

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Regular Meeting - Virtual
January 25, 2021**

President Burton convened the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Members Present

Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson

Members Absent

None

District Update from the Superintendent

Superintendent Oquist shared highlights about LPS staff and students, via a slideshow presentation.

Written Communication

None

Audience Communication

An audience communication was received related to the format of future Board meetings and audience communications.

Response to Prior Audience Communication

None

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield 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 December 14, 2020

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

Appointment of Middle School Principal

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and appoint Shanán Wheeler as a middle school principal at Frost Middle School.

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

Approval of Teachers

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 superintendent and offer employment for the 2020-21 school year to the following teachers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Bromund, Elizabeth	1.0 Franklin High School	01/29/21
Crachiola, Jessica	1.0 Rosedale Elementary	01/04/21
Kobe, Melissa	1.0 Franklin High School	01/29/21
Kobel, David	.5 Stevenson High School	01/29/21
Lefebvre, Caitlyn	.5 Frost; .5 Emerson	01/29/21
Lenard, Payton	1.0 Grant Elementary	01/04/21
McGill, Erin	1.0 Franklin High School	01/29/21
Melancon, Laura	1.0 Cleveland Elementary	01/04/21
Montefusco, Katherine	1.0 Cooper Upper Elementary	01/04/21
Satterfield, Richard	1.0 Frost Middle School	01/11/21
Sharp, Erica	1.0 Stevenson High School	01/29/21
Wagner, Adam	1.0 Churchill High School	01/04/21

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

Teachers for Tenure

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Paul Salisbury	January 28, 2021
Alexandra Starr	January 28, 2021
Samuel Vomastek	January 28, 2021
April Wholihan	February 2, 2021

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

Leave of Absence

It was moved by Ms. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and approve the request for a leave of absence for:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Sheri Fisher Sinacola	February 9, 2021

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

Resignation

As authorized in the Board of Education motion of June 15, 2020, a resignation was accepted by the superintendent for:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Effective</u>
Ashley Mardeusz	January 29, 2021.

Retirements

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions of appreciation for services rendered by:

Darlene Miller, who will retire from the district on January 29, 2021, and will have devoted 17.8 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a special education paraprofessional at Buchanan Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Coolidge Elementary, Riley Upper Elementary, Frost Middle School, Hoover Elementary, Webster Elementary and Emerson Middle School.

Nelson (Scott) Sherburne, who will retire from the district on January 29, 2021, and will have devoted 27.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Stevenson High School as a teacher.

John Venning, who will retire from the district on January 29, 2021, and will have devoted 48.7 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a custodian and building supervisor at Franklin High School, Lowell Middle School, Johnson Elementary and Churchill High School.

Diane Zwiernikowski, who will retire from the district on January 29, 2021, and who will have devoted 15.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Frost Middle School, Churchill High School, Stevenson High School and Holmes Middle School as a teacher.

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

Sympathy Resolution for Family of John Waling, Teacher of the Cognitively Impaired at Webster Elementary School

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a sympathy resolution for the family of John Waling, teacher at Webster Elementary School.

**Sympathy Resolution
John Waling**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of John Waling; and,

WHEREAS, John was a valued, caring, and highly respected staff member in the Livonia Public Schools School District; a teacher of cognitively impaired students at Webster Elementary School; and,

WHEREAS, He consistently demonstrated his outstanding dedication, care, and commitment to students, parents, and colleagues; and will be greatly missed by all; and,

WHEREAS, John Waling will always be remembered with great fondness and with a profound sense of gratitude for the immeasurable contributions he made to our school district, to the students he served, and to the colleagues with whom he worked; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District offers its deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of John Waling.

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

**Reconfirmation
of the Extended
Continuity of
Learning Plan**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District reconfirm the Continuity of Learning Plan that was approved on September 28, 2020. This plan recommends that students continue to receive instruction either remotely through Livonia Virtual or in person at our schools.

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

**Limited Out of
District Schools
of Choice for
2021-2022**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Bradford 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 2021-2022 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, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Resolution to
Approve Ballot
Language for
2021 Bond
Proposal**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution in support of a special election on May 4, 2021 for a \$186 million bond proposal for facility upgrades, technology, improving playgrounds and athletic facilities, purchasing school buses, and improving property sites for Livonia Public Schools.

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

**Resolution to
Allow LPS
School Board to
Meet In-Person**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution to request that the Governor of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services allow School Boards the option to meet either virtually or in-person effective immediately.

**RESOLUTION TO PERMIT
SCHOOL BOARDS TO MEET IN-PERSON**

WHEREAS, school districts have been strongly encouraged to begin offering in-person instruction by March 1 and each local School Board has the responsibility to make that ultimate decision for their school district, and

WHEREAS, Livonia Public Schools has worked diligently to prepare for and implement the return to face-to-face learning for all students in grades PreK, K-12 and post-secondary; and

WHEREAS, all students and staff are permitted by the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to attend school in-person; and

WHEREAS, members of School Boards are the only individuals within their school districts who are not permitted to meet in-person; and

WHEREAS, it is extremely difficult for School Boards that are required to meet virtually to make the decision that students and staff will meet and work in-person, as it sends a mixed message to our community and staff, and

WHEREAS, the Livonia Public Schools’ Board of Education wishes to meet in person as soon as possible, and has strong health and safety mitigation measures in place for such meetings that are consistent with measures taken for all other school classes and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Livonia Public Schools’ Board of Education requests that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor of the State of Michigan allow School Boards to have the option to meet either virtually or in-person beginning immediately, in order to lead by example when bringing students and staff back to in-person learning.

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

Approval for Board Members to Take MASB Classes

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve that Board Trustees take virtual classes offered by the Michigan Association of School Boards February 19-21, 2021, as shown below, for a total cost of \$810.

Madeline Acosta	\$270
Tammy Bonifield	\$180
Liz Jarvis	\$180
Mark Johnson	\$180

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

Adjournment

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Off/Supt/jw