Regular Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023 7:00 PM Eastern

MacDonald Middle School Auditorium
1601 Burcham Dr
East Lansing, MI 48823

I. Opening of Meeting

I.A. *Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by President Chambers at 7:00 pm.

I.B. *Roll Call*

Dr. Terah Chambers:	Present
Ms. Amanda Cormier:	Present
Dr. Kath Edsall:	Present
Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen:	Present
Ms. Monica Fink:	Present
Dr. Elizabeth Lyons:	Present
Mr. Chris Martin:	Present
Ms. Dori Leyko	Present
Student Representative Gabriel Benavides	Absent
Student Representative Alexander Mielock	Absent

Present: 8. Absent: 2.

Student representatives Benavides and Mielock were not in attendance. Gretchen Rojewski provided the Student Representative report.

I.C. *Mission Statement: Nurturing Each Child, Educating All Students, Building World Citizens*

I.D. Oath of Office

I.D.1. Chris Martin

I.E. *Approval of Agenda*

Motion 22-23/084: *The Board of Education approves the agenda of the March 13, 2023, regular meeting, as presented.*

This motion, made by Mr. Chris Martin and seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Lyons, Passed.

Dr. Terah Chambers: Aye, Ms. Amanda Cormier: Aye, Dr. Kath Edsall: Aye, Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen: Aye, Ms. Monica Fink: Aye, Dr. Elizabeth Lyons: Aye, Mr. Chris Martin: Aye

Aye: 7, Nay: 0

Friendly Amendment: The Board of Education approves the amendment to the agenda to include Action Item B: ELPS Safe Gun Storage Resolution.

This motion, made by Dr. Kath Edsall and seconded by Mr. Chris Martin, Passed.

Dr. Terah Chambers: Aye, Ms. Amanda Cormier: Aye, Dr. Kath Edsall: Aye, Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen: Aye, Ms. Monica Fink: Aye, Dr. Elizabeth Lyons: Aye, Mr. Chris Martin: Aye

Aye: 7, Nay: 0

I.F. *Approval of Minutes*
Motion 22-23/085: *The Board of Education approves the February 27, 2023, regular meeting minutes, as presented.*

I.F.1. February 27, 2023 regular meeting

This motion, made by Dr. Kath Edsall and seconded by Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen, Passed.

Dr. Terah Chambers: Aye, Ms. Amanda Cormier: Aye, Dr. Kath Edsall: Aye, Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen: Aye, Ms. Monica Fink: Aye, Dr. Elizabeth Lyons: Aye, Mr. Chris Martin: Aye

Aye: 7, Nay: 0

II. **Recognition**

- Science Night held on February 28 at Marble was attended by over 200 families and was a huge success. The event boasted over 36 presenters including Potter Park Zoo, Fenner Nature Center, Impression Five, East Lansing Public Library, and WKAR's Curious Crew.

- The Michigan High School Athletic Association has selected 14 student-athletes from Class A member schools to receive scholarships and Senior Naomi Sowa is one of them. Naomi played three seasons of varsity volleyball and will play her fourth of varsity softball this spring. She earned all-area and all-league in both sports, all-region in volleyball, and also all-league academic honors in both. She served as captain of both varsity teams. She carries a 4.0 GPA and earned AP Scholar Award posting highest-possible score on two exams. She is currently participating in second year of National Honor Society and as chapter historian. She is playing fourth year in school's wind ensemble, as first chair clarinet as a senior, and previously earned festival award and performed at Michigan Music Conference. Congrats to Naomi!

- Recently 41 ELHS students spent 4 days in Kalamazoo at the Mid-American Model United Nations and co-advisor Mark Pontoni was told that ELHS students had the "2nd highest margin of victory achieved by any school ever" and more than twice the points of the 2nd place school.

  Of the six main committees at the conference, EL students won top honors in five of them and in the 6th committee, they took second honors. They also won a couple of second honors in committees that ELHS students also won top honors as well- a very rare achievement.

  Iyla Blundell and Jack McGuire won top honors in crisis committees during which delegates are presented with a fictitious international event that they must try to negotiate over a 6-hour period. Iyla's win came in the Secretary-General's crisis where 14 students are selected

from the hundreds in attendance for their merit up to that point. East Lansing was awarded SIX of those 14 spots...unprecedented in conference history.

Mona Borhan, Uyi Idusuyi and Jack McGuire had the 2nd honors, while Skyler Hamlin, Edith Pendell, Iyla Blundell, Evie Wittrock, Alden Delgado, and Kate McAndrews won top honors in their committees.

The Iran delegation of Henry Mahler, Joe Powers, Mackenzie Smith, Uyi Idusuyi and Fletcher Wasnich won top honors in the delegation competition.

East Lansing won the top team award and Edith Pendell won the top individual award among the hundreds of students in attendance. She won the Jonathan Perry Ambassador Award and was recognized as the best delegate at the conference.

One last shout out to Emily Zann, co-advisor for stepping into this role as a new teacher.

III. **Student Representative Report**

Gretchen Rojewski provided the Student Representative report:

- Resignation of High School Principal Shannon Mayfield.
- Model UN had an award sweep at the Mid-American Model United Nations held in Kalamazoo.
- ELHS Boys Varsity Basketball won Districts and just won Division 1 regional semifinals vs Kalamazoo Central.
- Chicago Teen Edition is being performed at ELHS Auditorium. Showings are Wednesday – Sunday of this week.
- NHS blood drive will be taking place. Currently, there are 32 students signed up to donate.

IV. **Superintendent's Report**

Comments on Last Wednesday's School Closing

In collaboration with the East Lansing Police Department, we were able to identify the source of the threatening social media post that was made late Tuesday night, and an individual subsequently confessed to making the post. Based on information gained from the investigation, at no time was the East Lansing community or ELPS at risk of danger. We also recognize, however, that the threatening post and school closing caused stress, anxiety, fear, frustration and inconvenience for many students and families. Our process for responding to and investigating the social media threat worked as it should, and the student and family are cooperating with school administrators and law enforcement.

ELHS Leadership Update

ELHS Principal Mr. Shannon Mayfield submitted a letter of resignation effective March 10, 2023. Mr. Mayfield has been on leave for personal reasons since January 25, 2023 and had been employed by the District as the high school principal since fall 2022. For the near future, Mrs. Ashley Schwarzbek will be the Interim Principal, and Mr. Jeff Lampi will be the Interim Associate Principal. Long-term leadership decisions will be made and communicated this spring.

Ongoing Support for our Students and Community

To support the healing process of our students, staff and community members, we will continue to include opportunities for support in these updates. Our school counselors, social workers and facility dogs are available to support our students, and the City of East Lansing will have counseling services available through the end of March as follows:

East Lansing Public Library (950 Abbot Rd.):

- Mondays - March 13, 20, 27 from 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays - March 15, 22, 29 from 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- Fridays - March 17, 24, 31 from 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Reminder - 1/2 Day of School for Elementary only this Tuesday + Spring Break is Coming

Elementary students have a half day of school this Tuesday (3/14).

Spring Break begins Friday, March 24 - students and staff return to school Monday, April 3.

Kindergarten Registration for 2023-24 - Register by March 17

All resident families of kindergarteners should register their students at this site by March 17: https://elps.us/our-district/prospective-families/online-enrollment/

Here is a link to the presentation that was shared at Thursday's Information Night: https://elps.us/downloads/district_-_kindergartenyoung_5s/kindergarten_parent_information_night_2023.pptx_1.pdf

Please reach out to your neighborhood boundary school if you have questions. Here is a link to the elementary school boundary map: https://elps.us/downloads/district_-_forms__notices_for_beginning_of_school/schoolsk-5new_2021_revised.pdf

If you have questions regarding our Schools of Choice process or timeline, see this site: https://elps.us/our-district/prospective-families/schools-of-choice/. You can sign up to receive Schools of Choice information on this page, too.

School Safety and Student Support Updates

The initial Safety Enhancement Plan that has been shared at the prior few Board of Education meetings was organized into Immediate, Short-Term and Long-Term action steps, recommendations and considerations. Following some feedback, discussion and reflection, another way we could organize our responsive action steps would be into the categories of Infrastructure, Personnel, Training, Student Supports and Community Engagement.

Infrastructure:

- Additional lockdown/panic buttons have been installed in the high school main office for more immediate access by the administrative assistants.

Personnel Updates:

- Two individuals from DK Security started at the high school today to provide additional hall, bathroom, door and camera monitoring and supervision.

Community Engagement:

- Members of the Board of Education and I attended the March 1 meeting of the East Lansing Parent Advocacy Team (ELPAT) at the East Lansing Public Library. Our goal was to listen to the

stories and experiences of the individuals, open up lines of communication with the District and collaborate together to determine actionable steps that will make a difference for our students.

- Representatives from the ELPAT were invited to the high school to meet with district and high school administrators to review discipline data and bring some new faces to the table. Our group decided to meet on a bi-weekly basis to continue discussion and collaboration.

- Different members of the Board of Education and I attended the March 12 ELPAT meeting via Zoom. The group shared progress made so far and provided input on some "asks" of the District.

Training:

- District Wellness Leader Lindsay Young met with Cindy Horgan to learn more about movemindfully, a program that integrates mindfulness and movement into our schools and classrooms.

Student Supports:

- One new student mentoring program has been added at the middle school, the United Mentoring Program, which has a target audience of at-risk youth ages 12 – 19 – they will be offering a morning mentoring program. Also, the Turning Point of Lansing program has expanded its access to 6th and 7th-grade students at the middle school.

Discussion followed.

V. **Consent Agenda**

No Consent Agenda

VI. **Presentation**

VI.A. Model UN, Mark Pontoni and Model UN students

Thank you to all the students who spoke about their experiences on the Model UN team.

Discussion followed.

VII. **Public Comment:** This is the opportunity to address the Board. Speakers are to confine their remarks to five minutes. If a speaker requires more than five minutes, after all other persons who have requested to speak during this part of the meeting have spoken, that speaker will be allowed additional time. The Superintendent or other district staff may comment to clear up or avoid significant misunderstandings.

- Suzanne Rojas - High School scheduling.
- Brad Lutz - Communication.
- Sharee Brooks - Collaboration - Updates.
- Sharee Brooks - Graduation recognition.
- Nevah Vasquez- Removing Girls' High School Varsity Basketball coach.
- Manuel Vasquez - Head Basketball Coach & Staff (Varsity) and AD Nikki Norris.
- Jamye A. King - Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach/Athletic Director.
- Brandy Branson - New High School Attendance Policy.

VIII. **Board Discussion**

- Board Committees - discussion regarding the update to Committee descriptions. Committee chairs will work with the committees to develop descriptions for the Board Committees. Each chair will bring the description to the Board, possibly at the upcoming Board Retreat, to review and then post on the webpage.
- Advisory Committees - a more transparent way of getting information from the Advisory Committees (Sex Education Advisory Committee and Mental Health Advisory Committee) - public presentations at Board meetings.
- The Equity Audit - Policy Committee is discussing Racial Equity Policy; working with Klaudia Burton about a plan for an equity audit; working with Justice Leaders Collaborative; the district needs forward movement on this audit.

IX. **Action Items**

IX.A. **Amendment to the Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance Contract**
Motion 22-23/086: *The Board of Education approves the contract amendment to the Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance, as presented.*

This motion, made by Dr. Kath Edsall and seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Lyons, Passed.

Dr. Terah Chambers: Aye, Ms. Amanda Cormier: Aye, Dr. Kath Edsall: Aye, Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen: Aye, Ms. Monica Fink: Aye, Dr. Elizabeth Lyons: Aye, Mr. Chris Martin: Aye

Aye: 7, Nay: 0

IX.B. **Added Action Item - Resolution for Safe Gun Storage**
Motion 22-23/087: *The Board of Education approves the ELPS Safe Gun Storage Resolution, as presented.*

This motion, made by Dr. Kath Edsall and seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Lyons, Passed.

Dr. Terah Chambers: Aye, Ms. Amanda Cormier: Aye, Dr. Kath Edsall: Aye, Ms. Tali Faris-Hylen: Aye, Ms. Monica Fink: Aye, Dr. Elizabeth Lyons: Aye, Mr. Chris Martin: Aye

Aye: 7, Nay: 0

Discussion followed.

X. **Committee Reports**

X.A. Academic and Technology Committee

- Trustee Martin will be joining the Academic and Technology Committee.
- Watch for an email to schedule something.

X.B. Facilities Committee

- GMB is working on a playground package to be completed/installed before the start of school next year. The focus is at Glencairn, Donley, and Red Cedar.

- Billy Hastings is looking at putting matting under all the swings; more grass will be planted this summer on the elementary school grounds; wood chips at each playground are reviewed annually.
- A door audit is taking place to ensure all handicap doors are working correctly.
- All custodial positions are filled but one-four hour on-call position.
- A new mower was purchased for the district to handle all the necessary mowing.
- The next meeting is April 11 at 11:15 am.

X.C. Finance Committee

- The Finance Committee meets on Wednesday, March 15 at 12:30 pm.

X.D. Intergovernmental Relations

- The next meeting is Wednesday, March 15, at 11:00 am.
- Intergovernmental Committee Notes

X.E. Personnel Committee

- Personnel Committee has not met.

X.F. Policy Committee

- The next meeting will be held on March 23 at 10:00 am.

XI. **Announcements**

No announcements.

XII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

President

Secretary