

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, April 9, 2025, at 5:32 p.m.

Board Members Present: D. Bresett, J. Faber (arrived 6:24 p.m.), S. Flaherty, B. McQuiston (arrived 5:36 p.m.), H. Sinawi, J. Singer, S. Taylor

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

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, W. Goodman, T. Bronczyk, S. Wendland, C. Demoff, M. Firis, C. St. Laurent, B. Simms, A. Miller, E. Meerschaert, K. McLean, T. Robinson, L. Logsdon, T. Byal, J. Goral, C. Murphy, J. Ripple

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to move into closed session to discuss negotiations. Roll call: Ayes-5 (Bresett, Flaherty, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried

The Board moved into closed session at 5:33 p.m. No action was taken in closed session.

President Bresett directed the Board out of closed session at 6:33 p.m.

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

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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

PRESENTATIONS

Unified Teams - Erik Meerschaert and students that participate in Unified Basketball and Unified Robotics provided information about the programs and shared highlights from their experiences.

Carpenter Elementary School Showcase - Teresa Bronczyk, Claire Demoff, Carissa St. Laurent and students provided information about their "Be the HEART" challenge.

Waldon Middle School Showcases - Sara Wendland, Amanda Miller, Beth Simms, Megan Firis and students provided information about their "SpongeBob the Musical" production.

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:** There is proposed legislation regarding teacher certification requirements and fees, teacher preparation requirements, and future educator student teacher stipend program.
- **Future Planning Presentation / Bond Discussion:** Administration reviewed the preparations completed over the past year, as well as current budget challenges and declining enrollment projections. They strongly recommend a ballot proposal for November 2025 that would maintain the current tax rate for voters. They discussed major projects, a communication plan as well as the negative impacts on technology, programming, and class sizes without a bond proposal, including redirection of sinking fund dollars. A community survey is being developed to collect additional feedback. Board members discussed concerns about the current economic climate and timing of the proposal. They requested additional details on project costs and priorities for further discussion at the April 23 meeting.

Administration requested direction from the Board at the April 30 special meeting.

Bond Design Teams Report: Work has started on the Paint Creek classroom and LOHS auxiliary gym projects.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towlerton discussed the following:

- **Head Start/Early Head Start Programming** - The Board reviewed a recommendation to release grants at the end of 2025 due to program restrictions, attendance, funding and capacity.

Curriculum Committee Report: Heather Sinawi reported the committee met on March 18 to discuss middle school curriculum renewal, Sexuality Education Advisory Council update, and secondary pilot programs.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon reported staff of the year announcements were being held at schools. The schools of choice lottery was held April 9 and families will be notified on April 11.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis reported the Governor's budget proposal includes an increase in per pupil funding, which may be decreased by MPSERS costs. It still needs to go through the House and Senate. She reported that Series 3 of the 2018 bond will be split into two segments to save interest fees. She also discussed the following:

- **Transportation Study Update:** In summary, the study indicated the district should make changes to the staffing structure, routing technology and school start times to improve efficiency. Administration recommended hiring an Assistant Director in the fall. The department is currently receiving support from a retired director. Other recommendations will continue to be evaluated.
- **Network Bid:** The Board reviewed a recommendation to contract with All Covered for a network electronics system totaling \$1,099,110.64.
- **Paint Creek Roofing Bid:** The Board reviewed a recommendation to contract with Unlimited Construction and Superior Services RSH, Inc. for roofing work totaling \$785,502.00.
- **Staff and Student Devices Bid:** The Board reviewed a recommendation to purchase laptops from Sehi Computer Products totaling \$3,669,540.00.

Finance Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee met on April 7 to discuss the Clarkston Road cell tower extension, draft budget forecast, Pine Tree Center, Administration Building, sinking fund, and Bond Series 3.

ACTION ITEMS

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

- a. Approve Payment of the March Bills in the Amount of \$10,251,321.04
- b. Approve Minutes from the March 12 Regular and March 18 Curriculum Committee, April 1 Special and Closed Session and April 1, 2025 Special Meetings
- c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests
 1. LOHS Marching Band - Central Lake, MI, August 17-23, 2025
 2. LOHS Marching Band - Toledo, OH, September 20, 2025
 3. LOHS HOSA - Acme, MI, April 16-18, 2025
 4. LOHS HOSA - Nashville, TN, June 17-22, 2025
- d. Head Start Coordinator's Report received and filed for March 2025

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration to finalize and execute a contract with All Covered for a network electronics system totaling \$1,099,110.64. The Universal E-Rate request will provide us with a discount in the next year expected to be \$544,708.28. Therefore, the net expense would be \$554,402.36. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Flaherty, to authorize administration to finalize and execute contracts for the roof replacement at Paint Creek Elementary to Unlimited Construction in the amount of \$447,758.00 and Superior Services RSH, Inc. in the amount of \$179,062.00, including allowances and contingencies of \$158,682.00 for a total recommendation of \$785,502.00. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Taylor, to authorize administration to purchase laptops from Sehi Computer Products, Inc. not to exceed \$3,669,540.00 as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

Cindy Murphy, a district employee, thanked the Board for making PHASES a priority in the new bond, but opposed relocating the PHASES program to CERC until after the construction is finished.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS: Administration will prepare additional information on project costs and develop a scaled down recommendation based on priority needs for April 23 discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Board Secretary