

OCTOBER 19, 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 October 19, 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.

RECOGNITION – SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL DONATION

Mr. Brian Toth announced that Breanna Strange, one of our South Lyon High School students, is joining us along with two of our teachers. Ms. Julie Cipolla and Ms. Molly Copple have the pleasure of working with Breanna Strange on a daily basis. Breanna is a student from the Adult Transition program at South Lyon High School. She has been doing some awesome artwork along with her grandmother. Some of Breanna's artwork was shared with the Board. It was also noted that her artwork is available to purchase. Money from the sold artwork thus far has been donated back to Ms. Cipolla's and Ms. Copple's classrooms.

FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Blake Jobkar, audit manager for the district's financial statement audit explained that a K-12 audit is made up of three documents. The first is the financial report with supplemental information that contains the district's financial statements. The second is a report to the Board of Education that provides information about the audit process and the associated results. The third document is the single audit report that covers the federal program audit and the findings therein. He noted that there were no findings. As district auditors, their responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on an audit conducted in accordance with the accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in government auditing standards as issued by the comptroller general of the USA. He reported that for the basic audit, they rendered an unmodified or clean opinion. He noted that it basically means that in all material aspects, they feel the financial statements are from material misstatement. This is the highest level of assurance the auditors can provide to a set of financial statements. In addition to the basic audit on the Federal Program side, they audited the district's Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditures which also rendered an unmodified opinion. There were no audited adjustments that were identified through their procedures. He thanked Ms. Witt, Ms. Papanastasopoulous and the entire Business Office for their help and support as they worked through the audit. He noted that the ASBO Certification of Excellence in Financial Reporting award is an award that is above and beyond the requirements that are needed by the state. The district has received this award since 1997. There are only 12 districts in the state that receive this after applying. Mr. Jobkar narrated a presentation that summarized pertinent details in key areas and numbers relative to the budget. The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the district's website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- **Brittany Kiernan** addressed the Board regarding masks, district policy and problems concerning her child's health and attendance related to having to wear a mask every day at school.
- **Amy Demeter** shared her concern regarding the Governor's mask mandate and its justification. She felt the mask mandate is all about control and politics and not science.
- **Geno Montes** spoke to the Board regarding masks and Michigan state law. There is nothing proven that masks prevent any disease. They do nothing but cover your face. He encouraged the Board to talk to an attorney. Save our schools and the kids from having to go elsewhere to districts who don't require a mask.

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 October 5, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the October 12, 2021 special meeting minutes.

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the October 5, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the October 12, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the following bills:

- *September 2021 Prepaids*
- *October AP Board Run*
- *October 2021 Bond Bills*
- *September 2021 Wires & ACH Transactions*
- *September 2021 Revenue Report*

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 the following open positions required the hiring of instructional staff:

- *Jennifer Beebe – Hardy Speech & Language*
- *Angela MacKenzie – SLEHS Resource Room*
- *Rebecca Rapp – Pearson Resource Room*
- *Brian Sole – SLHS & SLEHS German*

Moved by Ms. Urtel, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the hiring of the teachers listed above as described.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT

Mr. Toth stated that a South Lyon High School student Breanna Strange and her grandmother began a microenterprise over the summer. All profits, \$402.00 will be donated to the Adult Transition Program at South Lyon High School. He asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Ms. Urtel to accept the gift of \$402.00 in accordance with Policy 7003 as requested.

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

SCHOOL SAFETY LIAISON

Mr. Archibald explained that in March 2018, several statutes became effective pertaining to school safety in the state of Michigan. In accordance with MCL 380.1241, the board of a school district shall designate a liaison to work with the School Safety Commission and the Office of School Safety which both operate under the Michigan State Police. A liaison designated under this section shall work with the school safety commission and the office of school safety to identify model practices for determining school safety measures. He asked the Board to approve the designation of Brian Toth as the District Safety Liaison.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the designation of Brian Toth as the District Safety Liaison.

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

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE - NEW STORAGE AREA NETWORK HARDWARE AND SUPPORT

Mr. Chester Cox explained to the Board that the SLCS Technology Department uses a Nimble brand Storage Area Network (SAN) with a storage capacity of 160 (90 usable) Terabytes. A little over 50% of the storage space is dedicated to District security camera video storage. Over the years, as the District has added more security cameras to buildings, the available space to store footage has dwindled. He indicated that originally, they were able to store over 180 days of high-quality video footage. Presently they can only store 35 days without running out of space. The remainder of the storage is used to store and archive District server data backups and to host virtual servers that provide critical network services. He added that on December 10, 2021 the current Nimble SAN will reach its End of Service/End of Life (EOS/EOL). This means that the district will no longer be able to purchase replacement parts, receive system updates or receive service and support from HP Nimble. When the Nimble SAN was purchased in 2016, Nimble was an independent company. Shortly after our installation was complete, Hewlett Packard (HP) purchased Nimble. Shortly after that, HP announced that they would implement new EOS/EOL dates on all original Nimble hardware and no longer renew or support those devices past those established dates. This all necessitates the purchase of a new SAN for South Lyon Community Schools. This item will be brought back before the Board for action at the November 9, 2021 regular meeting.

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** – Ms. Junkulis-Pierce reported that there were a few updates to some policies that they had been looking at.

- **Finance** – Mr. Schwegler noted information was shared earlier in the audit presentation.
- **Facilities & Grounds** – Ms. Urtel reported that they talked about phasing options that Barton Malow is looking to do to ease up parking and access to other construction in the district. They are finalizing plans, schedules and getting additional bids for construction in the district.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – There is nothing new. Their next meeting is scheduled on November 11.
- **Oakland Schools Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** – There has not been a recent meeting.

OTHER

Mr. Archibald did not have any other information to share.

REPORTS

South Lyon Educational Foundation – The Boo Bowling event was very successful. Ms. Junkulis-Pierce thanked all of the community members and staff who donated experiences for the children. They are very happy with the turnout. The South Lyon *Stronger Together* store is closed. Right now, the Foundation is working on the ‘family photo’ fundraiser.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- **William Neubecker** asked the board what their stand is on critical race theory and transgender bathrooms.

President Dashner stated that generally the Board does not respond to public comments. It is just for the community to share their comments. He asked Mr. Neubecker to fill out a public comment card and noted that he may get an answer during Board Comments, or a board member may reach out to him at the end of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the retirement of Beth Wallace from South Lyon High School.

MEETING DATES

Mr. Dashner noted the following meeting dates.

- 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.

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Mr. Abbate** noted the artwork shared with the Board at the beginning of the meeting is fantastic, and the motive of producing it is spectacular. He wished Ms. Wallace well in her retirement. He also reminded everyone again that the district is following a legal mandate that masks must be worn.

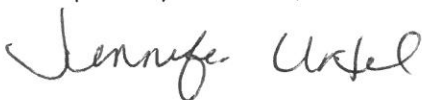
- **Mr. Schwegler** shared that he hopes this is a new trend to start our meetings. It is nice to see someone overcoming challenges doing such beautiful work. He also wished Ms. Wallace well in her retirement.
- **Mr. Leftwich** thanked Breanna for coming to the meeting to share her post-secondary program talent. He also thanked Stacy, Terri and the Business Office for all their hard work. It was nice to receive an audit report sharing the financial stability of the district. October is National Principals Month. He thanked all the principals in the district for being everything that is asked of them including all the sacrifice that they bring forward to meet all the challenges in the district.
- **Ms. Junkulis-Pierce** thanked Breanna for her hard work and dedication. It is a testament to our school district and our students wanting to serve. She chose to do art and serve our community and donate that money back into the program. She also thanked Beth Wallace for her years of service in the district. She welcomed new staff. She thanked all the parents and community members who come to the board meetings and send emails as well with feedback. She thanked Stacy and Plante Moran and the hard work of her team and the extreme number of hours that went into this audit process.
- **Ms. Urtel** also thanked the community members who come to the board meetings. She assured them that the board members read all their emails and listen to all their concerns. She welcomed the four new teachers. She is personally excited about Mr. Sole, the German teacher, as her son is doing virtual German. She appreciates that Mr. Sole has started and has been working with the kids. She congratulated Beth Wallace on her retirement. The SLHS girls golf team took 3rd place at the state finals. Gabby Tapp again took individual state champion. She is a junior. Her scores were 70 on Friday, and a 74 on Saturday. She is playing phenomenal golf. She offered her congratulations to the girls' team. The SLEHS vs. SLHS football game is scheduled on Friday at SLHS. She invited everyone to come out for the cross-town rivalry. She also congratulated all the other sports teams moving forward.
- **Mr. Kennedy** encouraged everyone to find Breanna and check out her artwork. It is amazing that she donates the money back to her own program. He congratulated Beth Wallace at the high school.
- **Mr. Dashner** commented that it is amazing what Breanna did tonight. She is a fantastic young lady and is one of the most selfless people he has ever met. It is amazing how she thinks about others and not herself. Much thanks to her. He also thanked our Business Department. Ms. Witt and her staff do a tremendous job. Every year the audit has been clean. He congratulated Ms. Wallace on her retirement. He congratulated the four new teachers and Mr. Toth for his new title. He emphasized that mask mandates are decided at the county level, and we have to follow them. He added that it is not our decision to make based off of science. It is a policy issue made by the Oakland County Health Department. He offered his congratulations to all the sports teams. They are all doing great.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Leftwich to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel, Secretary
Board of Education