People can access it; the rules are posted on the track. **Mr. Regan** – I am to remind you to speak about the lines of the track. **Mr. Hampton** – Yes, the final step was painting of the lines on the track, everything is to spec, it is a full 400-meter track, a full competition track. The lining because of the rubber that is laid down there is still oils that are expelling from the rubber, the lines will have to be repainted again in a couple of years and after that they'll be in and set for probably five to six years. There will be a quick turnaround on the second coat of paint.
   2. ARC hours – We're entering the basketball season, so we have to shift our hours. The ARC is heavily used for basketball. There is not been a lot of use in the mornings from people outside of the school. We are going to shift the evening hours to 8-10pm beginning in November. Last week was official's appreciation week by OHSAA. I received a call from Dave Ute who is over OHSAA thanking Natalie Lucas, our new athletic director for all of her hard work in making the officials who were on site for our contests feel welcome. She provided little gift bags for them from the teams, went out of her way to make an extra special fuss over all the officials who come to us and Dave Ute called me personally and said she's done a great job and we really want to congratulate her on that. I couldn't be more thrilled with her in that position. **Mr. Regan** – Thank you Natalie for your work.

B. Public Participation for Agenda Items – None

Consent Agenda

23-10-02: Mrs. Juedes moved, seconded by Mr. Regan to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

A. Approval of the minutes from the September 6, 2023 board meetings
B. Financial Reports
   1. Approval of the financial statement for the months ending September 30, 2023
   2. Approval of the following transfers:
      $483,224.81 from General Fund 001 to Schoolwide Pool 598-9124
      $50,000.00 from General Fund 001 to Athletic Fund 300-9059

C. Personnel/Employment Recommendation

1. Approve the substitute teacher and aide lists as recommended by the Athens-Meigs ESC superintendent:

Billie Frank	Amber Peltz
Todd Norris	Daniel Watson

2. Employ the following supplementals for the 2023-24 school year, pending their meeting all state and local requirements:

Non-Certificated

Jessica Brooks, AM/PM Duty
Justin Roush, Head Track
Andrew Zuchowski, Track Volunteer
Olivia Gilliand, Volunteer Wrestling Assistant

Certificated

Amirk Brar, Co-Science TBT
Andrea Chimo, Co-HS ELA TBT
Kevin Deal, HS Math TBT
Laurel Doubrava, Elementary TBT
Morgan Hafner, HS Head Esports
Kim Harris, Special Education TBT
Dan Hendershott, Co-Science TBT
Ty Holdcroft, Social Studies TBT
Karmie Holzaepfel, HS Model UN
Jansen Jeffers, Asst. HS and Jr. High Head Esports
Amanda Johnson, Jr. High ELA TBT
Shauna Kostival, Elementary TBT
Rosie Lamb, Asst. Jr. High Track
Emily Legenza; Choir and Jr. Class
Malinda Mowry, Co. HS ELA TBT
Taylor Rhyan, Jr. High Math TBT
Marideth Rock, Wellness TBT
Lindsay Schaller, HS Student Council
Nate Schaller, Career Education TBT & Industrial Arts Club
Darla Sheets, Elementary TBT
Jessica Sheets, Fine Arts TBT
Kaylee Wilkof, Elementary TBT
Mary Ann Welsh, AM/PM Duty

3. Approve the increase to the substitute custodian rate of pay to $15 per hour
4. Accept the enclosed letter of resignation from Kelly Dowler, effective September 22, 2023 and James Peck, effective October 9, 2023.

D. School Operations

Approve the enclosed public notice regarding the destruction of special education records

(For Consent Agenda A-D)
Vote: Mr. Barnes, yes; Mr. Ramsey, yes; Mrs. Juedes, yes; Mr. Collins, yes; Mr. Regan, yes. Motion carried.

Items for Board Approval

A. 23-10-03: Mr. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Barnes that the Board of Education employ the following, pending their meeting all state and local requirements:
Sarah Crawford, Cook I, effective September 18, 2023
Kelly Jarrett, Paraprofessional, effective September 25, 2023
Adam O'Brien, Custodian, effective September 8, 2023
Cecelia Reynolds, Cook II, effective October 9, 2023
Discussion: **Mr. Regan** – Are any of these positions new? **Mr. Hampton** – No
Vote: Mr. Barnes, yes; Mr. Ramsey, yes; Mrs. Juedes, yes; Mr. Collins, yes; Mr. Regan, yes and welcome. Motion carried.

Business Initiated by Board Members – None
Board Reports - None
Public Participation

A. Erica Hillen – Safety Issue – There was an issue early this week and there are a lot of blind spots outside the cameras either where they're not working or malfunctioning. So, it's a safety concern that I bring up, the camera systems indoors and outside the school. **Mr. Regan** – Thank you very much and no political whatever going on has anything to do with the safety of the kids. I would hope not, I appreciate it, I really do. Thank you.
B. Jarrett Bright – Levy – Read a quote posted on Facebook. **Mr. Regan** – Stated it was his quote posted to the Say Yes Committee for the 2019 School Levy. **Mrs. Juedes** – Spoke up stating this was an official meeting and if they wanted to talk about this, they need to take it elsewhere.

The Boards next regular scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

23-10-04: Executive Session - Mr. Regan moved, seconded by Mrs. Juedes to go into executive session for:

1. To discuss matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, federal rules, or state statutes by division (G)(5) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

Vote: Mr. Barnes, yes; Mr. Ramsey, yes; Mrs. Juedes, yes; Mr. Collins, yes; Mr. Regan, yes. Motion carried.

TIME IN: 8:24 TIME OUT: 8:29

23-10-05: Mr. Regan moved, seconded by Mr. Barnes that this meeting be adjourned.

Vote: Mr. Barnes, yes; Mr. Ramsey, yes; Mrs. Juedes, yes; Mr. Collins, yes; Mr. Regan, yes. Motion carried.

Time: 8:30 P.M.

Board President

Treasurer