

MAY 3, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Dashner called the May 3, 2022 study session to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Abbate, Craig Dashner, Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce, Eric Kennedy, Martin Leftwich,
Dan Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel

Absent: None

Administration/Others Present: Steven Archibald, Superintendent
Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Supt. Curriculum and Communications

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered an opportunity for public comments. There were no comments.

VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM (VLP)

Mr. Archibald provided information relative to the VLP Program. He explained that there is a limited interest in the VLP program for next school year. The total cost per student was \$5,776. He explained that when you look at total cost including staffing, stipends, courses paid for etc., it is not cost effective for the district to continue to run a program we do not have more than five kids in any one grade who expressed an interest. The harsh reality is if someone wants to enroll in a virtual program, they will find it. He indicated he was contacted by Dr. Matthews from Novi. They have a program with about 400 kids in it right now. They are expecting some kids to come back, but for the most part because of their community they are expecting a large number to continue. They are trying to partner with two or three districts (South Lyon, West Bloomfield and Bedford Public Schools) to help fill in some spots. It would work with a cooperative agreement, and they would establish a price for us. From what he can tell from the pay scale they have given us so far; it would be under \$4,000 per child. There may be some tech fees depending on what we would coordinate there. Mr. Archibald noted that the pieces are attractive, we retain these students as SLCS students. When they leave the virtual program, they can return to South Lyon and can participate in our activities. He noted that it is important that the district works to keep these kids connected to the school district. Novi has no interest in participating in Section 105 which allows neighboring districts to go there under School of Choice and become Novi students. He indicated that Huron Valley would take these kids as they participate in Section 105C if they are intent on running a virtual program. Novi is an attractive partner. They have a quality of program.

In a slide presentation, Ms. Kudwa provided the Board with additional information. She stated that in February, current VLP families were surveyed regarding their plans for next year. The response rates were between 40–92% per grade. Most families were planning to have their children return to in-person learning or were undecided. A very small number per grade (5 or less) were planning to seek out a full-time virtual option even if our district did not offer VLP. She let our community know that we would not be continuing with a separate VLP program for next year as demand was too low to justify doing so. She indicated that 21f rules will allow us to continue offering a full virtual program for secondary students through vendors like Michigan Virtual, if a family desires. We also still have access to VLAC through Oakland Schools for elementary students. Because of these options, they did communicate to current VLP families that if they wanted help connecting to a fully virtual program next year, we would be able to make that connection.

Leadership in Novi Community Schools reached out to begin discussions on a possible Intergovernmental Agreement with our district as they are planning to continue their virtual K-4 school as well as 5-12 courses. Administrators from our team have been meeting with Novi staff to better understand what is being offered for students through the Novi program and how the IGA would operate.

Important considerations are that students would remain a SLCS student, similar to our agreement with Livingston regarding programs like Fire Cadet, EMT and Aviation. We would be responsible for Special Ed testing and services, pupil accounting, state and federal testing and extracurricular activities and events. Students would also have an SLCS mentor.

Ms. Kudwa indicated that Novi is not a district that is open to 105/105C school of choice. If our students enroll in Novi's virtual program through us, Novi would not allow them to join their in-person schools later on.

Ms. Kudwa reported that South Lyon is planning to have our Pupil Accounting Department meet with our auditors and the Novi team to ensure we are comfortable with Novi's record keeping and student responsibilities.

She asked our administrators to send us any questions they may have about how this agreement would function. We would need some local systems put in place if we were to move forward regarding things like testing, athletics and media center materials.

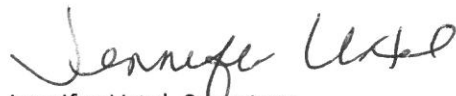
Ms. Kudwa added that if we wish to proceed, this agreement will need to come for information on May 17 and approval on June 6. She asked the Board to confirm if they were able to attend a 6 p.m. Study Session on Tuesday May 3 prior to the regular board meeting.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Dashner to adjourn the study session at 6:48 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary
Board of Education