

**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 December 7, 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.

STATEMENT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CRAIG DASHNER

President Dashner made a brief statement acknowledging the horrific events that occurred at Oxford High School last week. He indicated that there is nothing he could say that hasn't already been said many times over by many other people. Instead, he simply said that our hearts break for the students, the families, school staff and the community to the tragedies that they have endured and the impacts it will have on them for a long time. He then shared a moment of silence to honor the victims.

He also added that the Board and Administration are looking inward in our district at policies and procedures. They are also working with our School Resource Officers, along with the South Lyon Police Department to have an increased presence around our schools. Our counselors and social workers are looking for students that may be struggling. Our staff are on a heightened level of awareness, and we are encouraging our students and community to report concerns to allow for intervention and investigation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered an opportunity for public comments. The following comments were made.

- **David Corvino** addressed the Board regarding the mask mandate and the schools. He felt parents should have the choice whether or not their children should wear a mask in school. He also mentioned that our district is staying silent and should be voicing our opinion to Oakland County on mask mandates.
- **Miriam Corvino** shared her comments regarding the Oakland County Health Department issuing a mask mandate on our children. She felt last month that the Board decided to be silent on this issue. She asked the Board to demand that the Oakland County Health Division be transparent with their goal posts. When can we take the masks off?

- **Linda Bullard** spoke regarding an August 24 meeting where Oakland County Health officers ordered the school referencing a Public Health Code. She asked what Michigan compiled law or MCL that they are using is giving them that authority. She shared information regarding masks, testing, quarantining and social distancing. The Health Department is violating the constitution of the United States and of the State of Michigan. She stated that the Board is breaking Michigan and Federal law and will be held accountable.
- **Jim Davis** agreed with the residents' outcry against the mask mandate. He shared his concern and asked residents to watch out for the introduction of Critical Race Theory disguised as literature in the promotion of gender identity issues in the classrooms. He encouraged parents to look at textbooks and listen to topics in classroom discussions. He asked the Board's position on these issues.
- **Gino Montes** shared that he felt masks are where the South Lyon agenda sits. He stated that masks don't protect anyone from a virus. Masks would need to be changed every 20 minutes. He believes this is all a political agenda. Kids play outside at home without a mask. They should be able to do the same thing in school.
- **Tammy Freeman** stated that masks are not helping the kids. While at school her son texted her that he could not breathe. His trusted teacher said that he could not pull the mask down to breathe. She asked the Board to stand up for the kids.
- **Matt Howton** questioned why our students have to mask up in school when everywhere else they go, they do not have to wear a mask. He also questioned administration whether the district lawyers they use were MEA lawyers or constitutional lawyers.
- **Judy Keeling**, grandparent of three children in the SLCS, thanked the Board for taking care of our children by requiring the wearing of masks in school.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Dashner asked the Board to approve the November 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Urtel to approve the November 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

- *December 2021 Bond Bills*

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

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Mr. Toth stated that resignations necessitated the hiring of the following instructional staff.

- *Alec Grinage – Music at Hardy Elementary (11.29.21)*
- *Jessica Kidwell – Special Education at SLEHS (12.13.21)*

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Abbate to approve the hiring of Mr. Grinage and Ms. Kidwell as presented.

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

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

Mr. Toth explained that MCL 380.1308b (2018 PA 436) requires that all Michigan school districts have an approved Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The original plan for SLCS was approved by the Board of Education on December 2, 2019. Subsequently, the EOP must be approved by the Board of Education and shall be reviewed in conjunction with law enforcement at least every two years thereafter. Our Security Administration Team (SAT), in conjunction with the Oakland County School Resource Officers have reviewed and amended our plan as necessary. An overview of the revisions to the plan was shared with the Board at the November 9, 2021 meeting. Board approval of the SLCS EOP will be communicated to the Michigan Department of Education as required within 30 days of approval. Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve the Emergency Operations Plans for all schools in the District as presented.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the Emergency Operations Plans for all schools in the District as presented.

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

2002 SUMMER TAX COLLECTION RESOLUTION

Ms. Witt explained to the Board that this resolution must be adopted annually in order to continue with 100% summer tax collection. This item was presented at the November 9, 2021 board meeting. She asked the Board to approve the 2022 Summer Tax Resolution as presented.

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the 2022 Summer Tax Resolution as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (MESPA)

Mr. Toth stated that the origins of this negotiation began several months ago when MESPA leadership and the District discussed the current employment market. He noted that he has a tentative agreement that has been ratified by the Membership. The contract has a four-year term ending June 30, 2026. He asked the Board to approve the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.

Moved by Ms. Urtel, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented.

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

BOND 2020 – ADMINISTRATION & ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS BID APPROVAL

Ms. Witt informed the Board that this agenda item was presented to the Facility Planning Committee on November 30, 2021 and was approved to go to the Board for approval on December 7, 2021. She asked the Board to award the bid to the following contracts as presented. She noted that references were checked, and everything is in order.

- *General Trades* – E & L Construction in the amount of \$444,000.
- *Shingle & EPDM Roofing* – Esko Roofing & Sheet Metal in the amount of \$376,754.
- *Glazing/Aluminum* – Hewett Company in the amount of \$543,471.
- *Mechanical* – Quality Aire Systems in the amount of \$569,000.
- *Electrical* – Walt's Electric in the amount of \$160,000.
- *Paving & Exterior Concrete* – True North Asphalt in the amount of \$225,100.

Total Contract Award: \$2,318,325

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to award the bids in the amount of \$2,318,325 as presented.

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

BOND 2020 – SLHS SCIENCE ROOM RENOVATIONS AHU-3 PRE-PURCHASE

Ms. Stacy Witt explained to the Board that this item was presented to the Facility Planning Committee on November 30, 2021 and was approved to go to the Board for approval on December 7, 2021. She asked the Board to award the bid to Thermal Netics in the amount of \$364,608 as presented.

Moved by Ms. Urtel, supported by Mr. Abbate to award the bid to Thermal Netics in the amount of \$364,608 for the purchase and installation of wood laboratory casework for the SLHS science room as presented.

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

BOND 2020 – SLHS SCIENCE ROOM RENOVATIONS – STEEL PACKAGE BID APPROVAL

Ms. Witt indicated that this agenda item was presented to the Facility Planning Committee on November 30, 2021 and was approved to go to the Board for approval on December 7, 2021. References were checked. She asked the Board to award the bid to Casadei Steel in the amount of \$89,998.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Urtel to award the bid to Casadei Steel in the amount of \$89,998 as presented.

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

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that there was nothing new to report this evening.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following board committee reports:

- **Legislative** – Mr. Leftwich did not have anything new to share.
- **Policy** – Policy Committee will be meeting in January.
- **Finance** – Today's meeting was canceled.
- **Facilities Planning** – Ms. Urtel reported that they had to approve upcoming bids due to scheduling issues. They want to make sure the project is on task and on schedule. There will be more new projects, bid updates and more design and completion of packages soon.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – They talked about general communication across the schools. They also discussed the Snapshot of our Learners, which is a new group starting up. The next meeting is this Thursday.
- **Oakland Schools Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** – Ms. Urtel noted that there was a meeting reviewing goals for the upcoming year and going over items discussed this past year. No new information or discussions going forward.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald thanked Mr. Toth as well as the MESPA leadership for their work in reaching an agreement that was approved this evening. He extended his best wishes to the families throughout our community as we are coming upon our Christmas and holiday season. On a light note, he also emphasized that Santa is not experiencing supply chain issues that are currently plaguing the country. He urged everyone to cherish the time with friends and family. Be well, and we look forward to a brighter year ahead.

REPORTS

South Lyon Educational Foundation – Ms. Junkulis-Pierce noted that the Foundation hosted its photo shoot in November. The photos were done by South Lyon teachers who have photography businesses. The Foundation wants to thank the administration for helping to push this out and for all the administrators and staff who took part and were able to get family photos. She asked everyone to consider the end of year giving. South Lyon Educational Foundation supports all of the district schools and numerous initiatives. They are non-profit. If you are considering on giving, it is a great way to support our schools. One of the huge programs they are involved in is the social-emotional learning dogs who have been great resources for our students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered a second opportunity for public comments. The following comments were made.

- **Miriam Corvino** stated that according to the numbers as of August 26, on Michigan.gov, there are zero children from the ages of 0-19 in the State of Michigan that have died from COVID. There is a 100% survivability rate. She doesn't understand what the public health emergency is. We should be holding the Oakland County Health Division accountable. Make them substantiate their numbers.
- **Jim Davis** would like to learn more information about the Curriculum & Communications that is discussed in the Oakland County Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committees. He would like some direction on what is being discussed at these meetings.
- **Matt Howton** has been waiting to see more on the Oakland Schools Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee which is a Critical Race Theory model and also a Social Emotional Learning model. He asked Ms. Urtel what this Committee's goals are. He emphasized that *Equity* is not *Equality*.
- **Geno Montes** informed the Board that Howell just sent out an email that there is no mask mandate there. There also won't be any quarantine requirements unless there is a positive test January 3. He indicated that Oakland County has their mandates, but it is up to the school to choose if they want choice or no masks. He asked the Board for choice. Think about the kids!
- **Dan Argentati** spoke to the Board regarding expanding on the Oakland County statements. Our attorney should talk with the Oakland County attorney as they are not making masking a requirement. Give kids a choice.
- **Kim Myer** stated that this is her first time at a board meeting and asked why there is no response from the board members when they are asked a question. Where do residents get answers? Are committee meetings open to the public? Why is there not an opportunity to not wear a mask in PE? She shared her appreciation for the Board's time and will get more involved in the schools.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to acknowledge.

MEETING DATES

Mr. Dashner noted the following meeting dates.

- 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.

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Ms. Junkulis-Pierce** stated her sympathy and prayers are with the families in Oxford. Everyone needs to do better and offer students and staff ways to prevent this. Thank you to the teachers who we send our kids to school to every day. Our educators should not have to take on a role with Alice drills and other training. Great work to all of our fall sports and kudos to all the team members. Christmas Story production at East High School was tremendous. Our quarantine protocol has changed. There are no masks for sports. Everyone should have received a communication. The Board has reached out to the Governor to request some clarity based on the budget vs the health mandate. Their position is that the Health Department's mandates are lawful and the line item that was put into the budget about masks is not. She welcomed our two new teachers. She also wished all of our community and staff a Happy Holiday and to enjoy time with their families.
- **Mr. Schwegler** welcomed the new teachers and also offered his support with MESPA's contract extension. Great job by the fall sports. He also stated that he is at a loss for words regarding Oxford Schools. Lock your guns up!
- **Mr. Leftwich** sends his sympathy and support to the Oxford community. His heart goes out to our friends in Oxford. Teachers in Oxford lost students. Thank you for all the support that came together for student needs. Thank you to Mr. Toth and MESPA representatives who negotiated that contract. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! Our next meeting will be in the new year.
- **Mr. Abbate** indicated that everything was well said on the Oxford situation. This rattles every community. He reached out with a note of thanks to every school employee, every district, every building, every administrator and every staff member who pivoted in these last few days to go back and refresh your emergency protocol. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!
- **Ms. Urtel** echoed her thoughts, sympathies and condolences to the Oxford families and school families. She extended her gratitude and thanks to all of the staff, teachers, and everybody within the SLCS. It has been a difficult year in general with a lot of different thoughts and opinions in families. She thanked our municipalities that have helped us significantly with our resource officers. We have Lyon Township who help us financially with our SROs, Oakland County Sheriff offices posted at our high schools and wonderful support from the City of South Lyon police. They are there for so many struggling students with issues. In regard to our committee meetings, they are open to the public. Minutes and agendas are on the website. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee was formed by Oakland Schools. It is a two-year committee. There are discussions where districts can make sure all students are included in all aspects. It is not just race. There are handicap, emotional and race issues. It is making sure that every student is feeling welcome and included in their school districts no matter if it is a physical or mental issue. She attended performances at both high schools. Christmas Story was excellent at EHS. In the Spring, there will be musicals. Grease at EHS and Oliver at SLHS. Excellent job to the fall sports and winter sports are in full swing. Happy Holiday!
- **Mr. Kennedy** stated that the length of Board comments shows how hard everyone is working. He echoed his colleagues' thoughts and prayers to Oxford Schools. He feels our kids are safe and have been safe. We have continually been looking at safety and technology hand in hand to keep our students safe. Happy Holiday and make it a good one!

- **Mr. Archibald** shared information about COVID with the community. His perspective as Superintendent and from Administration and our staff, he stated that we make our decisions and look out for your children as if they were our own. He wouldn't ask your children to come to school to work or to be in school if he wasn't willing to do the same for his own children. He is impressed to see that our attendance rate over the last two days has been well over 96%. It tells him that education is important and that the parents have trust and confidence in our staff. He has reviewed the ALICE protocols. They reviewed these with students on Monday. Safety is #1. The district has a Safety Advisory Team that does include law enforcement. They meet regularly throughout the school year to address safety related items and concerns. Most important is that this is a community and staff working together.
- **Mr. Dashner** addressed a couple comments from Mrs. Corvino. We are following Oakland County's order because our attorney tells us that is the best course of action for us. It has nothing to do with our positions on masks or how you perceive us to have positions on masks. He thanked Deputy Biggers and Deputy Barnes for their working tirelessly since last Thursday in support of the district and in support of investigations for things that have been reported. He can't thank them enough. This district administration and building administration have had a lot to juggle over the last few days. He also thanked the teachers for the role they play with our students and making them feel comfortable. Congratulations to the new teachers. Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas! Enjoy your break.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, and supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Urtel, Secretary
Board of Education