

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Orion Community Schools, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, was called to order on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:31 p.m.

Board Members Present: D. Bresett, J. Faber, S. Flaherty, B. McQuiston, H. Sinawi, J. Singer, S. Taylor

Administrators Present: H. Mercer, A. Weldon, A. Curtis, D. Towlerton

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, R. Hower, W. Burns, K. Kogut, K. Wise, M. Dalton, J. Stafford, S. Tighe, L. Logsdon, M. Bendle, J. Bendle, C. Nash, S. Gabriel, F. Xia, L. Stewart, T. Gdowski, S. Sychta, K. Sychta

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Acting President Bresett directed the Board into the Organizational Meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

President: Taylor nominated Bresett. Bresett accepted the nomination. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Vice President: McQuiston nominated Sinawi. Sinawi accepted the nomination. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Secretary: McQuiston nominated Flaherty. Flaherty accepted the nomination. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Treasurer: Flaherty nominated Singer. Singer accepted the nomination. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The following members were appointed to Board committees.

Finance: Bresett, McQuiston, Singer

Policy: Faber, Flaherty, Taylor

Superintendent Evaluation: McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer

Lamp of Learning Sponsorship: Faber, Singer, Taylor

Curriculum Committee: Bresett, Flaherty, Sinawi

Board Self-Assessment Committee: Bresett, Faber, Taylor

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: The following members will represent the Board on County/District committees.

Oakland Schools Budget Committee Representative: Singer

OCSBA Government Relations Committee: McQuiston

LOCS Sexuality Education Advisory Committee Representative: Sinawi

LOCS Wellness Committee Representative: Faber

ADOPT CALENDAR OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

Board members reviewed a draft schedule of Board meetings for the 2026-27 school year.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Flaherty, to adopt the 2026-27 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

President Bresett directed the Board out of the Organizational Meeting, continuing the Regular Meeting.

NEW CERTIFIED STAFF CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Adam Weldon introduced Rachael Hower. Kimberly Blackstock was unable to attend the meeting.

RECOGNITION: SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

In honor of Board Appreciation Month, LOCS Board members were recognized for their service and dedication. Cards and gifts were presented from district staff.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mark Snyder shared learning highlights from various programs throughout the district.

PRESENTATION

Secondary Science and World Language Recommendations - Wendy Burns and Kaitlin Kogut discussed the current science curriculum and the pilot of OpenSciEd. They discussed materials and the PASCO resources as well as implementation and costs. Approval of this curriculum would reduce some honors class offerings but would give all students a lot of scheduling flexibility and modernize the curriculum. Kelsey Wise and Melissa Dalton discussed the Spanish curriculum and the need for materials. Reporteros and ¡Qué Chévere! were piloted. ¡Qué Chévere! rated high instructional materials. They also discussed implementation and costs.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: No participation from the public.

STRATEGIC AREA DISCUSSION ITEMS**Governance**

Superintendent's Update: Heidi Mercer discussed the following:

- **Legislative Update:** Updates were provided on legislative proposals for Proposal A replacement, school librarian requirements, mandatory reporter training, partisan school board elections, medical treatments at school for students, cash for sports admissions, excused absences for agriculture events, tobacco and vaping information requirements, and opt-out of the work readiness assessment. Birgit McQuiston discussed the upcoming federal government funding deadline and the potential for another temporary shutdown if funding is not in place by January 30.
- **2018 Bond Update:** The auxiliary gym is opening soon and CERC summer projects are being planned.

Policy Committee Report- Second Reading NEOLA 40-1 Updates: Administration reported that a name was updated (technical change) for the Section 504 coordinator in policy 2260.01 from first reading. The Board reviewed the proposed amendments and no additional changes were recommended.

- Policies 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5120, 5460, 5517.01, 7540.02, 7541, 8300, 8305
- Non-discrimination - Policies 1422, 1422.02, 1623, 1662, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3122.02, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4122.02, 4123, 4362

FOIA Appeal: The Board reviewed a fee appeal dated January 9, 2026. The FOIA request, fee estimate and the details of the appeal request were reviewed and discussed.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towleron discussed the following:

- **LOHS Course Proposals - Second Reading:** The Board reviewed High School course proposals for Senior Composition, Literature and the Modern Mind, Literature and the Power of Voice and Literature and the Human Legacy. No additional questions were raised.

Curriculum Committee Report: Danielle Bresett reported the committee met on December 16 to discuss the secondary science pilot and elementary ELA pilot.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon discussed the following:

- **Certified New Hire Recommendations:** A recommendation for two certified teachers was reviewed.
- **Schools of Choice for 2026-27:** The Board reviewed current seats available and enrollment by building and grade. Administration recommended for K-8, the target SOC enrollment is not to exceed 10% of building or total enrollment, where space is available. Acceptance will be determined by program circumstances and administration for Learning Options.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis discussed the following:

- **2025-26 Budget Amendment - First Reading:** A summary of the amendment was reviewed.

GENERAL FUND	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget
Revenue:	\$103,443,332	\$107,122,268
Expenditures:	\$103,422,504	\$107,006,059
FUND BALANCE	9.8%	11.1%

- **CERC Partial Demo and Site Circulation Bid Award:** The Board reviewed bid summaries for partial demolition and site work at CERC totaling \$5,484,866.00.

Finance Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee met on January 5 to review the 2025-26 budget amendment and sinking fund updates.

ACTION ITEMS

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the consent agenda items as presented:

- Approve Payment of the December Bills in the Amount of \$9,550,581.28
- Approve Minutes from the December 16 Regular, Special and Closed Session, December 19 Curriculum Committee, December 30, 2025 Special and January 5, 2026 Finance Committee Meetings

- c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests
 - 1. LOHS AP Physics - Sandusky, OH, May 18, 2026
 - 2. LOHS Thespian Troupe - St. Johns, MI, February 13-14, 2026
 - 3. Scripps 8th Grade - Washington, D.C. Trip, June 14-19, 2026

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Singer, seconded by Faber, to approve revisions to Board policies 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5120, 5460, 5517.01, 7540.02, 7541, 8300, 8305, 1422, 1422.02, 1623, 1662, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3122.02, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4122.02, 4123, 4362 as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to approve the High School new course request for Senior Composition, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by McQuiston, to approve the High School new course request for Literature and the Modern Mind, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to approve the High School new course request for Literature and the Power of Voice, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to approve the High School new course request for Literature and the Human Legacy, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by McQuiston, to approve two certified new hires as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by McQuiston, to approve the administrative recommendation to authorize Schools of Choice slots for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented. For Kindergarten through grade 8, the target SOC enrollment is not to exceed 10% of the building population or the total district enrollment, for non-resident students, where there is space available. For Learning Options High School, Schools of Choice acceptance will be determined by program circumstances with administrative input. Ayes-all; Motion carried.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration to finalize and execute the contracts listed in Bid package 1 and 2 for the CERC partial-demolition and site circulation in the amount of \$4,789,787 and allowances and contingencies of \$695,079 for a total recommendation of \$5,484,866. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to deny the FOIA appeal submitted on January 9, 2026 appealing the fee estimate in response to a FOIA submitted on December 13, 2025. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

Scott Gabriel, a community resident, highlighted senior exit interviews he volunteered for and expressed interest in running for a Board seat if any members do not intend to run next term.

Mike Bendle, a former district employee, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Frank Xia, a district student, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Liam Stewart, a district student, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Tim Gdowski, a district student, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Sara Sychta, a district student, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Jenna Bendle, a district employee, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

Connie Nash, a district employee, expressed opposition of the recommended science curriculum.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS: Nothing noted

CLOSING COMMENTS: Administrator and Board member items were provided for and so noted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.