

October 12, 2015

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Brummer called the study session of October 12, 2015 to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Abbate, Steve Brummer, Randy Clark, Carrie Hanshaw, Michele Lurz,
Amy McCusker

Absent: Justin Gusick

Others Present: Melissa Baker, Superintendent
James Graham, Asst. Superintendent

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mrs. Baker walked the Board through the agenda explaining that two separate issues are being brought before them. She invited them to ask questions during the presentation and welcomed any comments. She provided the Board with all policies relative to boundaries and School of Choice.

TASK FORCE

Mr. Graham shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board on creating a District Task Force. The charge of the Task Force is to develop a plan to address how best to accommodate the anticipated elementary enrollment increase for 2016-17, taking into consideration various options based on student impact, class size, cost and operational efficiency. They will also review middle school enrollment trends and, if necessary, recommend boundary changes that may be needed beginning in 2016-17. The recommended Task Force members will include board members (2), central office (4), elementary principals (up to 4), elementary parents (up to 4), elementary teachers (up to 4), ECC representation (1), SLEA representation (2) Transportation representation (1) and middle school representation (up to 4).

Mr. Graham explained that the 2015-16 K-12 enrollment was projected to increase 1.75% from October 2014, but currently stands at 5.05%. K-5 enrollment growth has increased by 5.56% from October 2014. This is the largest kindergarten class ever (670 students or 11% more than the previous record of 602 which was set in 2014-15). He added that currently there are no empty classrooms in the elementary schools and emphasized that the new elementary school will not open until the fall of 2017. We will be short elementary classrooms in 2016-17.

The following initiatives have been done to date:

- An alternate bid will be taken to add 2 additional classrooms to ECC (4 total)
- Art on a cart was implemented for Dolsen
- A template to log development data has been created and data gathering has started.
- Contacts have been made to determine rules, costs and timelines for portable classrooms

Mr. Graham highlighted data information needed for elementary classroom needs and possible middle school boundary changes. He also touched on ways to determine options that could be put in place to create classroom space.

After a short Board discussion, the following Task Force guidelines were set:

- The Board will support a motion to create a Task Force at their next regular meeting.
- The Task Force will have a charge as represented earlier by administration, which will include the middle school to review information.
- There are two changes to the Task Force members list that was shared earlier. There should be **9 parents** on the Task Force (one parent from each elementary school and one parent from each middle school). There should be **3 board members** on the Task Force.
- The Task Force will bring recommendations to the Board.
- The Task Force is formed to only look at short term resolutions for the 2016-17 school year.
- The Board and Administration will determine how Task Force numbers play in the future when they work on redistricting.

REDISTRICTING CHARGE

Administration is developing a multi-year plan to populate William A. Pearson Elementary School and review/recommend changes to K-8 school boundaries. Guiding Principles from past redistricting were identified. Mrs. Baker offered questions for the Board to consider such as changes in the guiding principles, considering non-traditional solutions to deal with bubbles and/or reduce the scope of redistricting, address middle school boundaries, School of Choice options and the longevity of the plan. She also questioned if the Board wanted an administrative team approach to recommendations or a committee and how many recommendations they would like to have. Mrs. Baker offered a detailed estimated timeline beginning in October 2015 to determine guiding principles through October 2016 with an anticipated Board action on boundary changes.

After further discussion, the Board indicated that they wanted to educate the public on their process and be up front by getting information out to everyone through town hall type meetings. The Board and Administration want input from the community. Mrs. Baker suggested that they might like to publish their timeline and have updates as they go through the process through board meetings and by using the website. The Board needs to have clear expectations for the strategy and plan for redistricting. The Board indicated that they only want one option presented to them from Administration that could be tweaked if necessary. The Board and Administration both want to have the best possible product. To make it a team effort, the Board would like Administration input with a 3 person executive committee of the Board specific for the purpose of redistricting. Mrs. Baker suggested that the Board might want some guiding principles that will help decision making. She added that any recommendations that come before the Board from administration will have a set of reasons behind it to explain the “why” of decisions that were being made. She reminded the Board that any recommendations coming to the Board will be about all kids.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Brummer offered a second opportunity for public comments. The following individual addressed the Board.

- *Jacqueline Jenosky* shared her support for the Board’s redistricting charge and encouraged them to look at the entire district and consider proximity to school in their process.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mrs. McCusker, supported by Mr. Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carrie L. Hanshaw', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carrie L. Hanshaw,
Secretary