

December 5, 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 December 5, 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, Ann Rimanelli

Absent: None

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

Administration Absent: Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board, administration and the audience stood for the singing of the National Anthem by the Middle School Choirs.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Toth introduced the Middle School Choirs from both Centennial and Millennium Middle Schools along with their teachers, Ms. Towns, Mr. Hathikhanavala, and Mr. Knapp. Mr. Abbate was impressed with their talent. He asked the students what their favorite part of being in the choir was and the common factor seem to be their teacher. Most of the students are planning to continue singing in High School. Mr. Archibald stated that their performance was sensational and thanked them for being there tonight. Mr. Leftwich stated that the National Anthem is very difficult piece to perform and they did a great job. Mrs. Urtel was impressed that they brought choirs together from two different schools and sounded that wonderful.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered an opportunity for public comments.

Brook Morris, SLEA Representative shared the “Good News” happening around the district.

- Nikki Keena nominated the SLHS Student Council. The Student Council made holiday cards to send to the local nursing homes.
- Jackie Cope and Colleen Crowell shared that the SLHS National Honor Society raised over \$3,000 for local families for the holidays with a bottle drive.
- Nicole Thomas, Junior Kindergarten Teacher at Kent Lake was nominated. It was noted that she sets up learning stations and ties them to real-life, making them engaging and academic. For the sensory station this month, Mrs. Thomas had her students baking holiday goodies. Mrs. Thomas gave her students a list of key words to give them ideas to create a menu.

- Lynn Hensly nominated the SLHS Baking Club. The Baking Club held a bake sale during the Parent/Teacher Conferences and sold out. The Baking Club was thankful for all the donations from the bake sale and to those parents that purchased items off their Amazon Wish List. Recently the club made dog treats for the SEL Dogs in the district, as well as cookies for their handlers.

Ms. Crystal Springer, SLCS Parent voiced her concerns about the District's budget. She stated that she attended Board meetings last year expressing her same concerns. Ms. Springer said that she wanted an explanation on why there were budget cuts last year and this year we are posting jobs. Mr. Abbate shared with the audience the purpose of the public comments. He told Ms. Springer that he would be happy to stay after the meeting and speak with her about her concerns.

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. Maguire, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

- November 2023 Prepays
- November 2023 Bond Run

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

Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

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

- *McKenna Dardini – Hardy Elementary Special Education Teacher*
- *Reagan Beaver – South Lyon High School Special Education Teacher*
- *Charlie Richter – South Lyon East High School Counselor*

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

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

Roll Call: Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes,
Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Mr. Toth reported that Michigan Compiled Law 38.1308b requires all Michigan school districts have an approved Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which was shared with the Board at the November 14, 2023 Board of Education meeting. He noted 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 in conjunction with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department have reviewed the district's EOP and are not recommending any changes or revisions. Mr. Toth stated that the Board's approval will be communicated to the Michigan Department of Education as required within 30 days of approval.

Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve the Emergency Management Plans for all schools in the District as presented.

Moved by Mrs. Rimanelli, supported by Mr. Maguire to approve the Emergency Management Plans for all schools as described.

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes,
Mr. Leftwich – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES - 2ND READING

Mr. Toth reported that these policies were brought to the Board at the November 14th meeting for information. He shared that no changes were requested. Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve these policies as presented.

- Policy 7011 (Engagement with Outside Organizations)
- Policy 8007 (Discrimination and Harassment)
- Policy 8009 (Digital Communication)

Moved by Dr. Laszlo, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the policies as presented.

Roll Call: Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes,
Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

BUS PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray stated that the District seeks to purchase two buses for the Transportation Department. The 77-passenger conventional buses would be purchased from Holland, priced at \$125,690 per bus for a total purchase price of \$251,380. Mrs. Gray shared that Bond funds are budgeted for the bus purchase. She asked the Board to approve the bus purchase as presented.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Mr. Schwegler to approve the bus purchase as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes,
Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

2020 BOND BIDS – SLHS AIR HANDLING UNITS (PRE-PURCHASE)

Mrs. Gray shared that this was reviewed with ARC Committee and the Facility Planning Committee. The committees reviewed the recommendations and approved bringing the following bid to the Board for approval. Mrs. Gray is asking the Board to approve the recommended bid as presented.

Bid Category	Contractor	Contract Amount
AHU Pre-Purchase	Thermal Netics	Base Bid: \$151,262.00

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

Roll Call: Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes,
Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

2020 BOND BIDS – MMS VERTICAL UNIT VENTILATOR (PRE-PURCHASE)

Mrs. Gray shared that this was reviewed with ARC Committee and the Facility Planning Committee. The committees reviewed the recommendations and approved bringing the following bid to the Board for approval. Mrs. Gray is asking the Board to approve the recommended bid as presented.

Bid Category	Contractor	Contract Amount
VUV Pre-Purchase	Bolhouse LLC	Base Bid: \$405,982.16

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the recommended bid as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes,
Mr. Abbate – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

2020 BOND BIDS – MMS INFRASTRUCTURE & RENOVATIONS AND CMS WINDOW RESTORATION

Mrs. Gray shared that this was reviewed with ARC Committee and the Facility Planning Committee. The committees reviewed the recommendations and approved bringing the following bids to the Board for approval. Mrs. Gray is asking the Board to approve the recommended bids as presented.

School	Bid Category	Contractor	Contract Amount
CMS/MMS	Demolition	Blue Star Demolition	\$170,650
CMS/MMS	Masonry	J&J Construction	\$182,650
CMS/MMS	General Trades	Spartan Construction	\$520,000
MMS	Mechanical	Quality Aire Systems	\$765,000
MMS	Electrical	O'Donnell Electric	\$453,000
		Total Contract	\$2,091,300

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the recommended bids as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Mr. Toth shared that the High School Robotics Team received the following donations to be used for supplies, materials, travel, and food:

- \$5,000.00 from the KLA Foundation
- \$6,000.00 from General Motors GM (Foundation)
- \$3,000.00 from Ford Motor Co. (Foundation)
- \$3,000.00 from the Department of Defense, STEM
- \$2,000.00 from Golden Refrigerant

Mr. Toth asks the Board to accept the gifts listed above in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Dr. Laszlo, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to accept the gifts listed above in accordance with Policy 7003.

Roll Call: Mrs. Rimanelli – yes, Mr. Maguire – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes, Mr. Leftwich – yes, Mrs. Urtel – yes, Mr. Schwegler – yes, Mr. Abbate – yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Mr. Toth shared that the Instructional Technology Department received computer monitors and a display stand from Pinkerton. The estimated value is \$640.00 - \$1,020.00. He asked the Board to accept the gifts listed above in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mrs. Rimanelli, supported by Mr. Maguire to accept the gifts listed above in accordance with Policy 7003.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES UPDATE FOR 2024-25

Dr. Weber gave an update to the Board Members on the Middle School Electives for the 2024-25 School Year. She shared that this item would come back to the Board in the future for course approval. Dr. Weber stated that once that happens, they would start working on the coursework and updating the units of study. The Board asked questions about the next steps that would be taken and if there would be additional resources needed to make the changes happen. Dr. Weber noted that the STEM Lab could have some possible costs associated with it.

Middle School Electives Presentation**OVERVIEW OF PLANS FOR USE OF 2023-24 31AA GRANT FUNDS**

Mrs. Engblom shared the District's Overview of Plans for Use of the 2023-24 31aa Grant Funds, which includes Mental Health and School Safety. Mrs. Engblom went into detail about what are allowable uses of the funds for the grant. She also explained how much of the funds were to be spent on mental health and what percentage of the funds were to be spent on school safety. Mr. Archibald thanked those that were involved in these decisions on how those funds are being used.

Presentation – Update on Mental Health and School Safety-Related Grant Funding**SECURITY EXPANSION PROJECT**

Mrs. Gray explained that the District has started a Security Expansion Project to address recommendations from the Secure Education. She noted that the project would include installing additional security cameras, and fob security access doors at identified locations at District buildings. Mrs. Gray shared that the funds will come from the School Safety Grant and Technology funds from the 2020 Bond. She noted that request to bid will go out around Dec. 12, 2023. Mrs. Gray expects to bring the bid results and recommendations for awards on the Safety Expansion Project to the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Chester Cox shared more information about the technology aspects of the purchases, including security cameras and fob readers at building doors.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald shared there was nothing new to report.

CITA COMMENTS

Dr. Weber shared South Lyon East High School would like to pilot AP Calculus BC. This course would start in 2024-25 School Year. Dr. Weber noted that students from South Lyon High School would be able to attend this course if they had their own transportation. She explained that we currently have students taking this course out of district either through Dual-Enrollment or as a 21f course.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative** – Mr. Leftwich thanked the legislators for the mental health funding.
- **Policy** – Mr. Abbate stated that there are still more policy changes being recommended by our law firm. Mr. Leftwich shared there will be policy changes regarding teacher laws and the evaluation system. He noted that these changes are still in the early stages.
- **Finance** – Mr. Schwegler noted that they went over the updates on mental health and school safety.
- **Facilities and Grounds** – Mrs. Urtel shared their meeting was prior to the Board meeting and they had approved the packages that were discussed earlier. She noted that the next meeting is in January and bids will be coming in for various projects.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Mrs. Urtel stated their meeting will be on Thursday.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald shared information about the Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal and Restoration that the Board approved to be placed on the February 27, 2024 ballot. He stated that this millage has a direct impact on our per pupil funding. Mr. Archibald reviewed that if it is approved there would be no increase in taxes to primary homestead owners. If it is approved it will keep the existing 18 mills levied on businesses, rental properties, and second homes and it would be for a period of ten years. He noted that it would maintain 15 million dollars starting in the fiscal year 2025 – 2026. Mr. Archibald stressed that this is not additional revenue for the District. This allows the District to receive its full per pupil funding from the State of Michigan. Mr. Archibald shared information on our per pupil funding and how this non-homestead millage renewal affects it. He stated that if anyone had any questions to please reach out to him.

REPORTS

- *South Lyon Educational Foundation* – Mr. Maguire stated there was nothing new to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Crystal Springer had questions about the information that was given on the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal. She had a question about the approval of one of the construction bids. Ms. Springer asked about the bus purchases and where the money was coming from. She noted that she liked the changes to the Middle School electives but would like a cost estimate for the changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- *Teacher Tenure Status* – Mr. Leftwich congratulated the following teachers for receiving tenure status:
 - *Kimberly Ellis*
 - *Adam Luck*
 - *Rebecca Rapp*
 - *Brian Sole*

MEETING DATES

- 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* shared that South Lyon High School had their second Fall play that was fabulous. She gave a shout out to Natalie Krause (in the audience tonight) who was in the production of *Steel Magnolia* and the student director for *It's a Wonderful Life*. She noted that Karen Nave, the director, did a great job this fall with two plays. Mrs. Urtel shared that the students, the parent volunteers, and Don Baschal, theater manager, all did a great job. She noted that the South Lyon High School weekend staff had an extraordinarily busy weekend, and they made the facilities look fantastic and welcoming. Mrs. Urtel shared that the German class is going to Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, and Switzerland over the Holiday break. She thanked Mr. Sole for organizing the trip. Mrs. Urtel noted that there will be multiple choir and band concerts coming up. She wished everyone a great holiday break.

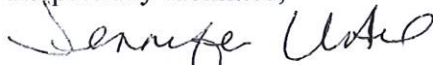
- **Mrs. Rimanelli** wished everyone a wonderful holiday break. She congratulated both high schools on their successful shows and stated that they were fantastic. Mrs. Rimanelli welcomed our new teachers. She noted that the Middle School Choirs were fantastic tonight. Mrs. Rimanelli congratulated the Baking Club. She also congratulated our tenured teachers.
- **Mr. Maguire** appreciated the hard work of the Baking Club. He shared that the music starting the meeting this evening was amazing. Mr. Maguire thanked everyone involved in updating the electives at the middle schools. He also thanked those involved in the funding for the mental health and school safety. He shared those are two incredibly important things. Mr. Maguire is also appreciative of the security expansion project. He congratulated the tenured teachers and their commitment to the district.
- **Dr. Laszlo** thanked the choir for their performance tonight and hearing the “good things” from around the district. She welcomed our new staff. Dr. Laszlo congratulated those teachers achieving tenure. She wished the Bartlett Robo Bears good luck at the state competition this weekend. Dr. Laszlo noted her appreciation to her fellow Board Members and the entire South Community Schools staff and community for their collaboration. She shared that the collaboration is vital in the educational process, so that students can excel as individuals and become contributing members of society.
- **Mr. Leftwich** thanked the Facilities Committee for all the recommendations on the motions that were passed tonight. He shared that he went to South Lyon East’s production of *The Play That Went Wrong* and said that it was hilarious. Mr. Leftwich stated that it was incredible to think that it was a high school cast and crew who put on this production. He thanked Dr. Weber and Mrs. Engblom for their reports tonight. Mr. Leftwich thanked the Pearson Elementary teachers that were present tonight. He wished everyone a restful and safe holiday break.
- **Mr. Schwegler** loved the choir’s performance. He welcomed the new teachers to the district. Mr. Schwegler congratulated the newly tenured teachers.
- **Mr. Abbate** shared that they would respond to all the inquiries from tonight’s comments through the proper channels. He wanted to address a couple of items. Mr. Abbate noted that the Finance Department has worked tirelessly to make sure that they are good stewards of the funds. He said that most of the items brought for approval tonight were purchased with Bond funds, which are used specifically for items that they promised the community that they would use them for. He shared that bond funds don’t have any impact on who is hired or staff reductions. Mr. Abbate noted that the curriculum improvements are taking place within a responsible range and won’t need additional staff. He expressed that it is a privilege and honor to be on the Board with all of the Board Members and to be in this role to serve the community. Mr. Abbate wished everyone Happy Holidays.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mrs. Rimanelli, supported by Dr. Laszlo to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary

Board of Education