March 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, March 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: D. Bresett, J. Faber, H. Sinawi, J. Singer, S. Taylor

Board Members Absent: S. Flaherty, B. McQuiston

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

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, R. Everitt, S. Spencer, L. Logsdon, T, Byal, A. Hageman, J. Goral, G. Ambrogio, V. Balian, C. Murphy, M. Norman Jr.

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

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mark Snyder reported the district will transition to a new communication platform, Parent Square, over the next few months. He also shared learning highlights from various programs 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 discussed the following:

- Legislative Update: There is proposed legislation regarding transportation funding, teacher certification requirements and fees, requirements for teacher preparation programs, future educator student teacher stipend program, merit curriculum requirement and biology standards.

Bond Design Teams Report: Preparations are beginning over spring break for the Paint Creek classroom addition and LOHS auxiliary gym projects. Plans for the new administration building are being finalized.

Policy Committee Report: The first reading was held on February 26. The Board reviewed the following:

- Second Reading - Policies 8640, 6215, 6220 and 6800: No additional changes were suggested.

IDEA Funding Resolution: Board members reviewed and discussed a resolution supporting full and permanent funding of IDEA.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towlerton reported that funding was received for the benchmark screening tool used by the district. Professional development on reading and spelling was held for elementary teachers. He reported the Sexuality Education Advisory Council held their first meeting.

- International Trip – LOHS CTE to Italy, June 2026: Sharon Spencer and Rosa Everitt shared the itinerary for the trip and discussed the benefits it would offer student participants.

Lamp of Learning Committee Report: Scott Taylor reported the committee meet on March 4 to discuss budget, fundraising and scholarship offerings. The scholarships will be consistent with last year's offerings.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon reported the Leadership Cohort concluded this week. He also reported staff of the year presentations were being held at schools.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis discussed the following:

- MDOT Performance Resolution: The Board reviewed information regarding the relocation of district fiber lines due to construction.
- New Administration Fiber Bid: The Board reviewed a recommendation to install fiber optic cable with Fiber Link totaling $35,369.35.
- UPS Bid: The Board reviewed a recommendation to install uninterruptible power supply equipment with Power Techniques totaling $63,117.89.
- Pre-Owned Bus Bid: The Board reviewed a recommendation to purchase eight used school buses from Hoekstra Transportation totaling $632,300.00.
- Paint Creek and LOHS Furniture Bid: The Board reviewed a recommendation to purchase and install furniture with multiple vendors totaling $164,087.66

ACTION ITEMS

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

a. Approve Payment of the February Bills in the Amount of $10,652,732.44
b. Approve Minutes from the February 26 Workshop, February 25 Policy Committee and March 4, 2025 Lamp of Learning Committee Meetings
c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request
    1. LOHS AP Physics – Sandusky, OH, May 21, 2025
d. Head Start Coordinator's Report received and filed for February 2025

Ayes – all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the proposed revisions for Board Policies 8640, 6215, 6220 and 6800 as presented. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to adopt the Resolution Calling for Full, Permanent Funding of IDEA as presented. Roll call: Ayes–5 (Bresett, Faber, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays–0; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the Lake Orion High School Career Technical Education international trip request to Italy in June 2026 as presented. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Taylor, to adopt the Michigan Department of Transportation Performance Resolution as presented. Roll call: Ayes–5 (Bresett, Faber, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays–0; Motion carried.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration to finalize and execute an approved contract for fiber optic cable to Fiber Link for a procurement total of $35,369.35. The Universal E-Rate Request will provide us with a 50% discount in the next year expected to be $17,684.75. Therefore, the net expense would be $17,684.75. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Faber, to authorize administration to finalize and execute a contract for uninterruptible power supply equipment to Power Techniques for a procurement total of $63,117.89. The Universal E-Rate request will provide us with a discount in the next year expected to be $22,639.50. Therefore, the net expense would be $40,478.39. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration to purchase eight used school buses from Hoekstra Transportation in the amount of $632,300.00. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

Moved by Singer, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration to purchase and install furniture at Paint Creek Elementary and Lake Orion High School with Custer, Interior Environments, Great Lakes Furniture, Dew-EL, ISCG, Yeo and Yeo, and Interphase, as identified in the attached GMB recommendation for a procurement total of $164,087.66. Ayes – all; Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

Cindy Murphy, a district employee, opposed relocating the PHASES program to CERC.

M. Norman, a district student, opposed closing the Pine Tree Center program and moving PHASES.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS: Nothing noted

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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Board Secretary