

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Livonia Public Schools  
15125 Farmington Road  
Regular Meeting  
March 25, 2019**

President Johnson convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia.

**Members Present**

Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

**Members Absent**

None

**Addition to Agenda**

President Johnson announced that an item would be added to the agenda, following the *Read Across America* item, for a presentation on the robotics program.

**Points of Pride – Board Recognition for MASB Awards**

Stacy Jenkins, Administrator of Communications, recognized Board members for achieving MASB Honor Board Status for the second year in a row, as all Board members have been certified by the Michigan Association of Schools Boards. Mrs. Jenkins also congratulated Board Secretary Tammy Bonifield for achieving MASB Master Board Award and Board Trustee Liz Jarvis for achieving the Award of Merit.

**Read Across America Resolution**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution in recognition of Read Across America during the month of March 2019.

**Read Across America  
RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the Livonia Public Schools School District stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future and their ability to compete in a global economy, and;

**WHEREAS**, "Read Across America," a national celebration of Dr. Seuss's 115<sup>th</sup> birthday, on March 2, 2019, is sponsored by the Livonia Education Association, in cooperation with the National Education Association, and promotes reading and adult involvement in the education of our community's students, and;

**WHEREAS**, motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers, and;

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading, do better in school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District, call upon their citizens to ensure that every child is reading together, with a caring adult, throughout the month of March, designated as March is Reading Month (celebrated today, March 25, 2019, with the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education), and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this body recommits our community to engage in programs and activities to make America's children the best readers in the world.

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

**Robotics Program**

Isolina Carlini introduced Jared Coke, the new head coach and team leader of Livonia Warriors and Tyros. She relayed that the robotics teams participated in a competition in Belleville and both teams qualified for the elimination rounds and quarter finals. The Tyros Team took second place and Livonia Warriors won an imagery award and a safety award. Districts will take place at Churchill High School on April 5-6. A video presentation about the robotics program was shared.

**District Update from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist shared some highlights about students involved in DECA, MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble Festival, HOSA Conference, and Reflections; as well as student recognitions for sports and other activities. She also relayed information about upcoming activities.

**Audience Communication**

None

**Written Communication Response to Prior Audience Communication**

None

None

**Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Frank 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 February 25, 2019
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2019
- VI.A. Approval of Cooperative Agreements for Livonia Career Technical Center (Northville, Plymouth-Canton,

Crestwood, Redford Union, Canton Preparatory, and Wayne Westland; Agreement with Wayne Westland also allows LPS students to attend William D. Ford Career Technical Center)

- VI.B. Approval of Cooperative Agreements for Livonia Transition Program (Northville, Redford Union, Garden City, and S. Redford for special education services)

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

**Approval to Purchase Furniture for Niji-Iro Elementary – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of furniture for Niji-Iro Elementary School from Interior Environments, Novi, Michigan in the amount of \$15,696.55; Staples Business Advantage, Livonia, Michigan in the amount of \$20,479.77; and Great Lakes Furniture Supply, Holland, Michigan in the amount of \$4,423.00; for a total purchase price of \$40,599.32.

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

**Approval to Purchase Projectors for Niji-Iro Elementary – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of interactive projectors, via the change order process, from Epson America Inc., Long Beach, California for Niji Iro Elementary in the amount of \$23,472.00.

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

**Approval of Bid Results for Paving Projects at Garfield, LCTC, and Webster**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to approve Nagle Paving, Novi, Michigan for paving projects at Garfield Community School, Livonia Career Technical Center, and Webster Elementary School in the amount of \$945,910.00 and a contingency budget amount of \$94,591.00, for a total amount of \$1,040,501.00, and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts.

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

**Approval of Bid Results for Scoreboards and Related Electrical Work**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District, approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to approve athletic field improvements in the form of scoreboards and related electrical work for Franklin High School, Stevenson High School, and Churchill High School in the amount of \$117,879.00, and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts with the recommended contractors.

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

**Approval to Purchase Flexible Furniture for Hoover Elementary – 2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of flexible furniture for Hoover Elementary School, from Interior Environments, for a total of \$38,117.69.

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

**Approval to Purchase Computers for Adult Education Program with Grant Funds**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of Hewlett Packard laptop computers, monitor screens, and charging carts (including Care Pack services) from CDW for the Adult Education Program, totaling \$73,502.00.

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

**Approval to Purchase Food Service Equipment**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of 13 ovens and 11 milk coolers through the Wayne RESA consortium, for a total amount of \$112,335.00.

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

**Approval of Resolution to Approve Ballot Language for Sinking Fund and Operating Millage**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District call for a special election on August 6, 2019, and adopt a resolution for a replacement Sinking Fund millage proposal and the Operating Fund millage renewal.

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

**Teacher for Approval**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and offer employment for the 2018-19 school year to the teacher listed below:

Koch, Sarah                      1.0 Art Teacher                      Franklin High Schools

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

**Leave of Absence**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and acknowledge that tenure status has been granted to the following teacher, effective on the respective date:

Janelle Thorne                      March 18, 2019 (2019-20 School Year)

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

**Retirements**

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

**Dennis Hinze**, who will retire from the District on June 21, 2019, and will have devoted 28 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Holmes Middle School and Stevenson High School as a student assistance provider.

**Timothy Newman**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2019, and will have devoted 26 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Western Wayne Skills Center and Stevenson High School as a special education paraprofessional and special education teacher.

**Robert Pensari**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2019, and will have devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Frost Middle School as a teacher and athletic director.

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

**Approval of Resolution to Designate School Safety Liaison and Emergency Contact**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District direct the Superintendent to designate an individual to act as a liaison to the Office of School Safety and the School Safety Commission, and an individual to receive information from the Attorney General's hotline. Also move that the Superintendent shall notify the Department of State Police by March 28, 2019, of the designated individual(s).

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

**Second  
Reading &  
Adoption of  
Board Policy  
JGFC – Arrival,  
Dismissal, and  
Recess**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language for:

**BOARD POLICY  
STUDENTS**

**JGFC  
MARCH 25, 2019**

**ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL, AND RECESS GUIDELINES**

Students are expected to follow their daily school schedule from the time of arrival until dismissed unless curriculum requires otherwise.

Students are to remain on school grounds during their lunch period. Students may be excused from school during the school day with parent/guardian permission and will follow the procedures established by the building administration.

Permission to take a student from school property shall be granted to either parent/guardian. If one parent has been awarded custody of the student by the courts, the parent of custody shall provide the school with a copy of the custody order and inform the school in writing of any limitations in the rights of the non-custodial parent. Absent such notice, the school will presume that the student may be released into the care of either parent.

Release is also permitted to any other adult designated by the courts as the legal guardian or any adult who has been designated as an emergency contact on a student's signed information card. (Photo ID is required.) Any exception shall require the written permission of an authorized parent or legal guardian.

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

**Second  
Reading &  
Adoption of  
Board Policy  
BHA – Code of  
Ethics**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language for:

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD  
BOARD OPERATIONS  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**BHA  
MARCH 25, 2019**

As members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, we shall promote the best interests of the school district as a whole, and will make decisions that place student learning and the success of all students first by adhering to the following educational and ethical standards:

As a Board member,

- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children, and will seek to develop and maintain schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability.

- I will be a personal advocate for the good work of the District.
- I will focus Board action on policy making, strategic planning, and designating and evaluating the Superintendent.
- I will recognize that the role of the Board is to govern and oversee the management of the District. I will delegate authority to the Superintendent for the day-to-day operations of the District and will not seek to participate in the day-to-day operations.
- I will review and evaluate all policies, bylaws, procedures, and processes of the Board, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current, relevant, and in accordance with state and/or federal laws.
- I will follow established Board Operating Procedures.
- I will come to Board meetings prepared to discuss and take action on all agenda items. I will study the material in the Board packet seeking clarification, if needed, prior to each Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent or Board President notification of my concerns prior to the Board meetings, so that the concerns can be properly addressed.
- I will understand that I have not only the right, but the duty, to express my views and opinions and ask questions at the Board table, and will make a good faith effort to understand the views of others.
- I will recognize that the Board must make decisions as a whole in public. I will base all decisions on the available facts and my independent judgment, and I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and, if such a conflict is unavoidable, I will disclose such interest and abstain from voting on such matters.
- I will respect the consensus, and support the decisions of the Board and their implementation.
- I will recognize that while I am free to express my personal views, the Board President is the spokesperson for the Board and the Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District.
- I will be respectful and listen to all ideas presented to the Board, be it from parents, staff, students, community members, other Board members, or other stakeholders. I will listen and then refer any person to appropriate personnel.
- I will communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expression of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- I will exercise caution when communicating between and among Board members, including electronic communication, and will abide by the Open Meetings Act.
- I will hold confidential all matters that, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, schools, or the district. I will keep confidential all information that is privileged under applicable law, including closed session discussions.
- I will stay informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information; for example, those sponsored by my state and national school board associations.
- I will take no private or public action that will compromise the Board, the

Administration, or the District.

- I will refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.
- I will support the hiring of those persons best qualified to serve as District staff.
- I will support and protect District personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will, along with my fellow Board members, review, revise and sign this Code of Ethics annually at the beginning of each year.

As Board President,

- I will ensure that persons addressing the Board follow established guidelines as outlined in Board policy.
- I will advise persons addressing the Board to do so in a respectful manner and not allow rude and indecent behavior, profane or indecent discourse, to be directed to the Board, Superintendent, or others during Board meetings.
- I will ensure that all Board members are given an opportunity to express their views. I will work toward building consensus among all Board members.

I will follow parliamentary procedure, to the extent that it does not conflict with Board policy or state law.

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

**First Reading of Board Policy:**

**JCDB – Student Dress Code**

The Policy Committee has reviewed the following policy and recommends that it be on the agenda of the next regular Board meeting for a second reading and potential approval:

**BOARD POLICY  
STUDENTS  
DRESS CODE**

**JCDB  
JUNE 20, 1988**

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirement of a good learning environment.

A student's appearance or mode of dress or cleanliness will not be permitted to disrupt the education process or constitute a threat to health or safety. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student shall be required to make modifications. In partial attainment of the foregoing, a student: (1) must groom hair so that it is clean and safe for any school activity in which he or she will take part; (2) must use footwear; (3) must wear attire which is safe and not disruptive.

Specific building rules must adhere to the Board policy. These rules must be reviewed annually and made available to parents and students at the beginning of each school year.

Parents and students uncertain as to the interpretation of these rules should personally contact the principal's office of the school attended.



Student dress codes will be established at each school to promote a setting conducive to respectful interactions and learning. The efforts of the school administration are to find an appropriate balance that honors a student's right of self-expression with a student's responsibility of membership in a civil, respectful, and safe learning environment.

A student's personal appearance and style of fashion will not be permitted to disrupt the education process, nor constitute a threat to health, community values of decency, or public safety. Dress that demeans another's race, religion, sexual identity, or national origin will not be permitted.

The specific rules of a school's dress code are to be made publicly available and are to be shared with students near the beginning of each school year.

Parents and students uncertain as to the interpretation of these rules should personally contact the principal's office of the school attended.

**Adjournment**

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

**Off/Supt/jw**