

AUGUST 17, 2020

**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 VIRTUALLY IN SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

CALL TO ORDER

President Hanshaw called the August 17, 2020 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Abbate, Randy Clark, Craig Dashner, Carrie Hanshaw, Eric Kennedy,
Dan Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel

Absent: None

Administration Present: Steve Archibald, Superintendent, Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent,
Stacy Witt, Asst. Superintendent

Administration Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Hanshaw announced that per Board Policy 1002, the Board will be implementing the following guidelines for public comments moving forward. The Board will no longer accept anonymous placeholder or fake names. They are going to hold all the commenters to the three-minute maximum speaking time. If anyone is going to write in their comments, the Board will be holding everyone to a 500-character limit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hanshaw offered an opportunity for public comments. The following comments were received.

- *Sarah Schultz* – President Hanshaw read a comment from Ms. Schultz that stated that she had a question regarding how block time will work for students who dual enroll or attend an academy.
- *Gloria Sigouin* - President Hanshaw stated that Ms. Sigouin was going to call in to share her thoughts as to why going back to school is important but did not stay on the phone line. She will be given a second opportunity to speak at the public comment section at the end of the meeting.
- *Colleen Nelson* - Ms. Hanshaw read a comment from Ms. Nelson that stated that she was relieved that Mr. Archibald made a recommendation to begin this school year with online schooling. Ms. Nelson thanked him for making a tough decision to prioritize our kids' health and well-being.
- *John Martyka* – Ms. Hanshaw stated that Mr. Martyka was disappointed in the school board for approving a plan when it is evident that neither the Board nor the superintendent himself understood its contents. The CDC recommends children attend school in person. 240 – 360 minutes of screen time per day is a BAD IDEA.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Hanshaw 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.

Roll Call: Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Clark-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Clark, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the following minutes:

- July 20, 2020 – Fiscal Organizational/Regular Meeting
- August 5, 2020 – Study Session
- August 10, 2020 – Special Meeting

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Mr. Clark-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Mr. Dashner, supported by Mr. Clark to approve the following bills:

- June 2020 Prepays
- July 2020 Prepays
- August 2020 AP Bill Run
- August 2020 Bond Bills
- July 2020 Wires & ACH Transactions
- July 2020 Cash Receipts Report

Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Clark-yes, Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

BOND AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION – 2020 SCHOOL BUILDING & SITE BONDS

Ms. Stacy Witt stated that on August 4, 2020, the qualified electors of the Issuer voted in favor of bonding the Issuer for the sum of not to exceed of Ninety-Eight Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$98,725,000), the proceeds to be used for the purpose of erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, equipping and re-equipping school facilities; remodeling for energy efficiency, including lighting, roofing and HVAC upgrades; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology, including classroom technology and student devices; purchasing school buses; and acquiring, preparing, developing or improving sites and facilities, including athletic fields, structures, playgrounds, parking lots.

It has been determined by the Board of the Issuer that there be issued at this time a first series of bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Fifty-Six Million Dollars (\$56,000,000) and the Board has received a proposal from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., in Okemos, MI to act as underwriter for the Bonds. Prior to the issuance of Bonds, the Issuer must either achieve qualified status or secure prior approval of the bonds from the Michigan Department of Treasury pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001 as amended.

Ms. Witt stated that with the voter approved bond issue of \$98,725,000, the next step is to start the process of the bond sale. She asked the Board to approve the resolution as presented.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Abbate to approve the bond authorizing resolution for the 2020 School Building and Site Bonds as presented.

Ms. Hanshaw thanked the community for passing this bond. It will be a huge help to the District. She also thanked the Citizens Committee for campaigning and helping the district.

Roll Call: Ms. Urtel-yes, Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Clark-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT

South Lyon High School received a Teakwood Bench to be used for a student gathering area. This donation is from the SLHS Class of 1960 and valued at \$1,200.

Mr. Archibald asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

Moved by Mr. Clark, supported by Mr. Kennedy to accept the gift with thanks in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

Roll Call: Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Clark-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

OCSBA PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BYLAWS

Each year the OCSBA Resolutions & Bylaws Committee reviews their bylaws and recommend amendments to the Board of Directors & Member Districts. This year, OCSBA found that their bylaws placed restrictions on the way that they conducted their business during the pandemic. Several of the proposed amendments address those restrictions during any declared local, state or national emergency. The Board of Directors has reviewed the proposed amendments and approves these recommendations forward for a vote of their Member Districts. In accordance with their bylaws, each Member District Board of Education has one (1) vote to approve the recommended amendments. The voting period is designated as August 1, 2020 through September 11, 2020 no later than 5:00 p.m. Ms. Hanshaw asked the Board to approve the recommended amendments as presented.

Moved by Mr. Clark, supported by Ms. Urtel to approve the OCSBA recommended amendments to their bylaws as presented.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Hanshaw-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald thanked the community for their extreme generosity and support of the district. He also thanked the Facilities Committee for all their work to put together the list of projects. He commended the Board for their courage for putting it on the ballot in August and not to overlook former Superintendent Ms. Baker, as well as Interim Superintendent Heitsch and the many community members, parents and students alike who have put in a lot of work over the summer helping to get the word out.

He also noted that we are into six or seven weeks of our school year which technically started on July 1 without knowing our funding situation. He stated that the Senate did pass a series of Return to School Bills on Saturday and those were passed by the House today. He shared highlights relative to pupil count for the 2021 school year. If it is signed into law by the governor, the count would be a blend of 75% of last school year and 25% of this school year. There is also an extended continuity of learning plan in those bills where districts would be required to develop, bring back before the Board for approval, provide for public comment and then submit their instructional plan every 30 days to the state. This would be an addition to the plan that was submitted on August 14. There are a series of additional requirements in that bill. The district will continue to work with legislators to understand the nuances of the legislation if and when it is signed into law. 75% daily attendance is being waived, and in its place the district must ensure that at least one monthly two-way interaction occurs between at least 75% of the students and their teachers throughout the school year. He emphasized that attendance becomes very complicated in a virtual remote learning scenario. The other two were related to the days and hours requirement and benchmark assessments.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hanshaw acknowledged the following board committee reports:

- **Legislative** – Mr. Clark followed up on an email regarding a September OCSBA outdoor dinner meeting being held on Wednesday, September 16 in Bloomfield Hills. The Legislative Committee is doing online meetings where they discuss what the districts are doing and also about the positives and pitfalls of the re-opening plans in the districts. Their next meeting is August 19 at 7 p.m. He will be out of town and not able to participate but will forward the information to any board member who might be interested.
- **Policy** – They have a meeting scheduled next Monday, August 24 at 6 p.m. The agenda includes the grading of online classes.
- **Finance** – There has not been anything new since their last meeting.
- **Facilities & Grounds** – They have not had a meeting but are looking to meet the first week in September.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Their next meeting is scheduled on October 8.

OTHER

Ms. Hanshaw reported that all the board members received an email today from Mrs. Toth regarding Title IX training. Because of the new federal mandates, everyone needs to take this video training. A form needs to be filled out, and it must be completed by August 24.

Mr. Clark questioned the two board members who are on the Policy Committee that it was his understanding under the new updated Policy 7003 that any donations under \$500 would not be reported to the Board. He asked the Board if they could find a way to include a list of those donations under \$500 so the Board can acknowledge those donors without rising to the action of Board acceptance and get some recognition for those people with smaller donations. The Board was in agreement. The Policy Committee can formalize the implementation of acknowledgement and where it can be placed on the agenda.

REPORTS

South Lyon Educational Foundation – Mr. Abbate stated that they are working on creating a general fund for miscellaneous needs that we have in this district. They are working with Mr. Archibald how best to sort it out. They announced the soon to be arrival of the second South Lyon therapy dog to become a member of the South Lyon High School community. The dog is a male lab and goes by the name of “Oakley”. The Foundation had a sizable role in the funding for the dog.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hanshaw offered a second opportunity for public comments.

- *Gloria Sigouin* – Ms. Hanshaw gave Ms. Sigouin another opportunity to call in. She also suggested that she could email or call in at the next board meeting.
- *Marina Zaremba* – Ms. Hanshaw noted that Ms. Zaremba represents her Senior Class of 2021 and stated that she urged the Board to consider sending the whole senior class back to school together instead of sending kids back alphabetical. It would be a great way to have some sense of normalcy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Hanshaw acknowledged the following correspondence:

- Resignations
 - *Jessica Ardner (Speech & Language Pathologist)*
 - *Elizabeth Yang (ESL Teacher)*
 - *Alyse Hurn (Special Education School Social Worker)*
 - *Abilyn Cardelli (Bartlett – 2nd grade teacher)*

MEETING DATES

Ms. Hanshaw noted the following meeting dates.

- September 21, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 5, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 19, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- November 2, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- November 16, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- December 7, 2020, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- January 19, 2021, (Tuesday) Organizational/Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- February 1, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 1, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 15, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- April 19, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 3, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 17, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 7, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

- *Ms. Urtel* thanked the community for approving the bond. She noted that it will help free up dollars in the General Fund for the upcoming school year. She hopes that everyone can be patient and with much excitement start the school year off remotely and then get back to kids in school. Enjoy the rest of the summer!
- *Mr. Kennedy* thanked the community for passing the bond and moving to get the new school year started. He also thanked his colleagues for all their hard work.
- *Mr. Abbate* also thanked the community for supporting the bond. Reaching nearly 70% of support from all corners of the district is really impressive. He shared some thoughts that were directed to teachers in the district and noted that they are valued and do their best for our kids.
- *Mr. Clark* sympathized with the football teams as their season was taken away from them. He understood a similar thing may happen with volleyball because it is an indoor sport. They are waiting for a determination from the Governor's office. He also thanked the dozens of community members that were able to email him in support of his minority position on the back to school plan. He appreciates their support. He did receive one negative email and does understand her position. He thanked the community for reaching out.
- *Mr. Schwegler* thanked the community for their support of the bond. He also reiterated that the sample schedules of what a day may look like for a student are just that. There were a lot of people with concerns that what was shown in the slides was what they were going to experience when they show up. Those plans are still being worked on daily. He stated that he understands the complexity of every family's choice of what they have to do to prepare for the school year with their kids and that some people are going to choose to leave and some are going to choose to stick it out. Personally, he is going to go with the faith he has in our teachers to put forth a very high quality remote start to the year, and will put his faith in the administration to get us to full in-person as quickly as they possibly can in the situation. He dittoed the comments from Mr. Clark regarding those who are going to miss out on football, and he hopes that the MHSAA will allow everyone else to carry forward. He added that his son is going to miss out on his first opportunity to play as well. Sit tight, and hopefully they can play in the Spring.
- *Mr. Dashner* thanked the community for their support of the bond and its passing. He also thanked all of those who worked hard to get it passed. He feels sorry for the football team, but it will come back in the Spring as something different.
- *Ms. Hanshaw* thanked the community for passing the bond. She also wanted to thank the Citizen's Committee which was led by Alicia Winne, Laura Hewitt and Kim Plohetski. The three of them put in countless hours in meetings, walking the neighborhoods and even saw some of their family members on the billboard. She appreciates all of their hard work. She also wanted to thank the hundreds of community members that called in the other night. She has received well over 300 people who have emailed her their comments, suggestions, questions and concerns. The Board takes these all very seriously and have read them all and shared them with administration. The whole district is continuing to work on the best plan for all of our students, staff and community members.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Clark, supported by Mr. Dashner to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Abbate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Anthony Abbate, Secretary
Board of Education