

A workshop meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Orion Community Schools, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, was called to order on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 3:03 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. Towleron

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, L. Logsdon, J. Goral

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Flaherty, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: No participation from the public.

STRATEGIC AREA DISCUSSION ITEMS

Governance

Superintendent's Update: Heidi Mercer had no report.

- Legislative Update: Birgit McQuiston provided an update from the Government Relations Committee including the Governor's proposed budget which shifts \$1.8 billion from K-12 funding to higher education. She also discussed OCSBA's legislative priorities for 2026.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towleron reported the Sexuality Education and Attendance Committees met recently. Carmen Wisniewski is the new coordinator for the Orion Area Youth Assistance.

- Elementary ELA Curriculum Request - Second Reading: The Board reviewed the recommendation and projected cost for CKLA. No additional questions were raised
- Curriculum Committee Report: Drew Towleron reported the committee met February 13 to discuss the curriculum review and pilot process and AP Social Studies. The goal is to have a rotating review cycle. They also discussed AI integration and policy.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis discussed the following:

- County Enhancement Millage Resolution - Second Reading: The Board reviewed a six-year regional enhancement millage proposal for 1.5 mills on the August 4, 2026 ballot. Clarification on per-pupil distribution and inclusion of public school academies was requested.
- *January Monthly Financial Report:* General fund/cash balance reports were reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

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

- a. Approve Minutes from the February 11 Regular and February 13, 2026 Curriculum Committee Meetings
- b. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request
 1. LOHS International Students - Sandusky, OH, August 16-23, 2026

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Taylor, to approve the new instructional resources request for Elementary English Language Arts for Fall 2026 implementation, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried.

Moved by Flaherty, seconded by Taylor, to adopt the Resolution Requesting a Regional Enhancement Millage Election as presented. Roll call: Ayes-7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried.

FUTURE PLANNING DISCUSSIONS

Conflict of Interest

Board members discussed the process of vendor selection and payment, including the use of credit cards as it relates to a business owned by a Board member. To ensure transparency and compliance with state law, all check and credit card transactions will be separated from the general bill payments under the consent agenda in the future, so the board member may abstain from voting on those particular payments due to conflict of interest.

Social Contract

Board members discussed how the social contract was developed and if an update was necessary. Members agreed to use the Code of Ethics from the Board Operating Procedures as a reference instead of a social contract to hold the governance team accountable and no formal document was necessary to display at

Board Operating Procedures

Board members reviewed the Board Operating Procedures and made several suggestions for language and process updates. The Board Self Assessment Committee will meet to develop the proposed updates for the Board to review for approval at a future meeting. Specific areas of discussion included:

- **Board Email Process** - The LOBoard email account presents challenges with accessibility and rights management. The Board discussed transitioning to a web form that would distribute messages submitted to all seven members. The President would still be responsible for replying to the messages. A template has been created and will be tested prior to implementation.
- **Superintendent Evaluation Process** - The informal check points currently include only committee members, but Board members discussed the benefits of all Board members participating in those meetings. The schedule and timeline will be adjusted as discussed.
- **Board Officer/Committee Process** - Members expressed the desire to have more open dialogue regarding interest in officer and committee positions. They proposed sending out the questionnaire earlier so interests could be discussed at a regular or special meeting in December after newly elected members are sworn in (if applicable). They discussed the officer nomination and voting process at the January Organizational meeting and agreed that multiple nominations for officers would be allowed, but a roll call vote would be necessary where members state the name of the nominee that are voting for verses aye or nay. Committees will still be appointed by the President with consideration given to member requests. Committee will have alternates assigned also.
- **Board Self-Assessment Process** - Members discussed the role and timeline of the committees work and agreed it would be helpful to align operating procedures review with the February workshop and self-assessment with the September workshop. Members began a discussion about the current self-assessment process, however due to time constraints, will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- **Board Response to Social Media** - Members discussed the challenges of managing social media accounts and the importance of responding to misinformation. They discussed the need for guidance to assist in social media activity around the areas of distinction between personal and official accounts, standard and clear language to be used to correct misinformation, and disclosure statements that clarify that individual board members' opinions do not represent the entire board. The policy committee will work with guidance from Communications to creating a draft policy to govern board members' social media use for future review and discussion.
- **Board Exit Interviews** - Members discussed the value of recognizing departing Board members and gathering their feedback upon leaving the position. The BSA committee will look into developing a process for this.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS: No participation from the public.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS:

- Administration will add curriculum review to strategic planning.
- Administration will research open source and AI curriculum policy options.
- Administration will seek clarification from OS on how county enhancements millage funding would be distributed and if public school academies will be listed on the ballot proposal.
- Board committees will work to update the Board Operating Procedures, applicable Board Policies and procedures as discussed in future planning areas.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Board Secretary