

June 2, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT #63-240 COUNTIES OF
OAKLAND, LIVINGSTON AND WASHTENAW
HELD AT THE SOUTH LYON CITY & SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER

President Dashner called the special meeting of June 2, 2021 to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anthony Abbate (6:02 pm), Craig Dashner, Eric Kennedy, Martin Leftwich, Dan Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Dashner offered an opportunity for public comments. There were no comments.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BOARD MEMBER

President Dashner announced that he received an earlier message from the first candidate (Jason Cornellier) that he had a family emergency out of town and may not be available for an interview. The Board then discussed and determined the final interview questions before the process began.

President Dashner explained the interview process. Each candidate will be interviewed individually. There will be a 25-minute period set aside for each candidate. The Board will keep track of the time. Each candidate will be allowed two minutes for an opening statement. The candidate will have twenty (20) minutes to take and answer questions (two questions from each board member) followed with a three-minute opportunity to provide the Board with a closing statement. All candidates will be asked the same questions and allowed the same amount of time. There would be no motion made for any candidate before the process is complete. After all the candidates have been interviewed, the candidates will all be brought back into the room. The Board will begin deliberations, and the Board president will then ask each board member to vote for their top two candidates in an effort to narrow the field. Additional rounds of voting will take place if needed. The voting will be conducted openly. When there is one candidate with more votes than others, that candidate will be appointed the interim position on the Board. Jason Cornellier, Ann Rimanelli, Patrick Maguire, Pamela Najor and Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce were the candidates who were selected by the Board to interview for the position left vacant by the resignation of Bridgett McDowell on May 12, 2021.

INTERIM CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

6:00 p.m. - Jason Cornellier - (Due to a family emergency, Mr. Cornellier had to drop out.)

6:30 p.m. – Ann Rimanelli

7:00 p.m. – Patrick Maguire

7:30 p.m. – Pamela Najor

8:00 p.m. – Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce

The starting times were adjusted approximately 15 minutes earlier due to the first candidate dropping out. Ms. Rimanelli started her interview at 6:15 p.m.

President Dashner began the interviews. Each candidate provided an opening statement; the board members questioned each candidate and each candidate then provided a closing statement.

After all the candidates offered their final comments, President Dashner called a short recess before moving into deliberations.

The Board reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

President Dashner invited the Board to share their opinions and opened up the meeting for a general discussion. All of the board members offered their thoughts and comments on each of the candidates. He then asked the Board to name their top two candidates in the initial vote to help narrow down the list. Additional rounds of voting will take place if needed.

First Round Poll of the Board

Mr. Kennedy – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce & Patrick Maguire*

Mr. Schwegler – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce & Patrick Maguire*

Mr. Abbate – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce & Ann Rimanelli*

Ms. Urtel – *Ann Rimanelli & Patrick Maguire*

Mr. Dashner - *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce & Patrick Maguire*

Mr. Leftwich – *Patrick Maguire & Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce*

Ms. Urtel tallied up the votes and reported the first-round tally gave, Ms. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce – 5 votes, Mr. Patrick Maguire - 5 votes, Ms. Ann Rimanelli - 2 votes and Ms. Pamela Najor - 0 votes.

To help narrow the candidates down further to one, Mr. Dashner asked each board member to speak to one candidate of their choice, and a second vote will be taken.

Second Round Poll of the Board

Mr. Leftwich spoke in favor of Mr. McGuire. He believes his law enforcement background is a really valuable piece, and he would make a fine addition to this Board. He's level-headed, even keeled and his intelligent responses make him a strong candidate.

Mr. Abbate agreed with all the things that were said about Mr. McGuire. It would be a pleasure to work with him. He personally spoke to Ms. Junkulis-Pierce because he has worked with her on the South Lyon Educational Foundation. He feels they are both stellar candidates and would be happy to work with either candidate.

Mr. Schwegler indicated that both candidates are outstanding, but he felt Mr. Maguire came across as exceptionally polished. He loved his law enforcement background and noted that it is something we don't have on the Board. The points that he made are much aligned with how he thinks personally. Ms. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce also had great responses and is more attune with innovation which would help put us back on top.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that they all have a place in the district and community. He felt that Mr. Maguire and Ms. Junkulis-Pierce have a good handle on how the Board works. They are both diplomatic and professional. They both spoke about teamwork and how our Board works together.

Ms. Urtel agreed with all that has been said and struggled to come up with anything additional to add.

Mr. Dashner noted that there were a lot of similarities between Mr. Maguire and Ms. Junkulis-Pierce. They both talked about trust and doing the right things for the rights reasons. Ms. Junkulis-Pierce is part of our educational community

Final Round Poll of the Board

Mr. Dashner – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce*
Mr. Abbate – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce*
Mr. Leftwich – *Patrick Maguire*
Ms. Urtel – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce*
Mr. Kennedy – *Patrick Maguire*
Mr. Schwegler – *Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce*

Ms. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce – 4 votes
Mr. Patrick Maguire – 2 votes

Mr. Dashner announced that Ms. Junkulis-Pierce received the most votes and would fill the open position.

BOARD VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BOARD MEMBER

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Mr. Leftwich that it is the majority of the remaining members of the Board of Education of the South Lyon Community Schools to appoint Ms. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce to fill the unexpired term until the November 2022 election due to the resignation of Ms. Bridgett McDowell on May 12, 2021.

Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes. Motion carried 6 - 0.

On behalf of the Board, President Dashner offered his congratulations to Ms. Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Dashner offered a second opportunity for public comments. There were no comments.

RECESS TO COMPLETE LEGAL PAPERWORK

President Dashner called a short recess to give the new board member time to fill out legal paperwork.

INTERIM BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE

Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce was administered the Constitutional Oath of Office.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Mr. Leftwich to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel,
Secretary