

November 14, 2023

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT #63-240 COUNTIES OF
OAKLAND, LIVINGSTON, AND WASHTENAW**

CALL TO ORDER

President Abbate called the November 14, 2023 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Abbate, Daniel Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel, Martin Leftwich, Teresa Laszlo, Patrick Maguire

Absent: Ann Rimanelli

Administration Present: Steven Archibald, Superintendent, Brian Toth, Asst. Superintendent
Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent, Chris Gray, Asst. Superintendent

Administration Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board, administration and the audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Toth shared with the Board the recognition of the National Merit Semi-finalists and commended students from the district. Mr. Toth stated that roughly 3.6 million students take the PSAT, only 16,000 are selected to be semi-finalists and approximately 34,000 are recognized as commended students. There were two students from South Lyon East High School and three students from the International Academy that were present at the Board Meeting. These students shared information about themselves and activities that they do outside of school. Mr. Archibald and the Board Members congratulated them on their accomplishments and asked them what they planned to do in the future. The students gave very impressive plans for their future. The two students present from South Lyon East High School were Elliott Grinnell and Samantha Luke. The students present from the International Academy were Pranav Polapragada, Snikitha Periketi, Sravani Gudupaty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered an opportunity for public comments.

Susan Woodley, SLEA Representative shared the "Good News" happening around the district.

- Mrs. Prokop and Mr. Maghes along with The Salem Running Club were nominated. Mrs. Prokop and Mr. Maghes created the club. It's a great way to get kids moving before the start of the school day. The runners can earn "toe token" every time they run five laps around the track. Mrs. Prokop and Mr. Maghes were thanked for coming to school early to get the students moving.

- The CMS & MMS Cross Country Teams were nominated. The CMS girls earned second place at Regionals which included teams from Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties. The MMS boys continued their undefeated season and became Regional Champions. Congratulations on an amazing season.
- Jill King was nominated by Jacqueline Cherry. Ms. Cherry shared that Mrs. King has made a welcoming space while creating positive relationships with many of the students. Ms. Cherry mentioned that Mrs. King had her English 10 classes partake in an activity that had the students get a glimpse at different books in the library. She said that South Lyon East is very lucky to have Mrs. King at their school.
- Jennifer Barshaw and Rachelle Kalbfleisch nominated the CMS Washington DC Trip. They shared that the trip consisted of the inner workings of the branches of government, history of the Civil War, and some incredible events and personalities that shaped American history. The students quickly learned how to take naps on the bus, coordinate shower times, making their money last the entire weekend, deal with roommates snoring, and the skill of being flexible with their schedules. The teachers received spectacular feedback on the students' behavior. The students were referred to as polite, engaged, great followers of directions, and overflowing with enthusiasm. They shared that it was a great trip.

REGULAR MEETING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the agenda as presented unless they had any additions or deletions.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting and the November 1, 2023 Study Session as presented unless they had any additions or deletions.

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023 Regular Meeting and the November 1, 2023 Study Session.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries 6-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the following bills as presented:

- October 2023 Wires & ACH Transactions
- October 2023 Revenue Report
- October 2023 Prepays
- October 2023 Bond Run

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Mr. Maguire to approve the bills as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

SYMPATHY RESOLUTION

Mr. Toth shared that the district was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Carol Londo, Transportation Para-educator. Mrs. Urtel read the Sympathy Resolution for Carol Londo. The recommended action is that South Lyon Community Schools offers its deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Carol Londo by approving the sympathy resolution in her name.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Mrs. Urtel to approve the sympathy resolution as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Maguire – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes. Motion carried 6-0.

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Mr. Toth stated that an open position required the hiring of the following instructional staff.

- *Mikayla Somers – Special Education Social Worker at ECC*

Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve the hiring of the instructional staff as described.

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the hiring of the instructional staff as described.

Roll Call: Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES - 2ND READING

Mr. Toth reported that these policies were brought to the Board at the October 17th meeting for information. He shared that no changes were requested. Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve these policies as presented.

- Policy 3003 (Homebound/Home Based Instruction)
- Policy 4002 (Discrimination and Harassment)
- Policy 4004 (Performance Evaluations)
- Policy 4005 (Mandatory Reporting)
- Policy 5003 (State/Federal Grants and Awards)
- Policy 5006 (Risk Management)
- Policy 5013 (Use of Electronic Signature)
- Policy 6002 (Safety and Security)
- Policy 7010 (School Visitors)
- Policy 8002 (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Moved by Dr. Laszlo, supported by Mr. Maguire to approve the policies as presented.

Roll Call: Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

2024 OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL BOARD RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATION OF BALLOT PROPOSITION

Mrs. Gray stated that the current operating millage was approved in November 2013 and expires in 2024. She explained that the district must obtain voter approval to renew the current operating millage and a .5 mill increase. Mrs. Gray stated that the district is seeking voter approval for the renewal ballot language on the February 27, 2024 election. She asks the board to approve the recommended resolution and ballot language as presented.

Mr. Archibald and Mr. Schwegler added more information on how the millage would only effect non-homestead properties and what the renewed millage would mean for the district.

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Mr. Schwegler to approve the recommended resolution and ballot language as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Mr. Toth shared that the South Lyon East Robotics Team received a Creality CR-10 D printer from Mr. Mark Burrows. He asked the Board to accept the gift as presented in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Dr. Laszlo to accept the gift as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES – 1ST READING

Mr. Toth shared with the Board the 1st reading of the following policies and that they would be brought back to the next Board Meeting for approval:

- Policy 7011 Engagement with Outside Organizations
 - Mr. Toth noted that this is a new policy. It states “Any request to the District from civic institutions, charitable organizations, or outside groups which involve such activities as contests, exhibits, sale of products to and by students, sending promotional materials home with students, graduation prizes, fund raising, and free curriculum materials must be carefully reviewed to ensure that such activities promote student interests without advancing the special interests of any particular group. The Superintendent may develop administrative regulations as needed for the implementation of this policy.”
- Policy 8007 Discrimination and Harassment
 - Mr. Toth shared that the terms “expression” and “pregnancy status” have been added to the policy.
- Policy 8009 Digital Communication
 - Mr. Toth noted that the following information has been added to the end of the policy.
 - Public Use – The District’s social media, to the extent it is open to the public for use, collectively constitutes a limited public forum. All Comments and postings on District social media are subject to monitoring and, where permitted, removal by the District. Public posts or comments on District social media must address District business and, where applicable, the particular District business under discussion. The District reserves the right to remove comments or postings by members of the public when the District determines that the content (including links to such content) falls under any of the following prohibited categories.

- Off-topic (e.g., a post unrelated to District business, a comment to a District related post that is unrelated to the post, spam, content that is incoherent or contains a virus, etc.)
- Abusive (e.g., threatening, harassing, discriminatory against protected classes, personal attacks, etc.)
- Illegal (e.g., defamation, promotion of violence/destruction or illegal activities, etc.)
- Obscenity, vulgarity, profanity, or sexually explicit or pornographic
- Campaigning, whether in support of our opposition to political campaigns, candidates, or ballot measures
- Content that may compromise the safety or security of the District, its community, or members of the public
- Content that contains personal identifying information or sensitive personal information (e.g., doxing)
- Commercial information (e.g., solicitation, advertisement, product/service endorsement, etc.)
- Copyrighted, trademarked, or otherwise legally-protected content the posting of which violates another's ownership interest
- Users who repeatedly or egregiously violate the content-related guidelines in this policy may be banned from posting and/or commenting on the District's social media (e.g., multiple off-topic posts or a single instance of posting a link to a pornographic video).

BUS PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray reported that the district is recommended the purchase of two buses for the Transportation Department. She stated that the approval of the purchase and board resolution will be requested at the December 5, 2023 Board Meeting. Mrs. Gray noted that the quote from Holland is for a 77-passenger conventional bus, priced with stock options at \$125,690.00 per bus. Holland was the lowest bidder. This purchase would allow the district to replace two older buses. Mrs. Gray shared that Bond funds are budgeted for the bus purchases. The total purchase for the two buses from Holland is \$251,380.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Mr. Toth reported that Michigan Compiled Law 38.1308b requires all Michigan school districts have an approved Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). He shared the original plan for SLCS referred to as the Emergency Management Plan was approved by the Board on December 2, 2019. This plan must be reviewed in conjunction with local law enforcement and approved by the Board of Education at least every two years thereafter. Mr. Toth shared that members of the Safety Advisory Team along with Deputy Biggers from Oakland County's Sheriff's Department have reviewed the district's EOP and are not recommending any changes or revisions. Mr. Toth stated that the Emergency Operations Plan will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at the December 5th meeting.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that Michigan Legislators are adjourning today, which is early for the legislative session. This will allow legislation that has passed or signed into a law, to become effective immediately or ninety days after the completion of the legislative session. He shared that the Presidential Primary along with our Non-Homestead Operation Millage will be on the February 27th ballot.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative** – Mr. Leftwich added that two Michigan House members won Mayoral elections. They will be vacating their seats and a special election will be held for those seats.
- **Policy** – Mr. Abbate stated that the Policy Committee meets again in December.
- **Finance** – Mr. Schwegler shared that after the fire at South Lyon East High School, the process is almost fully complete in terms of everyone being paid. The next step of the process is an attempt of subrogation and hopefully get most of the expenses off our claim's history, which will help with future insurance premiums. He noted that there was an inflationary update to the bid threshold. Mr. Schwegler stated that the district got their first update on student count and there was a reduction. He shared that there were two less sections of classes in the district, which were Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten. Mr. Schwegler noted that the healthy retirement rate contribution that was in the budget was not enough. He expressed that will have about the same impact as the loss of students. Mr. Schwegler was happy to report that last year we ended with a higher surplus than we thought we would have, which will help offset some of the losses. He addressed the future purchase of buses and that we will need to start putting that item back in the budget so that we are replacing the buses in a timely fashion.
- **Facilities and Grounds** – Mrs. Urtel shared updates on current construction which included Science labs and the pool at South Lyon High School. She noted that the turf work at South Lyon East High School's athletic fields is nearing completion. Mrs. Urtel discussed the future projects include parking lots and sidewalks, food service, CTE, media center, additional paving, and roofing work. She shared that there are some bids that are under review and letters of intent are going out for items that have long lead times. They are working on getting final bids for the adjustments to the height of the science lab tables.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Mrs. Urtel stated that they have not had a meeting since the last Board meeting. They will meet again on December 7th.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald encouraged people to reach out to the legislators to sustain or increase the level of educational funding. He shared that the list of legislators is on our District website. Mr. Archibald noted that it has an impact on legislators when they hear from student, staff and families about the importance of school funding. Mr. Archibald expressed appreciation to outgoing Mayor Dan Pelchat. He stated that Mayor Pelchat has done a wonderful job. Mr. Archibald congratulated Mayor-Elect Kennedy and he looks forward to working with him. Mr. Archibald wished everyone well during the Thanksgiving Break. He hopes that everyone has a restful time off.

REPORTS

- **South Lyon Educational Foundation** – Mr. Maguire acknowledged that Giving Tuesday is coming up soon and asked people to remember the foundation if they are looking for ways to give.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were no additional public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Retirement** – Mr. Abbate congratulated Mara Elwart, Counselor at South Lyon East High School on her retirement.
- **Donations** – Mr. Abbate thanked the companies/organizations for their donations to our schools.
 - Kiwanis Club of South Lyon for donating dictionaries to all SLCS Third Graders.
 - Superabrasives Inc. for donating \$350.00 to the South Lyon East High School Robotics Team.
 - Crescent Orthodontics for donating \$250.00 to the South Lyon East High School Robotics Team.

MEETING DATES

- December 5, 2023, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- January 16, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Organizational Meeting)*
- February 13, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- March 5, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- March 19, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- April 16, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- May 7, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- May 21, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- June 3, 2024 (Monday), *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- June 18, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Mrs. Urtel** expressed her condolences to the family of Carol Londo. Mrs. Urtel shared that she has participated in two Washington DC trips, and they were phenomenal. Congratulations to South Lyon High's performance of *Steel Magnolias* this past weekend. Mrs. Urtel said the performance was phenomenal and the students did a great job. She noted that this upcoming weekend South Lyon East is performing *The Play That Goes Wrong* and South Lyon High will be performing *It's a Wonderful Life* in December. She wished good luck to the winter sports teams. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.
- **Mr. Leftwich** wished everyone a restful and happy Thanksgiving.
- **Mr. Schwegler** congratulated the National Merit Semi-finalist. He expressed his condolences to Carol Londo's family and friends. Mr. Schwegler hoped that everyone enjoys their break.
- **Dr. Laszlo** expressed her appreciation for the collaborative spirit that has driven their discussions and decisions. She congratulated the students receiving National Merit recognition. Dr. Laszlo shared the significance of the 2024 Operating Millage Proposal renewal. Dr. Laszlo gave a shout-out to the Bartlett Robo Bears who competed over the weekend. She shared that both teams placed in the top five, which earned them a spot in the state competition.
- **Mr. Maguire** expressed his condolences to the Londo family. Mr. Maguire commented that everyone was super impressed by the National Merit students that were here tonight. He thanked the people that were involved in making these young adults so successful. Mr. Maguire welcomed Ms. Somers and congratulated Ms. Elwart. He stated that he was thankful for the entire South Lyon Community Schools. Mr. Maguire also shared his appreciation for the cooperative spirit of the Board.
- **Mr. Abbate** offered his deepest sympathy to the Londo family. He noted that the National Merit Scholars were very impressive. Mr. Abbate expressed his gratitude to the Hardy staff that were present at the meeting. He said it's been a joy to be part of the Hardy community. Mr. Abbate shared that he was very thankful to serve in his role and with all the other Board members. He thanked the community for putting their trust in them. Mr. Abbate thanked the District's Leadership Team and all South Lyon Community Schools' employees. He thanked the families and shared he was proud to work with them.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Mr. Leftwich to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary

Board of Education