

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, October 8, 2025, at 6:30 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, L. Logsdon, J. Goral

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

NEW CERTIFIED STAFF CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION

Adam Weldon introduced Ashley LeCureaux and Chad Chappell.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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

PRESENTATION: LOHS TEAM ROOMS DESIGN PLANS WITH GMB

GMB Architect, Mitch Duyser, reviewed detailed design plans for project. Construction is expected in spring 2026. The new team building will support multiple sports, including football, soccer, baseball, softball, and future tennis courts, and will include public restrooms and training rooms. The site design also aims to improve the flow of traffic and parking on the campus, with plans for additional parking in future phases.

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:** A state budget was approved, 95 days beyond the deadline. It includes a \$1.3 billion diversion from the school aid fund for adult priorities and road funding. It also includes a cost shift of over \$100 million in state support for K-12 retirement costs and directs school aid fund dollars to private K-12 programs. The federal government shutdown also impacts the stability of programs like Title 1 and IDEA. Andrea Curtis shared the preliminary impact of the state budget on LOCS, including a \$2.9 million increase in per pupil funding which is offset by a \$3.6 million reduction in 147 funding. The district will see increases in at-risk funding, which are tied to specific programs and cannot be used for general expenses. The 3% healthcare contribution reimbursement will be a significant cost for the district, as the State has not made districts whole for these expenses. The universal free meals program will continue but the state has not indicated if it will be retroactive from October 1. Additional analysis on the budget will be completed to determine the full impact.

2018 Bond Update: Work is progressing on the LOHS auxiliary gym and should be completed by December.

2025 Bond Proposal: The District continues to share information regarding the proposal at community events. A video of the informational presentation is being created to share as well.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towlerton provided an update on special education, including the completion of meetings with principals. He reported the English learner family night and first Barnes and Nobel math night were successful. He clarified the process for field trips, emphasizing the importance of ensuring all students have the opportunity to participate without barriers of costs.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon reported fall student count day was October 1. A flu shot clinic is scheduled for October 13. He also discussed the following:

- **Certified New Hire and Administrative Recommendation:** A recommendation to hire a certified teacher was reviewed as well as a District Career Focused Education Supervisor.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee met on September 30 to review progress toward goals including a balanced budget and professional growth. The formal evaluation process will begin on October 29 at a special meeting.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: No report as budget was discussed during the legislative update.

Finance Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee met on September 24 to review preliminary audit results and discuss the fiscal year 2026 budget. They reviewed the sinking fund and discussed the Joslyn Road and Pine Tree property.

ACTION ITEMS

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

- a. Approve Payment of the September Bills in the Amount of \$7,735,563.86
- b. Approve minutes from the September 24 Regular, September 24 Finance Committee and September 30, 2025 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meetings
- c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests
 1. LOHS FCCLA - Location in Michigan to be determined, February 23-25, 2026
 2. LOHS FCCLA - Washington, DC, July 6-10, 2026

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Flaherty, to approve a certified new hire as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Taylor, to approve appointing Chad Chappell as the District CFE Supervisor, as recommended. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

No participation from the public.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS:

Anthony Taormina, a district employee, requested that the student community service hour requirement be increased to 40 hours, as it was prior to the pandemic.

Scott Gabriel, a community resident, complimented the district's international exchange program, senior exit interview process and expansive opportunities for students. He suggested requiring students to attend a governmental meeting prior to graduation to increase their awareness.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Board Secretary