

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Livonia Public Schools  
15125 Farmington Road  
Regular Meeting  
February 13, 2017**

Vice President Johnson convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia.

**Members Present**

Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

**Members Absent**

Burton

**Student Art Gallery – Franklin High School**

Mrs. Jenkins, administrator of communications, introduced Franklin High School students who had their artwork on display in the Board Room. Students pointed out their artwork and were presented with a certificate. The following Franklin students had artwork on display: Kacey Bernhard, Lauren Forgacs, Shaelyn Hainsworth, Rebecca Haupt, and Anna Siewicki.

**Golden Apple Award – Dave Gluth, Bldg. Supv. Johnson**

Board trustee Liz Jarvis presented Dave Gluth, Building Supervisor at Johnson Upper Elementary School, with the Golden Apple Award plaque and pin, and thanked him for the positive impact he has had on the students and staff of Johnson.

**Principals' Week Resolution**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution establishing the week of February 13-17, 2017, as Principals' Week in Livonia Public Schools.

**WHEREAS**, Principals' Week is dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions of Livonia Public Schools school principals and the commitment to providing quality educational experiences and guidance for their students; and,

**WHEREAS**, energetic and inspiring school leadership is essential if schools, teachers, and support staff are to implement college and career-ready standards and assessments; and,

**WHEREAS**, school principals play a vital role in the success of students and act as the liaison between the school and the community it serves; and,

**WHEREAS**, we join with educators, parents and students to raise awareness of the importance of educational leadership;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the trustees of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education recognize the week of February 13-17, 2017 as

## SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' WEEK

and encourage all citizens to thank and support the efforts of school principals in our community.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**District Update  
from the  
Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist shared the following:

- Appreciation to students for expressing themselves through their creative artwork and for sharing their art with the community.
- Thank you to LEADS members for their contribution to the work we do at LPS; we couldn't do it without each of you.
- Congratulations to Dave Gluth for his Golden Apple Award; he embodies the spirit of LPS.
- Congratulations to Grant Sobczak, CHS student who was recognized by Channel 7 as one of *Ann Marie's All Stars* for his creation of MyDigiSlips, an online permission slip program that reduces costs.
- Members of the CHS Key Club, CHS National Honor Society, and Livonia Kiwanis Early Risers Club partnered together for *Kids Against Hunger*. 20,000 meals were packed.
- Livonia Chamber of Commerce held Leadership & Awards Celebration, recognizing community leaders and businesses, as well as our Teachers of the Year – Art Colling, Don Stromberg, and Amie Van Horn Gabel.
- SHS students participated in District Solo and Ensemble Festival. 17 events were entered; 14 qualified for State Solo and Ensemble. One of Stevenson's large ensembles, The Nightingales, received a perfect score.
- SHS students participated in instrumental music Solo and Ensemble Festival in Ann Arbor. 14 events received 2's. 24 events received 1's and qualified to compete in the State Solo and Ensemble Festival at South Lyon High School on March 18.
- District Transition Team (DTT), comprised of staff, parents, and administrators representing the seven schools impacted by the closing of Cass and Garfield schools, held their second meeting. Transition newsletter is published every other week and distributed to families and staff at the seven schools; special section on front of LPS website includes updates from DTT; questions can be submitted to DTT representatives and responses will be shared. School transition teams are being established at the seven schools as well.
- Governor passed **proposed** budget for upcoming year. We are hopeful with his inclusion of a modest increase in the foundation allowance, as well as additional dollars for at-risk learners and high schools.

- CHS CAPA students will perform *Into the Woods* on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

**Written  
Communication  
Audience  
Communication**

None

Susan Gonyou addressed the Board regarding the appointment of Keith McDonald.

Jakes Gates and Iris Derry, captains of Livonia Warriors, addressed the Board to provide some updates on the activities of their robotics team.

**Response to  
Prior Audience  
Communication**

None

**Consent  
Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the following consent agenda items as recommended by the superintendent:

- V.A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2017
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 23, 2017
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of January 23, 2017
- V.D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 6, 2017
- V.E. Minutes of the Closed Session of February 6, 2017
- VI.A. Bills for Payment—February 14, 2017

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval of  
Limited Schools  
of Choice  
Program for  
2017-2018**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to participate in *Limited Schools of Choice* under Section 105c for the 2017-18 school year. Openings to include: up to thirty (30) students at kindergarten; up to ten (10) students in grades 1-3; up to five (5) students in grade 4; and up to fifteen (15) students in grades 5-8; for a total of up to 125 students.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval to  
Purchase  
Furniture for  
Secondary  
Schools – 2013**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of secondary classroom student chairs from Interior Environments, Novi, Michigan for a cost of \$32,023.20; secondary classroom desks from Staples Business

**Bond**

Advantage, Livonia, Michigan for a cost of \$41,357.10; and additional loose desk tops for a cost of \$2,331.55; for a total cost of \$75,711.85.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval to Purchase Acoustic and Digital Pianos – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of pianos from Steinway Gallery, Commerce Township, Michigan: twenty-six (26) digital pianos for a cost of \$84,344 and twenty-seven (27) upright acoustic pianos for a cost of \$185,220, for a total cost of \$269,564.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval to Purchase Caterpillar Wheel Loader – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of a 2017 Caterpillar 926M Wheel Loader from Michigan CAT, Novi, Michigan for a total cost of 103,985.00.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid Results for Commissioning Agent for Churchill High School Renovations – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Jarvis, that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to appoint Sellinger Associates for the Churchill High School bond project at a cost of \$43,500.00 plus \$8,700.00 in project contingency, for a total cost of \$52,200.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid Results for Security Firm for Churchill High School**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to appoint Security Designs for the Churchill High School bond project at a total cost of \$44,333.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid Results for Environmental Consultant for Churchill High School Renovations – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to appoint Arch Environmental Group for the Churchill High School bond project for a total cost of \$95,113.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid Results for Asbestos Abatement at Churchill High School**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to appoint the contract award for abatement at Churchill High School to Global Green Services Group, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, for a cost of \$455,191.00 and contingency funds of \$91,038.00, for a total cost of \$546,229.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Recommendation to Relocate Western Wayne Skill Center to Garfield**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District relocate the Western Wayne Skill Center programs to Garfield Elementary School.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Appointment of Assistant Director of Human Resources**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and appoint Keith McDonald for the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources beginning February 27, 2017.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Appointment of Chief Academic Officer**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and appoint Theresa O'Brien for the position of Chief Academic Officer beginning February 27, 2017.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Teachers for Approval**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and offer employment for the 2016-17 school year to the following teachers:

**Tara Leach** 1.0 Science Teacher, Emerson Middle School  
**Spencer Riley** .8 Social Studies Teacher, Frost Middle School

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Teachers for Tenure**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and grant tenure status to the following teachers effective on the respective dates:

**Joseph Bublitz** February 13, 2017  
**Kelsey Duff** February 27, 2017

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson  
Nays: None

**First Reading of Board Policy BCB – Procedures During Meetings**

Superintendent Oquist reviewed proposed changes to the following policies. These policies will be on the next regular meeting agenda for a second reading and potential approval.

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD** **BCB**  
**BOARD OPERATIONS** **SEPTEMBER 16, 2013**  
**PROCEDURES DURING MEETINGS**  
The order of business at regular meetings generally shall be as follows:

**And**

**First Reading of Board Policy BHA – Code of Ethics**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Communications
- District Update from the Superintendent**
- Audience Communications (limited to a total of fifteen (15) minutes, with remainder following Personnel Matters)
- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- Instructional Matters
- Business Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Remainder of Audience Communications
- ~~Reports from the Superintendent~~
- Hearing from Board Members
- Adjournment

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD  
BOARD OPERATIONS  
CODE OF ETHICS****BHA  
MARCH 21, 2016**

**As members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, we shall promote the best interests of the school district as a whole, and will make decisions that place student learning and the success of all students first by adhering to the following educational and ethical standards:**

As a Board member,

- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children, and will seek to develop and maintain schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, height, weight, marital status, or handicap/disability **race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability.**
- **I will be a personal advocate for the good work of the District.**
- I will focus Board action on policy making, strategic planning, and designating and evaluating the Superintendent.
- I will recognize that the role of the Board is to govern and oversee the management of the District. I will delegate authority to the Superintendent for the day-to-day operations of the District and will not seek to participate in the day-to-day operations.
- I will review and evaluate all policies, bylaws, procedures, and processes, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current and relevant.
- **I will follow established Board Operating Procedures.**
- I will come to Board meetings prepared to discuss and take action on all agenda items. I will study the material in the Board packet and follow established Board Operating Procedures for additional information prior to each Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent or Board President notification of my concerns prior to the Board meetings, so that the concerns can be properly addressed.
- I will understand that I have not only the right, but the duty, to express my views and opinions and ask questions at the Board table, and will make a good faith effort to understand the views of others.
- I will recognize that the Board must make decisions as a whole in public. I will render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and, if such a conflict is unavoidable, I will disclose such interest and abstain from voting on such matters.
- ~~I will respect the decision and the implementation of the consensus of the Board once a decision has been made.~~
- **I will respect the consensus and decisions of the Board and support their implementation.**
- I will recognize that while I am free to express my personal views, the Board President is the spokesperson for the Board and the Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District.
- I will be respectful and listen to all ideas presented to the Board, be it from parents, staff, students, community members, other Board members, or other stakeholders. I will listen and then refer any person to appropriate personnel.
- I will communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expression of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- I will exercise caution when communicating between and among Board members via electronic communication, and will abide by the Open Meetings Act.
- I will hold confidential all matters that, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, schools, or the district. I will respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law, including closed session discussions.
- I will stay informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information; for example, those sponsored by my state and national school board associations.
- I will take no private action that will compromise the Board, the Administration, or the District.

- I will refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.
- I will support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as District staff.
- I will support and protect District personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will, along with my fellow Board members, review, revise ~~(if appropriate)~~ and sign this Code of Ethics annually at the beginning of each year.

As Board President,

- I will ensure that persons addressing the Board follow established guidelines as outlined in Board policy.
- I will advise persons addressing the Board to do so in a respectful manner and not allow ~~inappropriate communication~~ rude and indecent behavior, **profane or indecent discourse**, to be directed to the Board, ~~or the Superintendent,~~ **or others** during Board meetings.
- I will ensure that all Board members are given an opportunity to express their views. I will work toward building consensus among all Board members.
- I will follow parliamentary procedure, to the extent that it does not conflict with Board policy.

**Adjournment**

Vice President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**Off/Supt/jw**