

OCTOBER 5, 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 October 5, 2020 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Randy Clark

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hanshaw offered an opportunity for public comments. There were no comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Hanshaw asked the Board to approve the agenda as presented, unless they had any additions or deletions.

Moved by Mr. Dashner, supported by Mr. Schwegler to approve the agenda with the caveat that they strike Item 6 (2020 School Building and Site Bonds Ratification) and hold it over to a special meeting to be scheduled in the future.

Ms. Witt explained that due to a court order that is making the Governor's executive orders null and void after April 30, 2020 also allows the Open Meetings Act to be conducted virtually. That is no longer allowed now. Our attorneys have suggested that we take any action items off the agenda and hold an in-person meeting to take any actions now that would be affected by the negative order.

**Roll Call: Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes,
Ms. Hanshaw-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting

**Roll Call: Ms. Hanshaw-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes,
Ms. Urtel-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.**

LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald noted that the legislature passed the budget, and it was signed by Governor last Wednesday. Some key highlights for us are that we will maintain the 2019-20 foundation allowance of \$8,111. In addition, there is a one time \$65 or \$66 payment that is paid out per pupil on a 50% blend of the 2019-20 count and a 50% blend of the 2020-21 count. We won't know exactly what that is yet, but both of those are favorable. There are quite a few line items in the budget that will continue to go through, so we can take full advantage of that for the district. Secondly, late in the day on Friday the Michigan Supreme Court issued a 4-3 decision which invalidated any of the Governor's executive orders that were issued after April 30. The full implications of this for school districts are still being sorted out. There has been a flurry of activity today between districts, professional organizations, state attorneys and so forth. Part of that is that many of the orders we have received have come by executive order, legislative act and some have come by act of the Health Department. We will continue to move forward with our current plan as it has been passed and monitor it actively. We will adjust if or as necessary. Some information came out today from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services related to masks and gatherings. We will continue to monitor the situation and stay on top of it with respect to our planning.

CITA COMMENTS***Annual Bullying Report (2019-20)***

Mrs. Kudwa stated that every year she brings two annual reports to the Board as a matter of requirements from the State. She began with the annual bullying report for 2019-20. As a reminder she clarified that bullying of a student is prohibited in our schools and for the purposes of our policy we define "bullying" as a written, verbal, or physical act or any electronic communication that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits or programs of one or more students;
- Adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; or
- Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

The district's Board policies and student codes of conduct discourage bullying behavior and hold students accountable for our high standards. Our disciplinary system is one where we work to teach students how to improve their behavior over time.

Along with that, we have our restorative practices in place and staffing that goes with that. We also have an in-house trainer for Restorative Practices. We extensively teach those K-12 Habits of Mind to make sure they understand how to behave appropriately.

All of our schools have social work support, and our secondary buildings have counseling staff to address the needs of those students who may be either victims of or perpetrators in bullying instances. Additionally, buildings add on layers as they see fit so they may bring in a guest speaker, have an assembly or build on additional lessons.

State laws do require us to report to the Board of Education the number of verified incidents and the resulting consequences.

As a reminder, Ms. Kudwa stated that typically when something gets reported as bullying, they will look at that with the investigation piece. Oftentimes, that language is misused when it is reported to them as conflict between students. They still intervene and provide restorative practices and work with the families and the students to make that a positive relationship moving forward. On occasion they do have students who do not report to administration of something that might take place that they would be able to step in and intervene that they may have met that threshold of bullying.

There have been no confirmed instances last school year. Not being there in person for several months out of the year did have an impact on that for us.

She thanked the families in our community and our staff for their willingness to participate in Restorative Practices. It truly has made a difference for us over the years. She indicated that she would love to think that that zero had nothing to do with being out of school for the last few months, but that is oftentimes when we get some disciplinary uptick. She again thanked the Restorative Practice staff, school staff and administration for working so hard to help students learn from their behavior and grow from their mistakes.

She noted that because there were zero instances last year, there are no consequences that she would report back to the Board.

Constitution Day Updates

Mrs. Kudwa reported that this year, Constitution Day was celebrated on September 17. Participation of all K-12 students in an educational program on the United States Constitution is something we must assure in order to receive federal grants such as Title I, Title IIA and Title III.

This year, students at all levels completed activities in online learning platforms like Seesaw, Flipgrid and Google Classroom.

On that day, students at the elementary level engaged in an exploration of informational text (print and film) about the Constitution and specifically the Bill of Rights. Students considered the information found in the Constitution and how it impacts our government and our communities. Students made real world connections to the ideas present in the Constitution by considering how it relates to classroom rules where they created classroom constitutions.

Classes at the middle school focused on a more in depth look at the Bill of Rights and Preamble to the Constitution. Students studied their significance and their impact on our daily lives and our government. They also learned about the Constitutional Convention. Discussion topics included the importance of the Constitution and conversation about the difficulties that lie in defining a democracy that involves all people.

At the high school level, students participated in a more in-depth study of the Constitution itself as a primary document. Classes studied the Bill of Rights as well as the Amendments to the Constitution. Students were asked to select one of the Amendments and advocate for its inclusion in our Constitution. Additionally, classes considered the issues facing our nation's Founders as they worked to establish a new government.

Ms. Kudwa thanked the staff for planning such wonderful Constitution Day events in our schools!

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hanshaw acknowledged the following board committee reports:

- **Legislative** – A meeting is scheduled on Wednesday.
- **Policy** – The committee hasn't met recently
- **Finance** – A Finance meeting was held today. They discussed impacts to the bond. The Supreme Court decision may mean that we have to hold a special meeting in person to make sure there are no questions about the legality and authority of the meeting. Ms. Witt is working on our first budget amendment as we now know the on-time payout and where our enrollment is for the year.
- **Facilities & Grounds** – A meeting is scheduled tomorrow.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – Their next meeting is scheduled on Thursday.
- **Oakland Schools Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee** – This was the second meeting for this group. It is generally a round table discussion at this point of what different districts are doing to support diversity, equity and inclusion. The Board from Farmington Public School Schools approved a proclamation that their district will be inclusive, diverse and equitable. Bloomfield Hills also passed something similar. Oakland Schools has produced a tool kit for equity, diversity and inclusion.

Mr. Dashner mentioned that last Wednesday he called into the Oakland County Intermediate School District School Board Update meeting where they basically bring in the Health Department and are updating anybody from school boards who want to call in for the current status of Oakland County. They briefly held a meeting last week and went over some of the stats. Basically, they are looking weekly at trends and number of cases, hospital capacity and other information. Oakland County seems to be fairly stable from everything he has heard. They have reports online that are free to the public. He will share the link with the Board. The meetings are scheduled every two weeks.

OTHER

There was no other information.

REPORTS

South Lyon Educational Foundation – Mr. Abbate shared information and a picture of spirit wear that is available to purchase by all South Lyon Community Schools staff. The logo "South Lyon Strong Together" turned out great! The South Lyon Educational Foundation raises funds to support students, staff and programs. Here is the link to the online store: <https://slstrong.itemorder.com/sale> There is also a link on the SLCS website home page. **The deadline to order is October 17 at midnight.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hanshaw offered a second opportunity for public comments. There were no comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Hanshaw acknowledged the following correspondence:

- Resignation
 - *Michele Sanderson (Centennial Middle School, 7th grade Science*

MEETING DATES

Ms. Hanshaw noted the following meeting dates.

- 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* stated that the SLHS soccer team is doing well this year. The JV team is undefeated. Varsity team has only 1 loss and getting into Districts and things of that nature. The girls golf team is also getting into Regionals and Districts. We have two very successful girls. Hopefully, they will be heading to States. She indicated that kids and parents are excited about heading back to school. She also stated that she hoped all the orders and new laws would be finalized soon.
- *Mr. Dashner* thanked all of our coaches and athletes across all of the sports. We haven't had any instances of canceled games due to COVID which indicates that all of our students and coaches and athletes are doing the right thing and making sure they are staying safe. He asked for everyone's patience with the Supreme Court ruling and the changes that will be made.
- *Mr. Schwegler* also asked everyone to be patient. Don't forget what last spring was like. He is excited for his kids to go back to school.
- *Mr. Abbate* indicated that he has heard from staff, parents and students this week. They are excited to go back to school. He thanked the families for the patience they have shown. He thanked the staff noting that online instruction is a very arduous task and is very taxing for teachers. He also thanked all the staff and the administration for everything they are doing to make sure that start of school goes off successfully and that the kids stay safe.
- *Mr. Kennedy* stated that he would add persistence and perseverance. Our administrative staff and our teachers have gone above and beyond to bring their kids interesting and exciting new ways to involve ourselves in education. A heartfelt thank you and acknowledgement to them and our staff.

- *Ms. Hanshaw* gave a big heartfelt thank you to our teachers. Their online program has been phenomenal. The teachers are basically teaching just like they would be in person and they're engaging with the students, doing it as successfully as possible. She expressed how proud of the work that our district is doing and added that our staff is leading the way on that.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Dashner to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Roll Call: Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Hanshaw-yes. Motion carries 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Abbate, Secretary
Board of Education