

**JANUARY 13, 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL STUDY SESSION  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT #63-240 COUNTIES OF  
OAKLAND, LIVINGSTON AND WASHTENAW**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting President Kennedy called the January 13, 2021 virtual study session to order at 6:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Anthony Abbate (6:20 pm), Craig Dashner, Eric Kennedy, Martin Leftwich, Bridgett McDowell, Dan Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel

**Absent:** None

**Administration/Others Present:** Steven Archibald, Superintendent  
Lisa Kudwa, Assistant Superintendent  
Stacy Witt, Assistant Superintendent  
Kelley Engblom, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator  
Kristin Weber, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**BACKGROUND ON THE DISTRICT'S BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS**

Superintendent Archibald explained that at next week's Board meeting, administrators would be sharing data related to the district's progress toward the goals established in compliance with the Return to Learn Legislation. He introduced the members of the CITA administration.

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Kudwa reviewed the assessment mandates that are included in August 2020's Return to Learn legislation. Each district was required to identify educational goals and identify a benchmark assessment or assessment system that are aligned to state standards. The assessment must be administered to pupils in grades K-8 within the first nine weeks of the school year and again before the end of the year to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics.

Mrs. Kudwa explained that our district selected NWEA's MAP Growth assessment, which was already given for grades JK-8. The district had planned to expand that administration to include ninth and tenth grade as well this year. Due to the pandemic, CARES funds were used to include grades 11 and 12. Our district is administering the assessment in all grades in the fall (September-early November) and spring (April-May), with a mid-year assessment occurring for grades JK-8 (January-February) as well.

As part of the legislation, two progress reports are required - one by February 1, 2021 and the second before the last day of school. These progress reports will be shared with the Board of Education and also posted to the transparency page of the district's website. The reports can detail either growth or achievement data and our district will utilize the growth data for these progress reports. Due to the mid-year testing window still being open, only the fall data will be shared next week. Mrs. Kudwa reviewed the district's two educational goals for the year.

Mrs. Engblom, the elementary Curriculum Coordinator, reviewed the district's history of using NWEA's MAP Growth assessment for the past four school years, along with the rollout of the assessment across grade bands. She shared about the benefits of the MAP Growth assessment in empowering teachers to make professional decisions to guide instruction and why the teams making decisions about assessments opted to recommend this assessment. Mrs. Engblom also spoke to the professional development staff received, or will receive, to help them understand how to administer the assessments and use the data to improve instruction. She briefly spoke to the next steps in this roll-out. Mrs. McDowell asked a clarifying question related to future staff development for test item writing.

Mrs. Weber, the secondary Curriculum Coordinator, shared an overview of the MAP Growth assessment. The test is a unique test for each student as it is computer adaptive and adjusts to the individual student's instructional level as the test progresses. At the K-1 grade levels, the test is read to students. Teachers are able to access classroom level data within 24 hours of students completing the assessments.

Mrs. Weber reviewed the concept of a RIT score and how it is used to measure academic growth over time. Students receive an overall score in Reading and Math, along with scores in sub-goal areas in each subject. Part of the student score includes a percentile rank indicating how a student scores compared to grade level peers across the country receiving the same number of weeks of instruction at the time the assessment was administered. Mrs. Weber spoke to how the data reports are used to tailor classroom instruction and support for individual students as well as make system-wide decisions.

Administration answered a few questions from Board members.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

#### **ADJOURN**

Moved by Mr. Dashner, supported by Ms. Urtel to adjourn the study session at 6:41 p.m.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Ms. McDowell-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 7 - 0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Abbate, Secretary  
Board of Education