February 12, 2025

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, February 12, 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, K. Anderson, L. Logsdon, See attached list

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

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mark Snyder reported a new podcast is being released. He also shared learning highlights from various programs and activities throughout the district.

PRESENTATION

Mid-Year Student Achievement Update – Kerri Anderson and Drew Towlerton reviewed K-10 mid-year reading and math scores in comparison to the beginning of the year. Most areas showed improvement. There was a concern with Kindergarten math which may be related to the testing format, but is being looked into further. It was noted that the District adjusted the scoring performance bands higher to align with rigor of programming/curriculum. Intervention supports were discussed and are restructured as needed to address any areas of concern. They reviewed attendance data, which has dropped slightly but still averages above 90%. The attendance committee is planning to review the data to determine the cause of the decrease.

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: Birgit McQuiston attended the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. last week to advocate for public education including IDEA funding, cybersecurity, Title I funding, tax exempt status on municipal bonds, and healthcare cost containment. The Governor has released the proposed budget with a 4.1% increase to pupil funding. The State of the State address is February 26.
- FOIA Appeals: The Board reviewed appeals dated January 14 and 29, 2025.

Bond Design Teams Report: The District is now waiting on construction to begin for the Paint Creek classroom addition and LOHS auxiliary gym projects. District-wide needs are being reviewed and prioritized and will be discussed at the February 26 workshop.

Policy Committee Report: The first reading was held on January 8. The Board reviewed the following:

- Second Reading - NEOLA 39-1 Update: Policies 2264, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7440.03, 7540.09 and 8321. No additional revisions were suggested.
- Second Reading - NEOLA 39-1 EDGAR/UGG Update: Policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310 and 7450. No additional revisions were suggested.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: No report

Curriculum Committee Report: Heather Sinawi reported the committee meet on January 21 and February 4 to discuss MLK Day professional development, Sexuality Education Advisory Council, middle school course update, Special Education Strategic Plan, middle of the year data, summer school plan and MICIP update.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon thanked community partners for participating in the February 11 School Safety Summit. He reported contract negotiations will start soon with the LOEA union.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report: Danielle Bresett reported the committee meet on January 28 to discuss the timeline and goals for the 2025 evaluation cycle. The strategic plan will be used for the goals, including a balanced budget and continuation of professional growth.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis reported the federal funding freeze was rescinded but would not have impacted District funding. The Governor's proposed budget contained a $392 increase per student, but categoricals and ORS may impact the final numbers. She also discussed:

- Resolution for 2025 Bond Issuance of 2018 Bond Program: The Board reviewed information regarding the third series of bond issuance totaling $34,000,000.

Finance Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee meet on January 27 to discuss fund balance policy and budget forecast.

ACTION ITEMS

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

a. Approve Payment of the January Bills in the Amount of $8,004,718.88
b. Approve Minutes from the January 21 Special and Closed Session, January 22 Workshop, January 21 Curriculum Committee, January 27 Finance Committee, January 28 Superintendent Evaluation Committee and February 4, 2025 Curriculum Committee Meetings
c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request
    1. LOHS Winter Percussion – Dayton, OH, April 9-13, 2025
d. Head Start Coordinator's Report received and filed for January 2025

Ayes – all; Motion carried

Moved by Singer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the proposed revisions for Board Policies 2264, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7440.03, 7540.09, 8321, 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310 and 7450 as presented. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Flaherty, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing 2025 School Building and Site Bonds as presented. Roll call: Ayes–7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays–0; Motion carried.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Taylor, to deny the FOIA appeal submitted on January 14, 2025 appealing the fee estimate/denial of records in response to a FOIA submitted on December 20, 2024. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by McQuiston, to deny the FOIA appeal submitted on January 29, 2025 appealing the fee estimate/denial of records in response to a FOIA submitted on December 23, 2024. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

Nancy Halter-Austin, a district parent, opposed the decision to close the Pine Tree Center program.

Mark N., a district student, opposed the decision to close the Pine Tree Center program.

Cindy Murphy, a district resident, opposed the decision to relocate the PHASES program to CERC.

Rebel Molina, a district employee, opposed the decision to close the Center program and move PHASES.

Carrie Montreuil, a district employee, opposed the decision to close the Pine Tree Center program.

Vikki Kasperek, a teacher outside the district, expressed concerns about home districts being able to support the extensive needs of current center program students.

Julie Gutman, a former employee, opposed the decision to close the Center program and move PHASES.

Holly Modock, a district parent, opposed the decision to close the Center program and move PHASES.

Scott Gabriel, a district resident, thanked the Board for serving and attendees for their respectful comments.

Barb Smythe, a district parent, opposed the decision to relocate the PHASES program to CERC.

Sara Rosell, a district parent, opposed the decision to close the Center program and move PHASES.

Patrick Meyer, a district employee, expressed concerns with lack of communication and transparency.

Denise Ballard, a district resident, opposed the decision to close the Center program and move PHASES.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS: Nothing noted

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Board Secretary