

**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 April 16, 2024 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 announced the recipients of the teacher of the year awards, Matthew Gasparatto (Bartlett Elementary), Sara Gage (Millennium Middle School), and Sarah Liebau (South Lyon East High School). Mr. Toth gave a shout out to Feldman Chevrolet who supplied Mr. Gasparatto with a new two-year car lease.

- *Matthew Gasparatto* – Angie Ugo and Nichole Abermanis, teachers at Bartlett Elementary shared what an asset Mr. Gasparatto is to their building. They stated that he embodies the very essence of dedication, compassion and selflessness. Mrs. Ugo expressed that Mr. Gasparatto's influence is felt by leading their student leadership team and supporting Bartlett's initiatives. Ms. Abermanis stated that Matt's support of his colleagues and students is truly unparalleled. She shared that he blends the roles of educator and mentor, creating a nurturing environment where students feel valued and supported. Ms. Abermanis noted that Mr. Gasparatto is a shining example of what it means to lead with empathy, integrity, and grace.
- *Sara Gage* – Kelly Gallagher, Principal at Millennium Middle School shared testimonies from others about Sara. One of Sara's colleagues stated that Sara approaches each endeavor with a clear sense of why, always striving to build a stronger community and what's best for our students. Mrs. Gallagher noted that a parent in the community shared that two of her children have been blessed to have Mrs. Gage as a teacher. The parent explained that Mrs. Gage not only helped her daughter with math, but she built up the way that her daughter saw and perceived herself as a mathematician. Mrs. Gallagher read a testimony from one of Mrs. Gage's students. The student stated that their transition into middle school was made much easier because of Mrs. Gage's personality and open arms. The student shared that Mrs. Gage puts her heart into everything. Mrs. Gallagher shared with the audience that Mrs. Gage always thinks of a challenge as an opportunity. Mrs. Gallagher gave examples of how Mrs. Gage has reacted positively to certain situations.

- *Sarah Liebau* – Karen Fisher, Principal at SL East High School noted that since Sarah was hired, she has shown the work of a dedicated and masterful teacher. Mrs. Fisher knew when she hired Sarah that she would be a leader and a positive force in their building. Mrs. Fisher stated that Mrs. Liebau is part of a co-taught classroom in which she has created an inclusive environment. Mrs. Liebau has researched and implemented inclusive strategies in her classroom, as well as peer-to-peer feedback and student discovery learning. Mrs. Liebau is also part of SL East's Instructional Rounds Team where she collaborates with administrators and teachers. Mrs. Fisher shared that Mrs. Liebau is dedicated to life-long learning, as well as mentoring and supporting other people to be better teachers. Mrs. Fisher stated that Sarah understands what it means to build relationships with her students. Mrs. Liebau supports and helps her colleagues as well, such as jumping in at the last minute to oversee the Homecoming Dance. Mrs. Fisher shared that she appreciates everything that Mrs. Liebau does. Mrs. Fisher shared statements from a colleague on how compassionate and humble Sarah is. A parent stated how Mrs. Liebau is driven, organized and develops great relationships with her students, while consistently going above and beyond. One of Mrs. Liebau students shared that even though they were nervous about starting 9th grade they could tell from the first day that Mrs. Liebau's class was going to be one of the best on their schedule. This student said Mrs. Liebau is very easy to talk to and makes her students feel comfortable. Lastly, Mrs. Fisher said that Mrs. Liebau truly embodies what it means to be EAST.

Some of the Board Members along with Mr. Archibald expressed their congratulations to the teachers that were recognized tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Abbate offered an opportunity for public comments.

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

- *Jaqueline Cherry* nominated Trumaine Ferguson, advisor for South Lyon's DECA Chapter. This is their second year and 47 students performed very well at the State Career and Development Conference in Detroit. During the Grand Awards Session 17 students were recognized as finalists and 10 students become State Champions receiving the coveted DECA Glass Award. Those students qualified to compete at the International Career and Development Conference in California. Mrs. Cherry shared that Trumaine has done a great job of leading students and it shows by the growth of the program. She said they are lucky to have Trumaine teaching at East.
- *Brook Morris* nominated Keith Niedbala and the Pearson Staff. Mr. Niedbala organized the annual Pearson Kickball Tournament for 4th & 5th graders. Mr. Niedbala handled all permission forms, t-shirt orders, setting up teams, and served as a referee. Several Pearson staff members volunteered to help supervise and coach teams. Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Niedbala and the Pearson staff for making this annual event and one of the most popular activities at the Pearson.
- *Melissa Robinson* shared the news of Salem's 16th Annual Family Literacy Night. The theme was Lights, Camera...READ in honor of Salem's 60th Birthday. The students were able to create their own Oscar Awards, color their favorite movie poster, play literacy games and Hollywood Bingo, participate in a book walk, and enjoy popcorn. Mrs. Robinson thanked all of the Salem staff and the East NHS Members who volunteered to run stations.
- *Greta Priestap* nominated Traci Milton who planned their 1st grade field trip to the Museum of Natural History. Ms. Priestap stated that it was a fantastic trip and the students loved it. Ms. Priestap shared that Traci had taken so much of her own time to organize the field trip and she deserves recognition for all she does as a teacher and colleague.

- *Darel Middaugh* shared that Adhvaith Suresh, a Junior at SL East was selected to sing in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir. The final concert was on Jan. 27, 2024 at the DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids. This is Adhvaith's second year qualifying for the All-State Honors Choir. Congratulations to Adhvaith.

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 carried 6 - 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the revised minutes from the March 5, 2024 Board of Education Regular Meeting and the minutes from the March 19, 2024 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

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

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

President Abbate asked the Board to approve the Open and Closed minutes from the April 9, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Maguire, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve both sets of minutes.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

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

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

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

REVISIONS TO POLICIES – 2ND READING

Mr. Toth stated that the following policies were brought to the March 19, 2024 Board of Education Meeting for information and no changes were requested.

- Revisions to Policy 6002 (Threat Assessment)
- Revisions to Policy 8001 (Artificial Intelligence)

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

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve Policies 6002 and 8001 as presented.

Dr. Laszlo had a question about Policy 6002. She shared that the wording “themselves” in the first sentence grammatically referred to the Superintendent. She asked if this was the intended meaning. Mr. Toth suggested that it can be brought it back to the Policy Team for a possible revision.

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler – no, Mr. Maguire – no, Mr. Leftwich – no,
Mrs. Urtel – no, Dr. Laszlo – no, Mr. Abbate – no. Motion lost 6 – 0.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to approve Policy 8001 recommendations as presented.

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

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Dr. Laszlo to refer Policy 6002 back to the Policy Committee.

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

MAINTENANCE VEHICLE PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray reported that the District seeks to purchase a new vehicle for the Maintenance and Operations Department. The total quote of \$57,113 is for a 2023 Ford F-250 extended cab truck from Gorno Ford. The truck includes 4-wheel drive, a trailer tow package, and a snowplow prep package. Mrs. Gray shared that the purchase would allow the Maintenance and Operations Department to help with snow removal in the district, and transport supplies between buildings. The truck will eventually be used by the Grounds Department. Mrs. Gray noted that pricing from the vendor was through the State of Michigan MiDeal contract. This purchase exceeds the bid threshold, so it is required by the State of Michigan to be approved by the Board. Mrs. Gray reported that the District has budgeted funds for this purchase in the Capital Projects Fund.

Mrs. Gray asked the Board to approve the recommended purchase as presented.

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Mrs. Urtel to approve the recommended purchase as presented.

Mr. Rich Welch, Director of Facilities and Operations answered questions about the district’s current vehicle situation.

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

FOOD SERVICE COMBI OVEN PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray shared that the District seeks to purchase combi ovens for the Food Service Department. She noted that three quotes were obtained, and Stafford Smith quoted the lowest price. Mrs. Gray reported that the quote from Stafford Smith totaled \$314,614.89. Mrs. Gray noted the following information: the quote includes eight single combi ovens and three double combi ovens, pricing includes delivery and certified installation, and the estimated delivery date is 6-8 weeks. Mrs. Gray reported that this purchase was part of the Food Service Excess Fund Balance Spend Down plan, which was approved by MDE last year and is required to be spent by 6/30/2024. She shared that pricing is through the Sourcewell contract. This purchase exceeds the bid threshold and is required by the State of Michigan to be approved by the Board. Mrs. Gray indicated that the District has budgeted funds for this purchase in the Food Service Fund.

Mrs. Gray asked the Board to approve the recommended purchase as presented.

Moved by Mrs. Urtel, supported by Mr. Maguire to approve the recommended purchase as presented.

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

2020 BOND BID PACK #9 CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Gray reported that the District originally chose to eliminate some of the acoustic wall panels with the pool project. It was later decided to add them back into the project due to the beneficial purpose and functionality that the panels add to the pool project. This will add an additional \$50,000 to the Clark Contracting contract. Mrs. Gray shared that the additional panels have been included in shop drawing reviews and have been approved by the ARC and FPC committees. She stated that due to the dollar amount involved in the change order, Board approval is requested. The District has budgeted Bond Funds for this project.

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

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

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

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that we are waiting on the Senate and the House to see what their budget recommendations are for the 2024-25 School year. He shared some items that are happening in legislation right now are mandatory kindergarten, safety legislation, and dyslexia screening.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

Mrs. Kudwa shared that the Federal legislation that provides districts with Federal ARP or ESSER Grant Funds require districts to review and present this plan every six months for the full expenditure period of the grant. She noted that the areas addressed in the plan are explicitly required by the legislature. Mrs. Kudwa reported that the only difference between this plan and the one presented in October is that the date at the top has changed to April. She stated that this plan along with all previous versions of the plan are posted to the Transparency page on the District's website. The plan does not require Board approval, Mrs. Kudwa shared it for informational purposes only.

UPDATED SECONDARY DRESS CODE

Mrs. Kudwa shared the process of updating the secondary dress code. The committee reviewed feedback from the focus groups. They also studied models from other districts. Mrs. Kudwa stated that they determined that our dress code should have an opening purpose statement, a short list of written guidance on what is allowable or not allowed, as well as guidelines for staff and administrators on how to handle dress code violations. She shared that model language was drafted by subgroups of the committee and then revised by the group. The committee shared final recommendations with the Board. This item will return on the May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting for a vote. She thanked everyone that was involved in the committees for their time and efforts. Board Members thanked Mrs. Kudwa, Dr. Weber and the committee for all of the efforts that they put into this topic. They feel that the committee did a great job.

2024 SUMMER TAX COLLECTION FEES

Mrs. Gray reviewed the topic of the 2024 Summer Tax Collection fees. She stated that the Board has approved the summer tax collection resolution since 1994. Mrs. Gray reported that the District will request taxing units to collect property taxes in the summer as opposed to the winter. This will allow the district to avoid or minimize future cash flow or state aid borrowing. This item will be brought to the May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting for a vote.

2024-25 OAKLAND SCHOOLS ISD PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Mrs. Gray reported on the 2024-25 Oakland Schools ISD Proposed General Fund Budget. She shared this information with the Finance Committee on April 15, 2024. Mrs. Gray stated that this item will be brought to the May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting for a vote. She explained that the Board shall adopt a resolution and email a copy of resolution to Oakland Schools no later than June 1, 2024. Mrs. Gray gave an overview of Oakland Schools General Fund Budget. Mr. Leftwich, Board Designee for Oakland Schools asked the Board Members to let him know if anyone had any questions for him to take to the budget review meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Legislative* – Mr. Leftwich shared there was nothing more to report.
- *Policy* – Mr. Abbate shared that they didn't meet today.
- *Finance* – Mr. Schwegler reported that the committee discussed the 2024-25 Oakland Schools Proposed General Fund Budget, budget assumptions, and the projected student count for next year. He also shared that there will be two additional JK classes for the 2024-25 school year.
- *Facilities and Grounds* – Mrs. Urtel stated that work is continuing with the pool addition at South Lyon High. She also noted that HVAC and roofing projects are starting around the district and will continue throughout the summer. Mrs. Urtel indicated that they are starting to talk about projects that will get on the docket and design for next year.
- *Curriculum & Communications* – Mrs. Urtel stated that they discussed the Dress Code and the Return to In-Person Instruction.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald shared that he attended the South Lyon High School Band and Winter Guard Performance. He said it was a very unique and enjoyable performance. He also attended SpongeBob the Musical at South Lyon East. He shared that it was very entertaining.

REPORTS

- *South Lyon Educational Foundation* – There was nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no additional public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Abbate shared that they are very appreciative of the donations made by the community.

MEETING DATES

- 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** congratulated all the Teachers of the Year recipients. He noted that the eclipse glasses were greatly appreciated. Mr. Schwegler wished all of the spring sports teams good luck.
- **Mrs. Urtel** congratulated all the Teachers of the Year. She shared that she attended SpongeBob the Musical at South Lyon East, and it was very fun and cute. Mrs. Urtel stated that it looked like the kids were having a great time.
- **Mr. Leftwich** also attended the SpongeBob performance. He shared that the cast did such a good job. Mr. Leftwich added that it was creative and so much fun to watch. He expressed that the students and adults did a job well done.
- **Dr. Laszlo** congratulated the Teachers of the Year. She thanked them for what they do for our students and the district. Dr. Laszlo thanked Mrs. Woodley for coming tonight to share the good things around the district. Dr. Laszlo reported that Bartlett's 4th & 5th grade Music Concert is May 3rd at SL East.
- **Mr. Maguire** also congratulated the Teachers of the Year. Mr. Maguire noted that is such an honor for these recipients to be chosen from such an amazing group of teachers. He attended the musical SpongeBob and was quite impressed by the production. Mr. Maguire wished good luck to the spring sports teams and academics that are taking place right now.
- **Mr. Abbate** congratulated the recipients of the Teacher of the Year Awards. He shared that getting a car is an extra bonus. Mr. Abbate noted that this is a beloved group of teachers that received the awards this year.

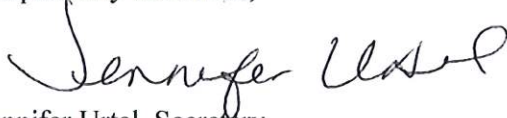
ADJOURN

Mr. Abbate asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Mr. Maguire to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary

Board of Education