

March 19, 2024

**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 March 19, 2024 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Daniel Schwegler

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

Administration Absent: Brian Toth, Asst. Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION

Mr. Abbate introduced Mr. Troy Weidman from Reaching Higher. Mr. Weidman gave some background on Reaching Higher at South Lyon Community Schools. He shared that it started 10 years ago at South Lyon High School. It is an 8-week Leadership course that runs two hours per day. Luke and Ari, two students from the program spoke about what the class meant to them. Luke shared that it empowered him to make good decisions. Ari noted that the course gave her more confidence and taught her very valuable skills. Luke shared that he joined the DECA group and won the State competition and will be traveling to California for the National competition. He expressed that he had a decision to make as to whether he should go to California or attend a family event. He said that what he learned in Reaching Higher helped him make his decision to attend the DECA competition. Mr. Weidman explained that while students are missing their regularly scheduled classes to attend Reaching Higher, they are expected to make up the work in the other class. The students shared how Reaching Higher helps them reach goals with their other classes. Mr. Weidman encouraged the Board Members to attend the SL Reaching Higher Graduations. Mrs. Gail Joslin, former SLCS teacher and current Reaching Higher mentor/teacher spoke about how the students are chosen for the class. Mr. Weidman and the students shared an exercise that they do during class where they share their goals, which can be very intimidating. They expressed that the class helps them deal with fear of expressing ideas in front of others. Mr. Archibald and the Board Members commented on the wonderful job that the presenters did tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered an opportunity for public comments.

Katy Michalski, Oakland County's Field Representative from Elissa Slotkin's office shared information about the Congressional Arts competition for high school students that reside or attend schools in the district. She stated that the information is on Rep. Slotkin's website. Ms. Michalski reported that it can be any kind of artwork. She noted that the winners would have their artwork displayed for a year at the U.S. Capital (1st place winner), Rep. Slotkin's Washington D.C. office (2nd place winner), or Rep. Slotkin's Lansing office (3rd place winner). Ms. Michalski encouraged high school students to submit their artwork.

Ms. Michalski presented a Congressional Record to honor Dr. Samuel Holloway, a former SLCS Teacher. Ms. Michalski introduced Dr. Holloway's wife, Janet and daughter, Vicky Malcolm who were present at tonight's meeting. Dr. Holloway's story was read into the Congressional Record. Ms. Michalski shared that Dr. Holloway lived to serve others, his nation, his community, and his family. In 1963, Dr. Holloway became the first Black faculty member in the history of South Lyon Public Schools. He was also the first Black person to serve as head wrestling coach for a high school team in the state of Michigan. Dr. Holloway passed away in 2022. She presented the Board of Education with a framed copy of the Congressional Record honoring Dr. Holloway. Mr. Abbate thanked Ms. Michalski for attending tonight's meeting and presenting them with the Congressional Record honoring Dr. Holloway.

Emily Parker, SLEA Representative shared the "Good Things" happening around the district.

- *Toni Simovski* nominated the SLHS Science Olympiad Team. He shared that the team earned 3 medals at the Oakland County Regional Science Olympiad Final. Mr. Simovski noted that Nick Simovski and Eva Manevski earned 1st place medals and as well as other medals. Other members receiving medals were Sananda Sudhakar, Riley Porter, Nick Porter, and Matt Rummer. Mr. Simovski congratulated the team on a successful season.
- *SLEA Membership* thanked the Board for the approval of the \$125 reimbursement for purchasing student materials. She stated the \$125 is appreciated.
- *Jake Syraf* recognized the SLHS Geometry teachers and students who built clinometers and calculated the heights of inaccessible objects around the school using trigonometry.
- *Bill Fransee* stated that the CMS Science Olympiad Team competed in the Oakland County Regional Science Olympiad and earned several medals. Mr. Fransee explained that the competition is designed to develop student interest in science, technology, and engineering. The following students are members of the CMS Science Olympiad team: 6th Graders - Advik Alladi, Snigdha Burla, Iniya Chezhiyan, Veda Das, Snigda Karthikeyan, David Lozada, Katherine McEwen, and Kenisha Pareek. 7th Graders - Sara Fair, Aashritha Gunda, Ethan Hufnagle, Kunwoo Kang, Sofia Kang, Matthew Porinsky, and Evan Zangam. 8th Grader: Hasi Ramannagari.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

- February 2024 Prepays
- February 2024 Bond Run
- February 2024 Wires & ACH Transactions
- February 2024 Revenue Report

Moved by Dr. Laszlo, 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. Abbate – yes, Dr. Laszlo – yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES – 2ND READING

Mr. Archibald stated that the following policies were brought to the March 5, 2024 Board of Education Meeting for information and no changes were requested.

- Revisions to Policy 1001 (Reimbursement of Expenses)
- Revisions to Policy 1001 (Indemnification)
- Revisions to Policy 2003 (Education Records)
- Revisions to Policy 2005 (Distribution and Posting of Materials)
- Revisions to Policy 4005 (Whistleblower Protection Policy)
- Revisions to Policy 6006 (Substance Free Environment)
- Revisions to Policy 8002 (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Section 504)

Mr. Archibald asked the Board to approve the policies as presented.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve the policy recommendations as outlined in Item 8.

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

2020 BOND BID PACK #22 BULLENTIN 1 RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray stated that after the original bidding process for bond bid pack #22 was completed it was discovered that some of the existing piping didn't have adequate capacity for the increased hot water flow. She noted that the proposals are to modify the existing piping, demolition and reinstallation of ceiling tiles within the school. Mrs. Gray stated that the additional work is within the contingency budget for this project.

Bid Category	Contractor	Amount
Demolition	Blue Star	\$4,564.69
General Trades	Spartan Construction	\$15,158.00
Mechanical	Quality Aire Systems	\$155,042.79
	TOTAL	\$174,765.48

Mrs. Gray asked the Board to approve the change order to existing contracts as presented.

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Mrs. Rimanelli to approve the change order to the existing contracts as presented.

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

2020 BOND SLEHS CTE CLASSROOM FURNITURE PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray shared that the IDS is recommending the furniture purchases for the SLEHS CTE classroom furniture from the vendors listed below. She noted that the total cost of the furniture package, including classroom tables, seating, and storage for the CTE classrooms at SLEHS is \$74,144.21. Mrs. Gray stated that the project is being funded with bond funds.

Furniture Vendors	
NBS Commercial Interiors	\$21,825.33
Interior Environments	\$52,318.88
TOTAL	\$74,144.21

Mrs. Gray asked the Board to approve the recommended furniture purchases as presented.

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve the recommended furniture purchases as presented.

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

2020 BOND SLHS CTE CLASSROOM AND MEDIA CENTER FURNITURE PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray stated that IDS is recommending the furniture purchases for SLHS CTE classroom and SLHS media center from the vendors listed below. She shared that the total cost of the furniture, including common area furniture, office desk for the media center, classroom tables, seating, and storage for the CTE classrooms at SLHS is \$325,338.86. Mrs. Gray noted that the project is being funded with bond funds.

Furniture Vendors	
NBS Commercial Interiors	\$32,980.52
Computer Comforts, Inc.	\$30,738.12
Krueger International, INC. (KI)	\$19,564.89
Interior Environments	\$25,081.86
Interior Systems Contract Group, INC (ISCG)	\$216,973.47
TOTAL	\$325,338.86

Mrs. Gray asked the Board to approve the recommended furniture purchases as presented.

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Mr. Maguire to approve the recommended furniture purchases as presented for the SLHS CTE classroom and media center.

Dr. Laszlo asked for clarification that the total amount of the purchase is \$325,338.86. Mrs. Gray confirmed the amount.

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

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that he shared several House and Senate bills with the Board in his Friday Notes last week. He asked if there were any questions. He stated that he met yesterday with some Oakland Schools Superintendents and some legislators. Mr. Archibald noted that they stressed how much they would appreciate having the School Aid Budget prior to June 1st, so schools can plan with more actual information.

REVISIONS TO POLICIES – 1ST READING

Mr. Archibald shared with the Board recommended revisions to the following policies:

Policy 6002 (Threat Assessment) – This recommendation would change the title of the policy to *Threat Assessment and Suicide Intervention*. The recommended policy would read:

The Superintendent will develop or acquire threat assessments and suicide intervention protocols aimed at addressing situations that may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of themselves or the school community. The goal of the threat assessment and suicide intervention processes is to take appropriate preventive or corrective measures to maintain a safe school environment, protect and support potential victims, and provide assistance, as appropriate, to any student or staff member being assessed.

Policy 8001 (Artificial Intelligence) – This is a new policy and would read:

The Superintendent may develop administrative regulations governing the use of generative artificial intelligence, large language models, or other similar technology. Administrative regulations may consider data privacy, training, acceptable use, and student use of such technology.

Mr. Archibald noted that these two policies would be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

Mr. Abbate stated that the original recommendation for Policy 8001 spoke about training and real specifics. He shared that it made sense to leave the policy broad for right now with how fast things are changing.

Dr. Laszlo asked if this new policy would link back to the privacy policy. Mr. Archibald stated that he would share that with Mr. Toth.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative** – Mr. Leftwich stated that he had nothing more to add to Mr. Archibald's report in the Friday Notes.
- **Policy** – Mr. Abbate shared that they didn't meet today.
- **Finance** – Mr. Leftwich stated that they didn't meet this week.
- **Facilities and Grounds** – Mrs. Urtel noted that they haven't met since the last Board meeting.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Mrs. Urtel shared that they haven't met since the last Board meeting.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald thanked all of the mystery readers that participated in March is Reaching Month around the district. He shared that he has read at a few buildings, and it has been so enjoyable. Mr. Archibald reminded everyone that next week is Spring Break. He wished everyone a safe break and enjoy their time off.

REPORTS

- **South Lyon Educational Foundation** – Mr. Maguire shared that they are hoping to have a Grub Crawl on May 30th. He noted that the foundation is still looking for more t-shirt sponsors for the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no additional public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A donation to the high school for Capstone English, which is very much appreciated.

MEETING DATES

- 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

- **Dr. Laszlo** thanked Reaching High for talking about the leadership course, especially the students explaining what they got out of the class. She shared that the mindset skills of feeling empowered and confident are extremely valuable lessons. Dr. Laszlo thanked everyone who attended the meeting and for the community input. Dr. Laszlo expressed her gratitude to Rep. Slotkin's office for sharing the Congressional Record and information about Dr. Holloway contributions. She hoped everyone enjoys their Spring Break.
- **Mrs. Rimanelli** thanked those attending tonight's meeting. She thanked Rep. Slotkin's office for coming out and bringing Dr. Holloway's story to light. Mrs. Rimanelli noted that she thought Reaching Higher is a great program. She said it was nice to see the students verbalize what they have learned in the program. Mrs. Rimanelli congratulated all that participate in the program. Mrs. Rimanelli shared that SLHS production *Once Upon a Mattress* was funny and amazing. South Lyon East has *SpongeBob* coming up soon. She wished everyone an enjoyable Spring Break.
- **Mr. Maguire** appreciated Rep. Slotkin's office for the presentation. He thanked Dr. Holloway and his family for his contributions. Mr. Maguire was fascinated to learn the history that he started in 1963. Mr. Maguire said it was so interesting and impressive to see the young adults from Reaching Higher. He appreciated the program making them positive and confident leaders.

- **Mr. Leftwich** shared that he attended the SLHS musical *Once Upon a Mattress* and it was outstanding. He congratulated all of the staff and students that put on the production. Mrs. Leftwich thanked Ms. Michalski from Rep. Slotkin's office for attending tonight's meeting. He expressed that it was an honor to have Dr. Samuel Holloway as a teacher in South Lyon and a wrestling coach in the state of Michigan. Mr. Leftwich was happy that Dr. Holloway's family was at tonight's meeting for the recognition. He thanked Emily Parker for sharing the "good things" that are happening around the district. Mr. Leftwich spoke about several items in the Lyon Today and Den publication. He noted that Mrs. Kelly Gallagher is one of twelve leaders selected to participate in the Saginaw Valley State University Gerstacker Fellowship Program. He said he is excited to hear what Mrs. Gallagher learns from that program and what she brings back to our schools. Mr. Leftwich shared there were articles about Junior Kindergarten, the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, Alumni spotlight with Logan Burskick-Harrington and Kevin Szawala, and the Center for Active Adults.
- **Mrs. Urtel** thanked the Reaching Higher group for presenting tonight. She shared that it was phenomenal that Rep. Slotkin read Dr. Holloway's story. It was great for the District to know and to learn about. Mrs. Urtel wished the spring sports team good luck on their upcoming season. She shared that the musical *Once Upon a Mattress* was phenomenal, and the students had such a fun time with it. She recognized the entire crew that was involved in putting the musical together. She congratulated the crew, especially the 18 seniors on a job well done. Mrs. Urtel noted that SpongeBob will be at SL East High School starting April 4th. She wished everyone a great Spring Break.
- **Mr. Abbate** shared that he appreciates all of his colleagues. He echoes all the comments made tonight. Mr. Abbate thanked the students and staff for making it through this long stretch to Spring Break. He wished everyone a great Spring Break and be safe.

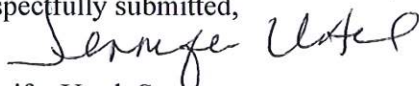
Mrs. Kudwa wanted to thank the Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Foundation for sponsoring the Higher Reaching Program for several years, as well as the South Lyon Area Youth Assistance for sponsoring the program this year.

ADJOURN

Mr. Abbate asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary

Board of Education