

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Regular Meeting - Virtual
March 22, 2021**

President Burton convened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

**Members
Present**

Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson

**Members
Absent**

Bonifield

**LPS Educators
and Support
Staff of the Year**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions for the 2020-2021 Educators and Support Staff of the Year.

**LORRAINE GIORGINO
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and

WHEREAS, Lorraine Giorgino, a physical education teacher at Webster Elementary and Cooper Upper Elementary, and a 27-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Elementary Educator of the Year for 2020-2021 by a district-wide committee; and

WHEREAS, In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional educator, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and

WHEREAS, Lorraine is a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher who is creative and believes in promoting and elevating the physical health of her students as well as their social-emotional well-being, by creating programming that engages and builds connections and relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Lorraine Giorgino for being named Elementary Educator of the Year for 2020-2021 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.

**MIMI HIGGINS
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Higgins, a special education teacher at Holmes Middle School, and a 22-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Secondary Educator of the Year for 2020-2021 by a district-wide committee; and

WHEREAS, In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional educator, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and

WHEREAS, Mimi has shown a deep dedication to educating her students and supporting her students' growth by doing whatever it takes to reach and connect with her students through genuine interactions, time and care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Mimi Higgins for being named Secondary Educator of the Year for 2020-2021 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.

**PAT SCHUCHARDT
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and

WHEREAS, Pat Schuchardt, supervisor of Food & Nutrition Services for Livonia Public Schools and a nine-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Support Staff Member of the Year for 2020-2021 by a district-wide committee; and

WHEREAS, In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional employee, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and

WHEREAS, Pat displays a tireless dedication to serving the nutritional needs of our students and has shown that commitment especially well during the pandemic, providing a first-ever curbside food distribution for families and food pickup programs for the district's remote learners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Pat Schuchardt for being named Support Staff Member of the Year for 2020-2021 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Read Across
America
Resolution**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt the resolution below, in recognition of Read Across America during the month of March 2021

**Read Across America
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, citizens of the Livonia Public Schools School District stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future and their ability to compete in a global economy, and;

WHEREAS, "Read Across America," a national celebration of Dr. Seuss's 117th birthday, on March 2, 2021, is sponsored by the Livonia Education Association, in cooperation with the National Education Association, and promotes reading and adult involvement in the education of our community's students, and;

WHEREAS, motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers, and;

WHEREAS, research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading, do better in school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District, call upon their citizens to assure that every child is reading together, with a caring adult, throughout the month of March, designated as March is Reading Month (celebrated today, March 22, 2021, with the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recommits our community to engage in programs and activities to make America's children the best readers in the world.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**District Update
from the
Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist shared highlights about LPS staff and students, via a slideshow presentation. She also relayed information that was sent to parents regarding the submission of requests for in-person or virtual student instruction for 2020-2021. In addition, dates and locations for upcoming COVID testing were provided.

**Written
Communication**

None

**Audience
Communication**

Mandy Gerstenbrand, President of the LPTSA Council, relayed that the LPTSA Council fully supports the District's 2021 bond proposal.

**Response to
Prior Audience
Communication**

None

**Consent
Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers 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 February 22, 2021
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 22, 2021
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of February 22, 2021
- VII.A. Approval of Cooperative Agreements for Livonia Career Technical Center – Agreements to include Northville, Plymouth-Canton, Crestwood, Plymouth Christian Academy, Redford Union, and Wayne-Westland
- VII.B. Approval of Cooperative Agreements for Livonia Transition Program - Agreements to include special education services for Northville, Redford Union, Garden City, South Redford, Huron, VanBuren, and Crestwood

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Approval to
Purchase
Mobile Devices
for Students**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of 405 Dell Chromebooks for students who have a non-school issued device at home but are not able to bring the device to school, for a total cost of \$159,975.00.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Approval to
Purchase
Curriculum
Materials for
Jackson Early
Childhood
Center**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District purchase Creative Curriculum Materials and Resources for use in our infant, two-year old, preschool, and Young 5's classrooms for \$31,675.00. This purchase includes print and digital materials for teachers, and books and materials for students.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Reconfirmation of the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District reconfirm the Continuity of Learning Plan that was approved on September 28, 2020. The plan recommends that students continue to receive instruction either through Livonia Virtual or in person at our schools.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Recommend Expulsion of One Secondary Student

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District expel one middle school student for violations of the Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education policies.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Bid Results for Central Office Renovation

It was moved Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to approve the construction project for the Central Office Administration Building Renovation – General Contracting Services to Braun Construction Group, Farmington Hills, Michigan, in the amount of \$2,210,304.00 plus a 10% contingency in the amount of \$221,030.00 for a total project amount of \$2,431,334.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts with the recommended contractor.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Design Firm for Phase II, Part 2 of Central Office Renovation

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve Harley Ellis Devereaux (HED) as the architectural engineering design firm for Phase II, Part 2 of the Central Office Renovation, for a total amount not to exceed \$52,700.00 plus reimbursable costs up to \$5,000.00 and authorize an additional reimbursement from Phase II, Part 1 of \$26,945.00

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Owner's Representative for 2021 Bond

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve Plante Moran Cresa as the Owner's Representative for the District's 2021 Bond projects upon successful passage of the 2021 Bond Referendum and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts with Plante Moran Cresa on behalf of Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Bleacher Replacement at Churchill High School

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase and installation of new competition gymnasium bleachers at Churchill High School by Interkal, LLC, Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the amount of \$254,128.00 plus a 4% contingency in the amount of \$10,165.00 for a total approved amount of \$264,293.00.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Districtwide Phone System Update

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase and installation of a Districtwide Phone System Update by Sentinel Technologies, Livonia, Michigan, in the amount of is \$404,261.13.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval to Purchase Benefits Administration System

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts with Benefitfirst for benefit administration services on behalf of the Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Approval of Teachers

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and offer employment for the 2020-21 school year to the following

teachers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Barry, Denise	1.0 Holmes Middle School	03/15/21
Hickey, Megan	1.0 Frost Middle School	03/01/21
Hoch, Amy	1.0 Franklin High School	03/01/21
Kingsbury, Orgela	1.0 Frost Middle School	03/01/21
McAllister, Colleen	1.0 Emerson Middle School	03/01/21

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Teacher for Tenure

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and acknowledge that tenure status will be granted to the following teacher, effective on the respective date:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Christine Broome	March 4, 2021

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Leaves of Absence

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and approve the request for a leave of absence for:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Whitney Graves	2021-22 school year
Brenda Kleinow	2021-22 school year
Laura Steele	2021-22 school year
Courtney Taylor	2021-22 school year

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Resignations

As authorized in the Board of Education motion of June 15, 2020, a resignation was accepted by the superintendent for:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Jennifer Penaranda	March 18, 2021
Caryn Schmitt	March 8, 2021
Marlene Scott	March 12, 2021
Brittany Stall	March 2, 2021

Retirements

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions of appreciation for services rendered by:

Judy Fedraw, who retired from the district on February 24, 2021, and devoted 21.6 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional and an associate teacher in the Great Start Readiness Program at Perrinville Early Childhood Center and at Garfield Community School.

Stacey Grammatico, who will retire from the district on June 21, 2021, and will have devoted 30 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Cooper Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Rosedale Elementary, and Hayes Elementary as a teacher.

Darlene Hoy, who will retire from the district on March 31, 2021, and will have devoted 33.2 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Cooper Upper Elementary, Coolidge Elementary, and Cleveland Elementary.

Anna McEwen, who will retire from the district on June 21, 2021, and will have devoted 13.7 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Emerson Middle School, Frost Middle School, and Stevenson High School as a teacher.

Nancy Yoas, who will retire from the district on June 21, 2021, and will have devoted 31 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Western Wayne Skills Center as a teacher.

Ayes: Acosta, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Adjournment

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Off/Supt/jw