

AUGUST 17, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT #63-240 COUNTIES OF
OAKLAND, LIVINGSTON, AND WASHTENAW
HELD IN SOUTH LYON CITY & SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dashner called the August 17, 2021 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Administration Present: Mr. Steve Archibald, Superintendent, Ms. Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brian Toth, Asst. Superintendent, Ms. Stacy Witt, Asst. Superintendent

Administration Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board, administration and the audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Molly, Kara and Alice Hamill. They are the daughters of our new assistant principal, Matt Hamill, at South Lyon East High School.

Mr. Dashner announced that Public Comments would be moved later on the agenda due to the new hires.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Dashner asked the Board to approve the agenda as presented, unless they had any additions or deletions.

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the following minutes:

- July 20, 2021 – Fiscal Organizational/Regular Meeting

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the following bills:

- July 2021 Wires & ACH Transactions
- July 2021 Revenue Report
- August 2021 Bond Run

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes,
Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes. **Motion carries 7 – 0.**

RECOMMENDATION FOR HIRE

Mr. Toth stated that the resignation of Cody Rudolph as the assistant principal of SLEHS in June created a vacancy for an assistant principal. The committee interviewed select candidates and the District Administrative Team is recommending Mr. Matt Hamill as the next assistant principal at South Lyon East High School. He asked the Board to approve the hiring of Matt Hamill as the assistant principal at South Lyon East High School effective August 18, 2021 as presented.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Ms. Urtel to approve the hiring of Matt Hamill as the Assistant Principal at South Lyon East High School effective August 18, 2021 as presented.

Roll Call: Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Mr. Toth indicated that resignations and retirements required the hiring of the following instructional staff for the 2021-22 school year. He provided the Board with a quick background summary of each teacher.

- *Lauren Corsi – CI Teacher (SLHS)*
- *Amy Dawson - Counselor (SLEHS)*
- *Cheyenne Diadiun - Science (SLEHS)*
- *Anna Fillar – English (SLHS)*
- *Amber Fontana – Special Education (ECC)*
- *Nicole Fuerstnau – Social Worker (Bartlett/Brummer/ECC)*
- *Grace Hoffman – Math (SLEHS)*
- *Madison Kelly – Counselor (MMS)*
- *Katie Krajewski-Kidd – Social Worker (Pearson/Kent Lake)*
- *Alison Marchbanks – Art (CMS)*
- *Alec Ockaskis – Band (SLHS & CMS)*
- *Jacob Topp – Social Studies (SLEHS)*

He asked the Board to approve the hiring of the teachers listed above effective August 18, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the hiring of the teachers listed above effective August 18, 2021 as presented. Mr. Dashner welcomed the new teachers.

Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

COURSE CATALOGS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2021-22

Ms. Kudwa informed the Board that updated Pupil Accounting guidance requires that Michigan districts maintain a list of individual courses that have received Board approval, and the district must be able to provide those approval dates. The District brings each new course for Board approval as it is adopted. In an effort to streamline our documentation for audit purposes, the course catalogs for all four secondary schools are being brought for information and approval. New to the course descriptions is a statement indicating whether the course may be offered as a Virtual Learning Pathway course. The course catalogs will be brought for approval on an annual basis under this new guidance. Ms. Kudwa asked the Board to approve the proposed secondary course catalogs for the 2021-22 school year as presented.

COURSE CATALOGS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2021-22 CONTINUED

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the proposed secondary course catalogs for the 2021-22 school year as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

OCSBA MEMBER DISTRICT BALLOT – 2021 RESOLUTIONS VOTE

President Dashner explained to the Board that the OCSBA Governmental Relations Committee (GRC) establishes Legislative Priorities annually for the current legislative session. The Resolutions and Bylaws Committee then reviews the adopted legislative priorities and drafts resolutions based on those legislative priorities. Once reviewed by the Board of Directors, the proposed resolutions are presented to their member districts for consideration. Resolutions that are approved by at least nineteen (19) Member School Districts shall be the official position of the Association as interpreted and pursued by its Board of Directors. Members of the SLCS Board of Education have been provided with the OCSBA 2021 Resolutions for their review and consideration. The administration is recommending approval of the 2021 Resolutions as presented.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Ms. Urtel to approve the 2021 Resolutions as presented.

Roll Call: Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

OCSBA MEMBER DISTRICT BALLOT – PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BYLAWS

President Dashner explained to the Board that the Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) Resolutions and Bylaws Committee reviews and recommends amendments to the Association's bylaws annually. The OCSBA has reviewed the proposed changes and recommends approval of all bylaws amendments as presented. Members of the SLCS Board of Education have been provided with the recommended revisions to the OCSBA Bylaws for their review and consideration. The administration is recommending approval of the proposed changes as presented.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner addressed the community stating that the Board wants to hear from each person and will stay as long as they need to in order to hear what the community has to say. In order for the Board to do that, he asked everyone to be respectful of each other's opinions and views, the Board, staff and their specified time limits. The Board strives to conduct their meetings in a professional manner. Mr. Dashner reminded everyone that they are speaking publicly and are being streamed and recorded. The Board has put their trust in the community that they will remain respectful and allow others to speak without audience comments or interruptions. Speak to your cause and not each other. Anyone who is speaking needs to fill out a yellow card. He asked each person to introduce themselves when they step up to the microphone, and they will have three minutes to make their comments.

- **Todd Slisher** spoke to our COVID policy and in-person and virtual options. He indicated that our policy leaves out indoor universal masking recommendations for all schools that come from the CDC, American Assoc. of Pediatrics and the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services. He asked the Board to show some courage and apply the sciences and change our policy to require universal masking for all students, staff and visitors.
- **Valerie Harrison** also spoke to our COVID policy noting that the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services all endorse universal masking recommendations. She did not feel that the district's current strategies that they are recommending support our district's mission statement. She asked the Board to change their policies.
- **Joe Cusumano** offered his support for a full 5-day face to face environment with optional masking. He indicated that 189+ families in six days were willing to sign a letter to administration supporting the district's Return to School plan for this fall.
- **Carmen McAlister** suggested the Board adopt a multi-stage plan as the number of new cases has increased in Oakland County.
- **Stephanie Petsch** shared her support for the Board's current back to school plan with masks being optional. Leave the choice to the parents.
- **Geno Montes** spoke to the Board regarding masks. He would like to see the science that proves that wearing masks works. Give parents their choice.
- **Sue Young** stated she is an advocate for people who want the choice to wear/not wear masks. Don't deny her right to choose not to mask or vaccinate. Options are available. The policy now is a compromise. Great choice for kids.
- **Chris Compo** stated that she was at the meeting to advocate for choices. She supports the superintendent's current return to school plan. Don't mask our kids if it is not mandated. It is currently a recommendation.
- **Dan Argentati** thanked the Board for their statement that masks are optional. It is a great way to start off the year. He reminded the Board that masks are not a vaccine and are not a cure all.
- **Erin Owens** spoke to the Board regarding masking. She stated that wearing a mask in the elementary schools is difficult. She is grateful that masking is optional.
- **Teanna Liess** shared her support for the current plan. She stated that everyone needs to develop antibodies. Keep our kids healthy and don't impose masks.
- **Loren Girardot** stated that she is looking for freedom and choice. Let the parents decide for their children.
- **Zachary McMahan, MMS student**, stated that wearing a mask last year was very hard for him. He would like to have the option to wear/not wear a mask this year.

- **Kim Argentati** thanked the Board for the mask option this year. She is asking for choice. Parents are the best advocates for their children.
- **Samantha Brown** has elementary and middle school children. She indicated that her kids were excited that they are being given the option to wear or not wear a mask. She thanked the Board for letting the parents have the option.
- **Carrie Bristol** thanked the Board for giving the choice whether or not to wear a mask. The option/choice is enormous for the kids. She thanked the Board and hoped they keep it as a choice.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that there was nothing to report.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following board committee reports:

- **Legislative** – Mr. Leftwich did not have anything new to share with the Board.
- **Policy** – Mr. Abbate stated their first meeting is scheduled in September.
- **Finance** – Mr. Schwegler indicated that the meeting was canceled due to no new information.
- **Facilities & Grounds** – Ms. Urtel reported that they had a meeting with an update on the projects that are coming up, happening and about to move forward. Pictures of the EHS football field are posted on social media. They are also working on multiple playgrounds around the district. We have multiple projects in the schematic design phase with lighting upgrades throughout the district, Early Childhood Center addition and Bartlett Elementary addition. There are some new projects that will be starting this fall. Follow social media for further updates.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – They have not yet had a meeting this year.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald stated that he did not have anything to add.

REPORTS

- **South Lyon Educational Foundation** – The kindergarten welcome bags are ready and will be going out to all of our incoming kindergartners. She noted that we have a significant number this year. They will be passed out at the kindergarten welcome event. The Foundation will be at some of the upcoming movie nights that are hosted by South Lyon Recreation Department. They are starting to plan for their “Boo” bowling event that will occur on October 10. They will be looking for sponsors. She gave a huge thank you for everyone’s support.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following correspondence:

- Resignations
 - *Amanda Berman*
 - *Leah Black*
 - *Ashley Delatorre*
 - *Deborah Murray*
 - *Katey White*
 - *Eric Williams*

MEETING DATES

Mr. Dashner noted the following meeting dates.

- September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 5, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 19, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- December 7, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- January 18, 2022, (Tuesday) Organizational/Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- February 8, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 1, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 15, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- April 19, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 3, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 17, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 6, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 21, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered a second opportunity for public comments. There were no comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Mr. Leftwich** did not have any comments this evening.
- **Ms. Junkulis-Pierce** thanked everyone who came out to voice their position on the back-to-school plan pertaining to masking. She noted that the Board reads all the emails that are sent to them. She gave a special thank you to Zachary for sharing his comments. She added that parents have a right to choose for their family. She also congratulated Mr. Hamill as our new assistant principal and thanked all the new hires.
- **Mr. Schwegler** thanked the audience for being respectful of opposing viewpoints. The Board wants to do what is best for kids. He stated that Mr. Archibald did a fantastic job last winter getting actual data for our schools' mitigation efforts this year. Changes will be made. He congratulated all the staff who are joining South Lyon Community Schools.
- **Mr. Abbate** congratulated the new hires, assistant principal and teaching staff. He thanked the community who came to the meeting and spoke eloquently. He added that it is great to see a peaceful dialogue in an open forum. He also thanked the cabinet team, Mr. Archibald and Mr. Dashner, who speaks formally for the Board, for all the time that was put in to responding to the community.
- **Ms. Urtel** congratulated the new assistant principal at EHS and also the new hires that we have this week. She also thanked everyone who came out, and those received by the Board through emails. She also wished everyone a great start of school and to enjoy the rest of the summer.

- **Mr. Kennedy** is ready for the kids to go back to school. He welcomed Mr. Hamill and all the new staff. He thanked the community for not just hearing each other and the Board, but for offering their input. The Board is thankful for their diligence and persistence.
- **Mr. Dashner** thanked Zachary for standing up to speak. It is great to hear from students. He welcomed Mr. Hamill and all the new teachers including Coach Topp who stood up and then left to get back to practice. He thanked the parents and the community for their messages to the Board. The Board will get to all of them with a response. He added that the emails that they receive are held with the same regard as public comments. He also thanked everyone who spoke this evening and attended the meeting for being respectful. He appreciated the professional nature that was maintained. He also stated that the CDC recommends masking in public places in areas with high transmission rates which includes Oakland County. Their recommendation is anyone who is vaccinated or unvaccinated *should* wear a mask in indoor spaces. The Board will emulate behavior that they want our students to exhibit in the classroom. Without it being a requirement, it makes sense to allow choice for families, but that choice is going to depend on conditions moving forward. He noted that the Oakland County Health Department still has not issued guidance yet. He doesn't expect them to issue a public health order which would carry the weight of a mandate, but it is possible. If it changes, the district plan will be just as fluid as it was last year. If changes need to be made, Superintendent Archibald will be monitoring our local data, our district cases that are going on in the school and will make changes as necessary to make sure that we are prioritizing education and safety. He thanked administration for working hard getting ready for the school year and to Mr. Toth for his hiring spree. He wished him luck in continuing it. He added that there a lot of positions open for bus drivers, custodians and food service workers as well. Applications are available on the district website. He then wished everyone a good night and enjoy the first day of school.

ADJOURN

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary
Board of Education