

**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 October 3, 2023 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

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 introduced Jim Brennan, SLHS Principal. Mr. Brennan shared that Victory Day happened on September 16th at South Lyon High School. He introduced Jeff Henson, SLHS Football Coach. Coach Henson explained how Victory Day started ten years ago at South Lyon High School. He expressed that it is a very rewarding day for members of the Football Team, Cheer Team, Pom Team, and Band. Victory Day gives the chance for special needs students to participate in drills, activities, and refreshments with members of the SLHS Teams. Coach Henson shared that this is a reminder to people that anything is possible. He noted that two students that were participants of Victory Day are now members of the SLHS Football and Cheer Team. Mr. Henson said it's a great day for everyone that participates. He acknowledged Unilock as a sponsor of the event. Mr. Henson shared a Victory Day video with the audience. Coach Henson introduced Carrie and Amanda Hanshaw. Mrs. Hanshaw stated that she has been involved with Victory Day since the beginning. She said the interaction between the students is the best part and this carries over into the school day. Mrs. Hanshaw encouraged everyone to come to the event next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered an opportunity for public comments.

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

- Amber Daley nominated the Dolsen Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Teachers for implementing Interactive Writing with their students. She shared that the 2nd Grade Teachers have noted that the incoming learners are demonstrating the most proficient writing they've ever seen. It has created students that are enthusiastic, confident, and capable of writing.

- Greta Priestap nominated the 1st Grade Team at Hardy Elementary. She shared that the team is doing a great job at leading Interactive Writing lessons.
- Jacqueline Cherry nominated the SLEHS Activities Directors. Ms. Cherry noted that Robyn Proctor and Caitlin Myers have been doing an amazing job leading students to ensure a fabulous Homecoming Week. She said they have been busy decorating the hallways, getting ready for the pep assembly, the Homecoming Game and Dance.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Moved by Mrs. Rimanelli, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2023 Special Meeting and the September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Mr. Toth reported that open positions have required the hiring of the following staff members.

- *Teri Melchart – Early On Occupational Therapist*
- *Penny Stocks – Salem Elementary, Resource Room Teacher*

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

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

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

COUNTYWIDE ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE

Mr. Archibald explained that preliminary work is being done for a possible Countywide Enhancement Millage. He stated that the 28 districts of Oakland County are conducting a survey to gather information regarding the support of the Enhancement Millage. Mr. Archibald shared that Wayne and Macomb Counties currently have Countywide Enhancement Millages which has provided additional operating revenue for their districts. He explained what it would take to get the Enhancement Millage on the ballot. Mr. Archibald stated that the survey is being mostly funded by Oakland Schools. South Lyon's cost of the survey is approximately \$450. Mr. Abbate gave some information on how Livonia Public Schools has used the funds that they received through the Wayne County Enhancement Millage.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES – 1ST READING

Mr. Toth shared with the Board the 1st reading of the following policies.

- Policy 2001 Home Schooled Students
 - Add to the end of the existing language “The Board will attempt to accommodate students who are home schooled and have a desire to take non-essential elective classes in the school district in a manner consistent with the law. The Superintendent may develop administrative regulations as needed for the implementation of this policy. MCL 380.1561; MCL 388.1766b.”
- Policy 2007 Opioid Antagonists – summary of language added:
 - The School District will acquire and maintain at least one functioning opioid antagonist at each school.
 - The School District staff will be trained.
 - Add “In the case of a believed opioid related overdose for a student, the School District will also encourage the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to seek treatment for the student from a substance use disorder services program licensed under part 62 of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368. The School District will also call 911 when a student is believed to be having an opioid related overdose.”
- Policy 2007 Physical Examinations and Screening
 - Add to the end of the existing language “This policy is not intended to apply to physical examinations required for sports participation.”

ANNUAL BULLYING REPORT 2022-23

Mrs. Kudwa shared the Annual Bullying Report for the 2022-23 School Year. She stated that the bullying of a student is strictly prohibited in our schools. Mrs. Kudwa clarified that “bullying” means any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more School District students, either directly or indirectly, by doing any of the following:

- Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits or programs.
- Adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities by placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress.
- Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health.
- Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Mrs. Kudwa noted that the District's Board policies, administrative regulations, and student codes of conduct discourage bullying behavior and hold students accountable for high standards. Our disciplinary system is one where we set clear expectations for students, use incidents as teachable moments, and strive to help our students grow into responsible citizens. She stated that this was evident in our use of Restorative Practices, seeking to help students understand the impact of their choices and make amends to those they have hurt.

She reported that in addition, our extensive K-12 teaching of the Habits of Mind infuses the buildings with cultures where an appreciation for diversity and a respect for differences are highly valued.

Mrs. Kudwa explained that all the school buildings have social work support, and all secondary buildings have counseling staff to address the needs of students who are impacted by bullying or exhibiting bullying behavior.

She shared that at the building level, each school has the autonomy to determine the practices and anti-bullying programs that best meet the needs of that student population. Across buildings, we share best practices that have been found to be helpful in bullying prevention.

Mrs. Kudwa noted that state laws regarding bullying require yearly reports to the Board of Education regarding the number of verified incidents and the resulting consequences.

She reported that often through our investigations, we find that students or families may label incidents as “bullying” when the incidents do not meet the definition of bullying. Mrs. Kudwa explained that student conflicts are often misrepresented by one contributing party claiming bullying by the other party. Each of these instances is investigated by administration and, when necessary, Restorative Practices may be used, or disciplinary action may be taken.

Mrs. Kudwa shared that we have also found that some students fail to report incidents to the teaching staff and administration, depriving us of the opportunity to intervene early in a situation. She noted that all buildings work with students to encourage immediate reporting of suspected bullying.

Mrs. Kudwa reported that during the 2022-23 school year, there were two confirmed incidents of bullying. She stated that the incidents were addressed with the students involved and the offenders had consequences, which included meetings with the parents and administration, restorative practices sessions, detentions and when called for, suspension.

Mrs. Kudwa thanked the families in our community for their willingness to participate in Restorative Practices. She also thanked the building administrators, teaching staff, and support staff for their efforts to prevent bullying in our District and their quick and consistent responses to confirmed cases of bullying.

CONSTITUTION DAY UPDATE

Mrs. Kudwa reported that Constitution Day was celebrated on September 17th. She shared that participation of all K-12 students in an educational program on the United States Constitution is something we must assure in order to receive certain federal grants. Mrs. Kudwa explained how each level of education engaged in learning about the Constitution. She noted that at the elementary level they explored specifically the Bill of Rights. The classes at the middle schools focused on a deeper look at the Bill of Rights, as well as the Preamble to the Constitution. Mrs. Kudwa shared that high school students studied the Bill of Rights, Preamble, as well as specific Amendments of the Constitution. She thanked the staff for planning such wonderful Constitution Day events.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald stated there was nothing to report at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Legislative* – Mr. Leftwich had nothing to share except that the Federal Government was still operating.
- *Policy* – Mrs. Rimanelli stated the committee is updating Miller Johnson’s policies.

- **Finance** – Mr. Schwegler said there was nothing to report at this time and their next meeting was October 16th.
- **Facilities and Grounds** – Mrs. Urtel had nothing to report but stated that their next meeting was October 17th.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Mrs. Urtel shared that the first meeting of the year will be October 12th.

REPORTS

Mr. Maguire shared that the Social Emotional Dogs walked in the Pumpkinfest Parade with the South Lyon Education Foundation and the SLEA members. Mr. Maguire stated that the foundation is always looking for volunteers and sponsors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered a second opportunity for public comments.

Ms. Stephanie Houk addressed the Board about how her daughter was treated by another student at the high school. She didn't understand why she was not given permission to switch her to the other high school in South Lyon, therefore she decided to take her out of South Lyon Schools and she is now attending classes on-line.

MEETING DATES

- October 17, 2023, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- November 14, 2023, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- December 5, 2023, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.*
- January 16, 2024, *Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Fiscal/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

- **Mr. Schwegler** feels that the startup of the new school year has been wonderful. He gave a special shout-out to Mr. Mark their amazing bus driver.
- **Mr. Leftwich** thanked the K-12 Teachers who participated in Constitution Day. He noted that it is important to share, teach and create interest in the Constitution.
- **Mrs. Urtel** thanked the organizers and participants of Victory Day. She said that it was a meaningful and fulfilling day, which is great for the community. Mrs. Urtel noted that Fall Sports are starting to wind down, the Equestrian Team has gone through Regionals, the Soccer Team is heading into Districts, and the Cross Country Team is also doing well. Mrs. Urtel shared that it was great to see all of the SLCS representation in the Pumpkinfest Parade. She wished good luck to all the sports teams, teachers and students.

- **Dr. Laszlo** gave a big shout-out to all that were involved in Victory Day. She thanked Ms. Woodley for sharing all of the Good Things. Dr. Laszlo thanked the amazing teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication to our students. She hoped everyone has a safe Homecoming.
- **Mr. Maguire** shared that it was great to see the connection between the SLEA members and the community as he walked behind them at the Pumpkinfest Parade. He said it was inspiring to see the connections that the teachers have built with their students. Mr. Maguire thanked all the people responsible for making Victory Day happen. Mr. Maguire thanked the Policy Committee for the forward thinking on the Opioid Antagonists. He shared that in his line of work he has seen it deployed and it is highly effective and an easy way to save a life. He stated that Homecoming Season is here, and he hopes that everyone has a great time. Mr. Maguire wished good luck to the teams.
- **Mrs. Rimanelli** stated that Victory Day is such a moving event each year. She encouraged others to enjoy it next year. Mrs. Rimanelli congratulated Dolsen and Hardy Elementary for their interactive writing, it is nice to see all of the progress that the students are making. Mrs. Rimanelli reported that Pumpkinfest was like a "Celebrityfest" with all the participants. She gave a shout-out to the High School Band for competing in the Lakeland Competition, it was their first time out this season.
- **Mr. Abbate** agreed with everything that was shared by his fellow Board Members. He thanked all the staff members in the district for their efforts in getting things rolling at the beginning of the school year.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary
Board of Education