

March 14, 2016

**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 March 14, 2016 to order at 6:16 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Anthony Abbate, Steve Brummer, Carrie Hanshaw, Michele Lurz

**Absent:** Randy Clark, Justin Gusick, Amy McCusker

**Others Present:** Melissa Baker, Superintendent  
Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent  
Maureen Altermatt, Asst. Superintendent  
Dave Phillips, SLEHS Principal  
Chad Scaling, SLHS Principal  
Brian Toth, CMS Principal  
Cory Heitsch, Hardy Principal

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**TOPICS ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Maureen Altermatt facilitated the Board Study Session addressing topics on student discipline. A panel of building principals from all three building levels presented information and answered board members' questions. Lisa Kudwa and Melissa Baker also addressed some issues as appropriate.

Important policies as well as behavioral expectations and discipline consequences for "frequent occurrence" offenses are addressed with all students either at the beginning of the year or when they move into the district. Absent students all receive the information in makeup sessions. Handbooks with the Code of Conduct and significant policies are provided to all secondary students and also posted online. Coaches and club sponsors review co-curricular and extra-curricular expectations as well.

Principals spoke to alternatives to suspension, particularly the use of Restorative Practices. An emphasis on taking responsibility, making amends, learning from an experience, and changing behavior are all part of student discipline. When there are patterns of repeat behavior, administration looks for the underlying issue; often students will be referred for school social work or other support services.

Principals indicated that they felt that current policies and discipline guidelines provide enough options and flexibility to appropriately match consequences to violations. Principals ensure some degree of consistency by conferring with colleagues as well as with Lisa Kudwa for more serious offenses. Principals also indicated that they feel there is an effective process in place to address the need for any changes to the student handbook/code of conduct or underlying policies themselves.

There was a discussion about disciplinary consequences under the Substance Abuse Policy.

Principals explained how the parameters for suspension allow them to send a strong message to deter students (up to 30 days), but also allow them to have leverage for families to seek assistance; student suspensions can be reduced down to as low as 10 or 20 days (for use/possession or distribution, respectively) with successful participation in an intervention program.

An overview of the investigation and appeal process was provided. Melissa explained the doctrine of “en loco parentis” and at what point in the process parents are involved. Students receive their due process rights, but parents are not present during questioning. The panel also spoke about situations in which an administrator would have a second adult SLCS staff member present. The limits on the role of law enforcement were clarified, and there was a discussion about the potential merits of having police liaisons at the high school level.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**ADJOURN**

Moved by Ms. Hanshaw, supported by Mr. Abbate to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**Ayes – 4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Carrie L. Hanshaw  
Secretary