

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Livonia Public Schools  
Regular Meeting  
February 28, 2022**

President Burton convened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

**Members Present**

Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

**Members Absent**

Jarvis

**Principals' Week  
Resolution**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution establishing the week of February 28, 2022, as Principals' Week in Livonia Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Principals' Week is dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions of Livonia Public Schools' 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 28, 2022 as

**SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' WEEK**

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

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

Nays: None

**District Update  
from the  
Superintendent  
Written  
Communications**

Superintendent Oquist shared a presentation of activities and recognitions taking place across the District.

None

**Response to Prior Audience Communications**

President Burton stated that recent audience communications continue to be requests for the removal of the mask mandate at schools. She shared that, as relayed to families in an email communication, the masking requirement was removed at our schools after the Wayne County Health Department cancelled the mask mandate. In addition, the federal mask mandate for school buses was removed, therefore masks are no longer required on LPS buses.

**Audience Communications**

None

**Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson 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 January 24, 2022
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 7, 2022
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of February 7, 2022
- V.D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 21, 2022
- V.E. Minutes of the Closed Session of February 21, 2022

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval of Summer 2022 Boiler Projects – Sinking Fund**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase and installation of new boilers at Churchill High School, Stevenson High School, Buchanan Elementary, Livonia Career Technical Center, Cleveland Elementary, Randolph Elementary, Jackson Early Childhood Center, and the Churchill swimming pool boiler from Engineered Comfort Systems, Inc. Taylor, Michigan for a total cost of \$2,044,307.54 including a contingency of 8%.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

Nays: None

**Maintenance Equipment Purchase – 2021 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of forklifts and their related accessories from Morrison Industrial Equipment Co. in Grand Rapids, Michigan for a total cost of \$124,606.48.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval of  
Greenhouse at  
Garfield  
Community  
School  
(amended)**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase and installation of a greenhouse at Garfield Community School from ClearSpan in Glastonbury, Connecticut for a cost of \$133,177.61 plus a contingency of \$6,700.00 for a total project cost of \$139,877.61 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts on behalf of the Board of Education. This Board motion supersedes and replaces the Board motion from May 17, 2021.

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

**Approval of  
Tractors – 2021  
Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District authorize the purchase of 12 John Deere X580 tractors with front blades and mowing decks from John Deere, for a total cost of \$88,653.12. This Board motion supersedes and replaces the Board motion from January 24, 2022.

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

**Limited Out of  
District Schools  
of Choice for  
2022-2023**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Acosta 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 105 and 105c for the 2022-2023 school year. Openings to include: no more than 185 seats in kindergarten through eighth grade; and 5 seats in each Global Ed and CAPA at ninth grade only; for a total of up to 195 students.

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

**Approval to  
Purchase  
Everyday  
Mathematics  
Journals**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of *Everyday Mathematics* student journals for first through fourth grade classes and updated Teacher Resources from McGraw Hill Education at a total cost of \$258,545.40, which includes shipping and handling. This purchase is for three school years, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, and includes \$172,990.50 in free teacher materials and student journals.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson

Nays: None

### Teachers for Approval

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 offer employment for the 2021-22 school year to the following teachers:

DeMaggio, Brian	1.0 Spanish Teacher	.6 Holmes/.4 Stevenson
Lupher, Victoria	1.0 Science Teacher	Stevenson
Grezak, Jill	1.0 Learning Specialist	Riley
Salisbury, Ariana	1.0 ELA Teacher	Stevenson

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

### Teachers for Tenure

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and acknowledge that tenure status has been granted to the following teachers, effective on the respective date:

Kristen Banter	2/17/22
Bethany Voss	2/10/22

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

### Leave of Absence

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 and approve the requests for a leave of absence as listed below:

Haley Skelly	5/18/22
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Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Johnson  
Nays: None

### Resignations

The Board was informed of the following resignations:

Jennifer Bethe Warrick	3/4/22
Katharine White	2/18/22

### Retirements

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution of appreciation for services rendered by:

**David Gluth** retired from the district on January 31, 2022, and devoted 36.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a building supervisor at Jackson Center, Taylor Elementary, Hoover Elementary, Bryant Center, McKinley Elementary, Grant Elementary, and Johnson Upper Elementary.

**Ronald Hammye** will retire from the district on June 30, 2022, and has devoted 22 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Franklin High School as an Athletic Director.

**Cynthia Kaptanowsky** retired from the district on February 28, 2022, and devoted 22.6 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Tyler Elementary, Riley Upper Elementary, Stevenson High School, Grant Elementary, Webster Elementary and Western Wayne Skill Center.

**Elizabeth Keyshian** retired from the district on January 31, 2022, and devoted 17.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at the Transportation Department, Grant Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Riley Upper Elementary, Johnson Upper Elementary, Frost Middle School and Cooper Upper Elementary.

**Paula Reiff** retired from the district on January 31, 2022, and devoted 22.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Cooper Elementary, Cass Elementary, Riley Upper Elementary, Cooper Upper Elementary, Buchanan Elementary and Grant Elementary.

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

### **Superintendent Evaluation**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the evaluation of Superintendent Andrea Oquist, completed on February 21, 2022, utilizing the MASB superintendent evaluation tool, for which she received a rating of highly effective.

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

### **Resolution in Support of the IDEA Full Funding Act**

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 in support of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Full Funding Act, which authorizes a ten-year plan to fully fund the federal share of IDEA.

#### **Resolution in Support of the IDEA Full Funding Act**

WHEREAS, the Livonia Public Schools School District recognizes the need for a strong investment in the students served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was first enacted in 1975 to help ensure that all students with disabilities will have access to a free appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of IDEA, the United States Congress committed to fund up to 40 percent of the additional cost of special education, thereby

promising to provide up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure, which is currently estimated at \$13,828 per student by the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, since IDEA’s enactment more than 45 years ago, the current federal investment in IDEA is less than 14 percent and our district is currently contributing \$10 million annually from the General Fund to cover unreimbursed costs related to the special education program; and

WHEREAS, the Livonia Public Schools School District and many other public school districts throughout the United States educate a growing number of children with disabilities, which is now more than seven million; and

WHEREAS, our nation’s school districts face an increased demand for greater resources to fulfill the needs of students under IDEA, including those students affected by multiple disabilities whose individual education plans require more resources; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Livonia Public Schools’ School Board supports the IDEA Full Funding Act that will help strengthen the federal investment in special education by authorizing a ten-year plan to fully fund the federal share of IDEA; and urges Congress’ strong support for and passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livonia Public Schools’ School Board remains committed to providing students with disabilities and their families the supports they need, and acknowledges the partnership among the local, state, and federal levels of government which is critical to this shared investment in our children.

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

**Selection of Candidate for MASB Board of Directors**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District designate Dr. Darlene Pomponio as the Region 8 candidate for the MASB Board of Directors and direct the Executive Assistant of the Board of Education to cast the vote accordingly.

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

**Second Reading of Board Policy BCB – General Order of Business at Regular Meetings**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language for: Board Bylaw BCB – Board Operations, General Order of Business at Regular Meetings

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD** **BCB**  
**BOARD OPERATIONS** **FEBRUARY 28, 2022**  
**GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AT REGULAR MEETINGS**  
The order of business at regular meetings shall generally be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Communications
  - Recognitions and Other Communications Items
  - District Update from the Superintendent
  - Written Communications
  - Response to Prior Audience Communications
  - Audience Communications (limited to a total of 15 minutes, with the remainder preceding Hearing from Board Members)
- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- Business Matters
- Instructional Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Remainder of Audience Communications
- Hearing from Board Members
- Adjournment

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

**First Reading of Board Policy  
 EDDB  
 Student Transportation, Walkers and Riders**

The proposed new language for the policy listed below was reviewed by the Board and will be brought to the next regular meeting for a second reading and potential approval:

<p><b>BOARD POLICY          BUSINESS MANAGEMENT          STUDENT TRANSPORTATION – WALKERS AND RIDERS</b></p>	<p><b>EDDB          DECEMBER 19, 2016</b></p>
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Bus transportation is a privilege and not a right and shall be administered in accordance with law. Eligibility for transportation is based on a student’s home address. ~~Bus pick up and drop off is to and from the bus stop assigned based upon the student’s home address, unless otherwise determined by a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).~~

Transportation shall be provided for secondary students living more than one and one-half miles from the school of designated attendance and elementary students living more than one mile from their school of designated attendance. Exceptions may be made for safety and health reasons of students.

**Student Bus Passes**

~~High school students must present an official bus pass to be admitted on the bus. If a high school student is unable to produce a pass, the student will not be permitted to ride the bus.~~

~~Middle school students must present an official bus pass to be admitted on the bus. If a middle school student is unable to produce a pass, he/she will be transported to school where appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.~~

~~Every secondary student who is entitled to bus privileges under the rules and regulations of the Livonia Public Schools School District will be provided a permanent pass with picture identification. If the student loses the pass, he/she will pay the cost of replacement.~~

~~Bus passes are not required for elementary students.~~

**First Reading of Board Policies:**

The proposed new language for the policies listed below was reviewed by the Board and will be brought to the next regular meeting for a second reading and potential approval:

**GAM – Personnel, Staff Rights and Responsibilities**

**BOARD POLICY  
PERSONNEL**

**GAM  
JUNE 20, 1988**

**STAFF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Reviewed 5/2014**

The rights and responsibilities of employees are covered in Board policies, applicable master agreements, **non-affiliated employee contracts**, and/or appropriate laws.

**GBE – Personnel, Conflict of Interest (formerly BHA-2)**

~~**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD  
BOARD POLICY**~~

~~**BHA(2)  
GBE**~~

~~**BOARD OPERATIONS**~~

~~**PERSONNEL**~~

~~**March 17, 2014**~~

~~**CONFLICT OF INTEREST - ADMINISTRATION**~~

~~No member of the immediate family of a person holding the title of superintendent or director shall become employed by the district.~~

No Livonia Public Schools administrator shall be involved in the hiring, selection, direct supervision, or evaluation of a family member. Any family member of the aforementioned positions must disclose a familial relationship on his/her application to the District.

As used in this section, a “family member” is defined as a person's spouse, spouse's sibling or child; a person's sibling or sibling's spouse or child; a person's child or child's spouse; a person's parent or parent's spouse; and includes these relationships as created by adoption or marriage.

**BOARD POLICY  
PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL  
TENURE**

**GBL  
JUNE 20, 1988**

~~In appropriate cases the Board of Education will grant tenure in accordance with the tenure act.~~

The Board of Education will recognize the achievement of tenure status per the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for all probationary teachers who have been recommended by district administration upon verification that they have successfully met all LPS standards, including years of service, effective evaluations, overall performance, and documentation of student growth.

**Adjournment**

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

**Off/Supt/jw**