

MARCH 1, 2022

**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 Dashner called the March 1, 2022 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Dan Schwegler

Mr. Dashner explained that Mr. Schwegler is out of town this week.

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

Administration Absent: Stacy Witt, Asst. Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MILLENNIUM MIDDLE SCHOOL TECH HELPERS

Mr. Toth announced that Mrs. Gallagher, principal from Millennium Middle School was at the meeting this evening to share information on a new tech helper group in her school.

Mrs. Gallagher shared that a group of tech savvy Millennium Middle School students saw an opportunity to help other students who had technology issues. With the help of Millennium Middle School teacher, Kari Smith, they created a group and a process for students to request tech help through Google classroom and get help during lunches. A link was created where any student can submit a question or help request, and a Millennium Middle School tech helper student will be available to help them with their issue during lunch. The tech helpers are in all three grades. Logan Skowronski narrated the presentation this evening and Connie Lipka, Rianne Beineman and Cayden Mammel were featured in the video.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered an opportunity for public comments and the following comments were shared.

- **Irene Settle, Salem Jr. Kdg. teacher** shared her appreciation for two community members who are making a big difference in their support of our students and teachers in school. Since 2018 the South Lyon Educational Foundation (SLEF) has done a great job providing amazing opportunities for South Lyon students and the community. SLEF has funded Olive and Oakley, the two dogs in our district for the social emotional learning program, kindergarten welcome bags, scholarships for seniors that have persevered and also micro and mini teacher grants. In the Spring 2021 she received a grant to purchase mentor texts for teaching nursery rhymes which is essential for her young students to develop phonological awareness. This past fall in the teacher appreciation book sale, which SLEF worked with the South Lyon/Salem library, she was able to get many appropriate texts for her students. She was also able to reconnect with Dr. Reynolds of Crescent Orthodontics who supported all the junior kindergartners in the district with a t-shirt. She thanked the Board for allowing her to highlight the support that South Lyon Educational Foundation and Dr. Reynolds have given to her and our students.

- **Brenton Montie**, teacher & SLEA Rep, shared the following 'good things' happening in our district.
- **Chris Knapp and Melinda Towns** both stepped up and really helped support the choir students and the program after Angie Badish's passing. Chris Knapp is taking Angie's position at MMS and working hard to put students first and help them love singing again.
- **CMS Social Studies Dept.** decided that their students would compete in the International Academic Geography Competition. 739 students took the online test, and over 450 qualified for the next round!
- **Jennifer Barshaw & Rachelle Kalbfleisch** are planning a trip to Washington DC to make sure the 8th grade students can still go and have a great trip.
- **Rebecca Tincknell** taught a "speed-factoring" lesson based on the speed-dating format on Valentine's Day in her math class.
- **Mrs. Lambert** goes above and beyond and stays after school to help her students with math skills that they are going to be tested on. This is done on her own time.
- **Amy Lindsley** has been a paraeducator for four years. She goes above and beyond to help prepare lessons for the kids especially during the COVID shutdown. She is patient, caring and really putting their learning first and foremost with the kids.
- **Mr. Montie** also gave a shout out to all the teachers and **staff** here at the board meeting who represented **Salem, Brummer, CMS and SLEHS**.
- **Miriam Corvino** expanded on her public comments that she made on February 8 relative to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), National School Board Association (NSBA) and other public education partners. She asked the Board to communicate in writing to these public education partners its disapproval of MSBA's misbehavior and any continued support of this organization.

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 Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- February 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT RESOLUTION

Mr. Archibald stated that the United States Congress enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1975 to ensure all students with disabilities have access to a quality public education. With this legislation, the U.S. Congress committed to fund up to 40 percent of the additional cost schools would face to provide those services. Today, the federal investment in IDEA is less than 14 percent. The IDEA Full Funding Act of 2021 (HR 5984) would require yearly increases to funding for IDEA programs so that the federal government reaches an annual appropriation of 40% of the cost of special education services within the next 10 years, finally fulfilling their obligation made back in 1975. He asked the Board to approve the resolution in support of the IDEA Full Funding Act.

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the resolution in support of the IDEA Full Funding Act as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

REQUEST FOR CHILDCARE LEAVE

Mr. Toth stated that Megan Zale has requested a childcare leave for the 2022-23 school year. This is a leave that is outlined in the SLEA contract. He asked the Board to approve the childcare leave as presented.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the request for a childcare leave for Megan Zale as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

NON-RESIDENT SCHOOLS OF CHOICE RESOLUTION – 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Kudwa explained that this resolution opens up Schools of Choice for non-resident students residing in Oakland ISD or in ISDs with boundaries contiguous to Oakland ISD for grades K-8 at certain schools in our district and at ninth grade at East. In addition to the resolution, enclosed are the non-resident schools of choice guidelines and the application. This resolution was brought before the Board at the February 8, 2022 meeting, and no changes were requested. She asked the Board to approve the Non-Resident Schools of Choice resolution for the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Moved by Ms. Urtel, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the Non-Resident Schools of Choice resolution for the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Roll Call: Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Mr. Toth explained to the Board that a resignation necessitated the hiring of Emily Reitz as a 5th grade teacher at Hardy Elementary. He asked the Board to approve the hiring of Ms. Reitz as presented.

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the hiring of Emily Reitz as a 5th grade teacher at Hardy Elementary as presented. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Dashner welcomed Ms. Reitz.

Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT

Mr. Toth noted that the South Lyon East Robotics Team received a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Victory Automotive Group to be used for materials, supplies, travel, etc. He asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Kudwa shared with the Board that Lori Pryor has been recommended to serve our district as our second Oakland County Parent Advisory Committee representative. Her three-year term would run through 2025. This item was brought for information to the February 8, 2022 Board of Education meeting. No changes were requested. She asked the Board to approve the Oakland County Parent Advisory Committee representative recommendation.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve Ms. Lori Pryor as the Oakland County Parent Advisory Committee representative as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

2021-22 BUDGET AMENDMENT #1

This item was presented at the February 8, 2022 board meeting. The amendment was reviewed with the Finance Committee. No changes were requested. Administration has made one change to the budget from the budget that was submitted at the last board meeting for information. There was a principal salary account that was calculating from last year's actual expense and adding in the increase for this year. It was discovered that the actual expense from last year is more than it will be this year as there was an interim principal serving for a few months getting expensed to this account along with the principal's regular salary last year. This has been corrected and reduced the expenses by \$53,760. The updated increase to fund balance in the budget for approval this evening is \$847,601 and gives a projected fund balance percentage of 15.55% at the end of this year.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the 2021-22 Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

Ms. Junkulis-Pierce thanked Ms. Witt and the accounting team for the tremendous amount of work they do with the Federal government consistently changing the requirements. Their strong leadership in this area has put our district in a strong financial position.

Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald indicated that there was no new legislation to report.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative** – The committee meets tomorrow.
- **Policy** – They finished working on an update to the policy regarding the general fund balance.
- **Finance** – At their last meeting they reviewed the amended budget as well as Schedule C. A part will go back to the SLEA to discuss some parameters.
- **Facilities Planning** – They met today and received a bid recommendation update on five different packages. Science labs at the high school, high school athletic improvements, concrete and paving, Bartlett addition and renovations and different categories for that. Some bids came in over budget and had one come in under budget. On March 15, they will have a quarterly report update from IDS & Barton Malow.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – They have not met since the last board meeting and because they have nothing on the agenda for March, they will be meeting again in April.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald recognized Mayor Dan Pelchat who is also a field technician with the schools and voice of SLHS. He recently won an award and was recognized by the Oakland County Executive's Oakland Together 40 Under 40 program. The superintendent, Board and community offered their congratulations.

REPORTS

South Lyon Educational Foundation – Ms. Junkulis-Pierce thanked everyone for their kind words about the South Lyon Educational Foundation. She added that they can't do anything without the support of teachers, parents and businesses in the community. The next fundraiser is scheduled on a Sunday and Monday, March 20 and 21 at the Twisted Cork in New Hudson for wine tasting with a food pairing. The Perseverance award applications are available, and students are eligible at both SLHS and SLEHS. She thanked Channel 19 who recently did a story on SLEF to share their story and hopefully grow their foundation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dashner offered a second opportunity for public comments.

- *Miriam Corvino* spoke in reference to partners in public education. This group consists of themselves, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), Michigan Education Association (MEA), National Education Association (NEA). AFT Michigan which spans public schools' higher education, healthcare industries as well as federal state and local governments and is the state affiliate for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) who partnered with the NEA in 2001. South Lyon Education Association is the local affiliate for the MEA and NEA. NEA provides sponsorships to NSBA. She expressed how these groups don't want parents to direct the education of their children. She is concerned that critical race theory will soon be taught in South Lyon as it is already being taught in Novi, Farmington, Rochester Hills, Detroit and other districts. She questioned why our Board does not share legislative committee updates.
- *Irene Settles* asked the Board if Critical Race Theory is being taught in South Lyon. Their response indicated that CRT is not being taught in South Lyon.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the retirement of *Patrick Wilson, Grounds/Maintenance effective February 28, 2022.*

MEETING DATES

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following meeting dates.

- 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, (Monday), Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 21, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Mr. Leftwich** stated it was wonderful to have Logan share information regarding his MMS tech helpers' program with the Board. He also welcomed staff from Brummer, Kent Lake and Salem who were at the meeting.
- **Mr. Abbate** stated that he loves hearing the "good things" shared by Mr. Montie. He added that he loves to see teachers at the board meetings. He also thanked Mr. Archibald, administration and our staff in the buildings for quickly responding to implement the policy that offers optional masking.
- **Mr. Kennedy** thanked the teachers and shared his appreciation for them. The teachers spoke up and also shared their appreciation for the Board for serving through this tough time.
- **Ms. Junkulis-Pierce** shared her appreciation for the tremendous work by everyone. March is reading month. She mentioned that she was a mystery reader today in the schools. She offered congratulations to all of our sports teams and mentioned that South Lyon is showing everybody what we have. There is a large amount of people who are making it to regionals and state finals. She offered her support and wished them good luck in their sports. She gave a shout out to Logan and his tech helpers. She welcomed our new teachers and the teachers who came to the meeting this evening.
- **Ms. Urtel** complemented Logan and his tech helpers. She encouraged Centennial to find some tech kids in their school. She also mentioned that she is very excited that the Washington DC trip is happening this year. It is one of the most phenomenal things that this district does. The kids will have a great time. Welcome to the new teacher and thank you to everyone. Oliver is at SLHS this weekend.
- **Mr. Dashner** stated that he is happy to see us get another step closer to normal. Congratulations to all sports teams in South Lyon. Spring sports are coming soon.

ADJOURN

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel
Board Secretary