August 28, 2024

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, August 28, 2024, at 6:31 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: S. Taylor

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

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, L. Logsdon, J. Faber, R. McDonnell, J. Goral, J. Cole

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

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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

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

STRATEGIC AREA DISCUSSION ITEMS

Governance

Superintendent's Update: Heidi Mercer reported on the staff welcome back event, power outages, school meet and greet events and Freshman First Day. She also discussed the following:

- Legislative Update: Lawmakers are still on recess and are expected to return in September. A short-term extension of FY24 funding, known as a continuing resolution, is expected to provide more time for negotiations on funding proposals. There is lots of pressure at the state level for lawmakers to address the issue of funding cuts to support mental health and school safety. There are proposed bills regarding charter school transparency and accountability as well as the process for building closures.

Bond Design Teams Report: The District is still waiting on the High School boring report. Orion Oaks playground equipment is being selected. Summer projects are wrapping up at Oakview and Waldon.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towlerton thanked the staff for their enthusiasm as they prepare for the school year. He discussed the professional development happening this week and is excited for students to return on September 3. He also discussed:

- Head Start Continuation Grant: The Board reviewed information for the FY 2025 grant application.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon reported that Board members, administrators and teaching staff have all completed the mandated evaluation trainings. There has been lots of activity in the areas of enrollment and hiring in the past couple of weeks. He discussed the following:

- Request for Position Reinstatement: The Board reviewed a recommendation to reinstate the Special Education Supervisor position to meet the increased number and needs of students as well as increased compliance requirements. If approved, the department would consist of one director, one supervisor and four teacher consultants.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis reported the 2034-24 financial audit is currently underway. The District now supports 12 schools and 375 FTE students with shared time services. We are also in the process of creating a section 127 plan for employees which provides tax-free educational assistance benefits including payments for tuition, fees, books, supplies and similar expenses.

ACTION ITEMS

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

a. Approve Minutes from the August 14 Work Session and August 7, 2024 Special Meetings

Ayes – all; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Flaherty, to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start Continuation Grant Application for the 2025 fiscal year, as presented. Ayes – all; Motion carried. Ayes – all; Motion carried

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED
Moved by Singer, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the reinstatement of the position of Supervisor of Special Education beginning in the 2024-2025 school year as recommended. Ayes – all; Motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:
Ruby McDonnell, a retired employee, inquired if Board members had received an email communication from her husband. She also shared appreciation of her years of employment with the District.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS:

- Administration will update the Board on the special education support structure in six months.
- Administration will follow up with the individual regarding the public participation comment.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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Board Secretary